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The Greek philosopher Aristotle significantly states that 'Man is a social animal', but the recent occurrences of conflicts in our surroundings invoke us to raise the cardinal question both at the individual as well as the social level. It is significant that we are not only rational beings but also social and moral beings. The most important question in the present context is: Can we live in an isolated place without taking the help of others or of the society? Society is a living force for human beings, although the very nature of the term seems to be abstract in a deep or ideal sense.

Are we socially responsible?

But, this predominant nature of a human being has been transformed into isolation in the sense that we are ignoring the fundamental question – are we socially responsible? The answer to this question can be placed and analysed from philosophical, sociological, religious, and materialistic points of view, beginning from the dawn of the civilisation. If we look for the answer from the philosophical point of view, one answer will be that human beings are an indispensable part of the cosmos. Individuals can attain peace in this phenomenal world or *mukti* in the philosophical sense by following the paths of knowledge, *karma*, and *bhakti*. We are unconsciously or unknowingly engrossed in mundane happiness which is not intrinsically conducive to the upliftment of a human being.

Good work (*karma*) and devotion (*bhakti*) in the natural sense, and holistic knowledge will definitely guide a man to choose the right path in his life. Although, all the subsequent views come

under this pillar, yet the tendency of human beings to explore the answer from the other point of views cannot be ruled out. From the sociological perspective, it can be opined that man is a social human being. Society is a necessity for human beings. According to this view, the problems or conflicts like identity crisis, corruption, extremism, etc., emerged in our society due to a disregard for others' sentiments or freedom.

The religious perspective asserts that we are an indispensable part of the divine force. We are in control of a supernatural power that guides us in every activity. But due to our mistake or misunderstanding or intolerance, we tend to forget the crucial message. No religion instigates people to part-

take in conflicts like fundamentalism, religious war, etc. But people, because of misinformation or due to lack of comparative study of religion, involve in wrongdoings.

The materialistic viewpoint points out that we are engrossed in getting personal happiness, while we overlook what is happening around us. Outward happiness leads a man to believe that materialism can give them happiness but they fail to understand that it is short-lived. Also, our desires or cravings do not come to an end in this situation. While, intrinsic happiness comes from helping people in distress, fighting for injustice, patriotic feelings, etc. These virtues help a man to become great.

However, the proper answer to the issue cannot be derived if we explore all the factors only theoretically; unless we decide to go into the depth of the matter. Due to our ignorance, we fail to respond to the important questions that we all must ask ourselves. Virtues like co-operation, tolerance, concern for others come into force when we decide to take the first step at an individual level. In this regard, individuals are the central force of beginning any enquiry as well as instrumental in answering the question themselves.

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