

ISRG JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL STUDIES (ISRGJHCS)



ISRG PUBLISHERS

Abbreviated Key Title: ISRG J Humanit Cult Stud

ISSN: 3048-5436 (Online)

Journal homepage: <https://isrgpublishers.com/gjhcs/>

Volume – III Issue- IV (July – August) 2026

Frequency: Bimonthly



SCIENCE AND RELIGION: A UNIFIED VISION OF DR. S RADAKRISHNAN FOR THE FRAGMENTED WORLD

DR. BHAGYASHREE D PATTANSHETTI

Associate Professor of English Dept. of Studies in English SSCA Government First Grade College K K Koppa,
Dist.Belagavi. Karnataka.

| **Received:** 17.08.2026 | **Accepted:** 22.08.2026 | **Published:** 23.08.2026

***Corresponding author:** DR. BHAGYASHREE D PATTANSHETTI

Abstract

The present article is an analytical study of the speech Dr S Radhakrishnan delivered at Madras University convocation ceremony. With the great concern for the fragmented world, he advised the young generation to be spiritual with scientific temper. Science and religion are interconnected and young generation need to have strong spiritual roots to progress. He gave a message to the Indian youths by giving an overview of India's glorious past. He opined that the present education system is making students materialistic and commercial there by taking them away from their roots. He advises the newer generation about the immense potentialities they have in them to build a strong future India with strengthened spirit for the nation.

Keywords: Science, technology, fragmented world, spirituality, religion

INTRODUCTION:

Dr S Radhakrishnan, popularly known as a great teacher and philosopher, the first Vice- President of India, delivered a speech at the centenary convocation ceremony of Madras University on 29 January 1957. He was very much concerned about strengthening India in the prospectus of peace he was aware of the strained relations between the nations and the same was highlighted by him in the speech he delivered at United States in the year 1958. The present paper highlights Dr S Radhakrishnan's instinct for the need for the combination of science and religion. There is a need to

civilize our nature, and to lift us out of suffering, and to set us to work bravely for the new world.

It is one of the important intellectual speeches he delivered that focuses on the clarity of ideas that he had for the fragmented world. Dr.S Radhakrishnan was of the view that, the aim of the education system is not merely to impart commercial and scientific knowledge. It should not make individuals with materialistic mind and commercial outlook but build Indian spirit in them. He opined that there is a need for us to bring in balanced harmony between materialism of the west and the spirituality of the east. As he

quotes in his work on the Bhagavad Gita that “The aim of religion is not just individual salvation but creation of brotherhood in the world”.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

In the age of science and technology, human beings are suffering from rootlessness, lack of morality and spirituality. In the fast changing world of technology, moral values are deteriorating in the name of science. It is relevant to study the speech because it is meant for the present younger generation. Youngsters need to know the science behind religion and it is this combination which uplifts humans from brutes. The speaker effectively conveys the message of science and religion being complimentary and not contradictory to each other. Blending of science with religion is ingrained in Indian culture. But in due course of time, with the influence of western culture Indians are forgetting the very roots and historical past. As he observed, a sense of carelessness and alienation is to be seen amongst the newer generation by forgetting the path travelled by our ancestors. It is relevant to study and recall the ways of our ancestors so that, the newer generation progresses in the right direction

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Firstly, the main objective of the study is to know the concepts put forward by the speaker so that the reader gets the idea of what science and religion. Secondly, to know how science and religion are inseparable and ingrained in the lives of Indians. Thirdly, to understand the speaker’s concern for the young Indians those drifting away from their spiritual roots. Finally, to make the young generation think on the terms of our ancestors and their beliefs, values and relevance of it in our lives

RESEARCH ON THE TOPIC:

Many researchers have taken up the subject of Dr S Radhakrishnana’s philosophy, spirituality and religion and education. But, focusing exclusively on specific convocation address and its analysis is a fresh contribution to the existing research on Dr S Radhakrishnan. As it’s the contemporary analysis of his delivered speech and it also reflects on his vision for the present century. The present study is an attempt by the researcher to prove the relevance of his ideas in the fragmented world.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The focus is on the analysis of the primary sources in the light of relevant criticism. The emphasis is made on critical interpretations of the speech. The first part of the paper highlights the past glory of India and how history and spiritual roots helped in its progress. The second part highlights the state of modern man in the age of science and technology, and his thoughts about religion and science. Third part highlights how science and religion are inter connected and inseparable aspects of our lives. Finally, last part focuses on the change that be observed in Indians to progress in establishing truth, justice and love on earth. The paper further leaves some questions with the readers as to carry out further research in science and religion by reading great many poets, seers and philosophers and their different ways to attain truth.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPEECH

Dr. S Radhakrishnan opens his speech by emphasizing the glory of our Indian history. The lessons our Indian history are invaluable.

Every step of the journey has left indelible mark in the hearts of Indians. It reminds us of the qualities that bound us together so strongly that we could prosper and reach its pinnacle. The qualities of honor, freedom and goodwill that existed in us could not shake us. It was these prosperous and broad hearted Indians, who invited the foreigners to share their riches with the other world. Indians who were well known throughout the world for their brotherhood, prospered though centuries until, their vision became blind with the clouds of ill will, hatred and jealousy. The spirit that once held Indians so strongly encouraged us to achieve remarkably in various fields. Dr S Radhakrishnana is of the view that if the same enterprising and pioneering unified spirit continues within the Indians then, there is no fear of any foreign invasions and undoubtedly India will have a stronger hand in shaping its future. History teaches us good many lessons.

VIEWING HISTORY

Dr. S Radhakrishnan views history as linear and spiral and it is also cyclical according to the Greeks. He says the words of preacher of Ecclesiastes that, whatever was and has been existing in the past will continue to exist. History repeats itself as there is no new thing under the sun. The Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims focus on the cosmic pattern of creation and destruction, and again a new beginning of the cosmos. Thus he refers to the Chinese view of having continuous series of variations on the same theme. There is repetition of the incidents, happenings, learnings and creations. According to spiral view, history moves on with dips and loops to a higher purpose. Many people view history as chaotic, and changing with sudden twists and turns. Some are of the opinion that the history is outcome of our ideals we admired and followed. It is about the ideas we accepted with hopes and fears. It is about ambitions of powerful people of the history. It is about their policies and the result was the combination of many causes, some necessary and some accidental.

Human nature is full of many possibilities as observed in the history. Dr S Radhakrishnan observes that, it was the human spirit that was the most essential factor to bring the change. He can do anything and everything if he determines to attain it. Human mind is subjected to change and has an important role in making of history. The great leaders like Buddha, Socrates and Christ changed the minds of people by bringing in new ideas for the development of man. History moves on with new experiences and it has causes and effects. That does not mean that it has to happen chronologically but will surely happen and is inevitable.

SCIENCE AND MAN

It is said that, “change is a way of life” and need to accept. One age follows the other and history records the new innovations that happened as a result of necessity. As the saying goes “Necessity is the mother of inventions” so is are the fruits of inventions. In other words inventions are the revelation of nature’s mysteries. Nature’s mysteries are the scientific truths and this truth itself is God in philosophical terms. This truth or progress could be attained by man if he worked hard for it. The hard work of the scientists results in new inventions. New inventions make our life easier and more comfortable. New inventions have made man proud, greedy and insensitive. His pride and insensitivity has resulted in deterioration of morality and lack of spirituality in him. In the pride of his seeming achievements he has forgotten the roots that have strengthened him. So there is a need for us to make him realize the

importance of the spiritual roots which strengthened him over the ages. Our religion teaches us not to be too proud of the inventions as these are the gifts of God. The supernatural force that guides, teaches, renews, heals everything is nature. Thus science and religion are intricately connected to each other.

Man is the future of man and it is, only through his efforts that we can remake our future. History holds numerous records of it. Dr S Radhakrishnan was of the opinion that the state of man's mind is reflected in his actions and the way he lived. Speaking of his own generation he says that he belonged to the generation not of revolt but of retreat. He compares his age with the other ages and says, he lived in the era of bewilderment and moral wandering. He is very much captivated by the practical results he saw in the field of medicine, engineering, industry, agriculture and warfare. He was also mindful of the caution the scientists gave to the world; keeping in mind the age of disharmony, transition, paradox and uncertainty.

MODERN MAN AND HIS OUTLOOK

Dr S Radhakrishnan tries to ascertain the reason for the modern man's rootlessness. Modern man is suffering from sense of alienation. He is drifting away from his spiritual foundations which gave him poise and balance. He agrees that our strong historical and spiritual roots made us stand strong. Modern man is unaware that, the fruits we relish at present are the undercurrent sufferings we confronted in the early years of its formation. We need to have confidence in the strong spiritual and historical roots that have instilled a sense of strong vitality and enabled us to live through these centuries. The whole world is suffering from a sense of rootlessness and the new world is suffering from sense of fear, despondency and helplessness. Hence there is a need for the renewal of human nature. He further adds that, new men are needed for the new world. The new age is deeply concerned with science and technology. Dr S Radhakrishnan says that, we are inclined to consider arts and literary criticism as science. Some philosophers confine philosophy to logical analysis and some look upon religion as an illusion. Such scientific orientation will definitely become a threat to the values of civilization.

There is a close connection between the findings of science and doctrines of religion. Both science and religion have a common goal of finding truth; though the ways may vary. In religion, we believe that "Truth is God". In science there is a quest for truth and that itself is the quest for God. Man and machine are competitive and complementary. Man is superior to machines; as he is the maker of it. Science does not suggest the supremacy of matter but, it suggests the supremacy of the spirit of man. The spirit which guides, motivates and inspires him in his quest is divine. Radhakrishnan quotes that the word '*Brahman*' that connotes both the truth that is sought and the spirit in us which seeks it. Man makes all attempts to find the truth. There are so many things in the cosmos which have remained as mystery to science and humans. But man is in search and trying to unfold the mysteries of the world. Radhakrishnan is of the view that no matter what science might have been able to achieve but our attitude towards the mysterious things of the world should be that of piety, humility and adoration. He says that truth belongs to God and ideas belong to men. Man need not be too proud of his achievements as he is one of the creations of God.

MAN AND RELIGION

Dr S Radhakrishnan speaks of the other face of religion where, man is turning to be inhuman. Sense of fanaticism has resulted in the bloodshed in the name of religious doctrine. Man is proud of his spiritual achievement. Diverse religions are the spiritual achievements of great men but, their ultimate goal is to seek truth or God through different ways. Several texts of various religions teach universal humanism. Religious texts do not teach to have contempt for other religions. True religion requires to be harmonious, tolerant and to extend sympathy to those who do not belong to our group.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION ARE COMPLEMENTARY

Science and religion are complementary to each other. Science enlarges our concept of god. God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. All the mysterious things are the creation of invisible super power. Science tries to unravel the mysteries of the universe. Religion saves science from going astray. Religion warns man to not go against nature and has its ways of controlling man from going away by being too greedy. Dr S Radhakrishnan opines that religion should not end either in wars or crusades / inquisitions. It should uphold humanity and sense of tolerance. Science should not end in wars or destruction. The results of power and pride over one another resulted in the most deadly world wars the humanity has ever witnessed. Dr S Radhakrishnan says that, we need the discipline of religion to civilize our nature to restrain the greed, the callousness and brutality in us. There is a need for us to interpret religion in a broader way as indicated by our seers.

HOW CAN WE CREATE AN ORDERLY SOCIETY?

Dr S Radhakrishnan is of the view that we can create an orderly society, if we learn to master ourselves. The set of values that are set by our religious thinkers and seers are the pathways to master ourselves. There are conditions in which man may feel disheartened and hopeless but strong will and the courage of renunciation will help to overcome difficult times. Great people like Buddha and Mahaveera stressed on the values of renunciation of desires and the ways to conquer the world by conquering oneself. Having the courage to face against the odds will make man strong thus, help in building better society. Dr S Radhakrishnan says that, the purpose of our religion is not only to change the opinions of men, but to change the lives of men. Changing the opinion of men will have temporary effect than changing the lives of men that is fruitful lasts long. Dr S Radhakrishnan appeals the audience to clean their hearts. Having mere theoretical knowledge of ultimate truth of the religion is not enough. Practically one needs to be pure in words and deeds. Truly religious person is clear of his ideas, beliefs, and practices of religion. He does not stick to blind beliefs and orthodox, unscientific ways of practices. We are the victims of social divisions. We are segregated by caste, class and creed and there is a need for us to overcome it.

WHO NEEDS RELIGION?

According to Dr S Radhakrishnan religion is not reserved for philosophers and theologians. It is needed even by the ordinary man. Everyman needs religion to purify himself. As we all live in

the dangerously troubled age, we need the sense of sacred that we get only from religion. Highlighting the popular Bhakti cult of the south India, Dr S Radhakrishnan shares the very humble way of devotees those travel from place to place pouring out their hearts before deity. True giving is giving of oneself. Various aspects have been emphasized by different religions of the world. Islam emphasized the importance of prayer and turned the whole world into a prayer hall. Bhaktas of the age sung of God as 'Daridra Narayana' and found God in the poor, the hungry and the needy. Thus, the Bhakti movement brought a major change in the society by bringing in equality among people.

A PIECE OF ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Dr S Radhakrishnan is of the view that in the light of fundamental religion one need not be swayed away by the change in the political fortunes. He is of the opinion that international relations should not disturb our faith in our roots. He advises the students that one need not be provoked by these distractions which assist in disturbing the unity and divert the progress of the nation on these terms. Our focus needs to be only towards progress of the nation.

Before concluding his speech Dr S Radhakrishnan says that, science and technology have made the world in to a unified single neighborhood. University is a place which transcends all barriers of race, nation, caste, and creed. It honors all artistic and intellectual traditions of variety of people. He advises the scientists and scholars to work in pursuit of knowledge with their austerity and detachment. He is also of the opinion that the leaders of the university must uphold the spirit of man. We all need our skill, fortitude, determination to shape the future of the world. He was confident that if the university produces the men and women of learning and virtue, skill and judgment, piety and character then we will surely bear the intolerable, and achieve the impossible and establish the reign of truth, justice and love on earth.

REFERENCES:

1. Radhakrishnan, S. (1957) *Occasional Speeches and Writings-Second Series* (February 1956-February 1957). Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India
2. Alam,F (2004). *Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan*. Sahni Publications