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Review Article



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What Is Intellectual Humility and Ways to Cultivate It

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Abstract

Taking a quick look at our surroundings, we encounter people who intentionally or unintentionally violate virtues and intellectual values and seek to find many ways to justify their vice and unintellectual behavior. To deal with this problem, it is necessary to pay special attention to understanding and cultivating the virtue of intellectual humility. Intellectual humility helps us avoid certainty in stating what we predict is true or what we tend to know. Not only intellectual humility causes humanity and interaction between individuals, but also it makes people perform better in gaining the truth. The purpose of this paper is therefore to clarify and investigate what intellectual humility is and its necessity and role in acquiring knowledge and providing solutions for its cultivation and strengthening. This research is a qualitative research and is based on conceptual analysis method. The study population includes books and articles that debate on intellectual humility and its role in acquiring knowledge. The results of this study shed light on the fact that teaching intellectual humility to students is one among the foremost necessary obligations for university professors. It is also partly attributable to the fact that its important position in students' political and social life is inevitable as serving them to acquire knowledge, independence and preparation for adulthood. Presenting vices that are the inverse of intellectual humility, becoming similar to models, modeling intellectual humility, practicing generosity and gratitude, and cultivating intellectual humility through a growth mindset are among the foremost important ways to cultivate this intellectual virtue.

Keywords: virtue, intellectual humility, education, pride, self-confidence.

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Introduction

Intellectual humility is one of the virtues that humans should cultivate as individuals are not born as humble creatures. Though it's attainable that some are more talented in this regard, all people can achieve humility. In order to fulfill this crave, subjects ought to be tutored of different methods. In fact, intellectual humility is extremely necessary within the matter of education, as awareness of our own ignorance helps us not create incorrect judgments regarding the opinions and views of others and recognize false beliefs and habits of thought that causes incomplete learning.

The first part of this research aims to provide a detailed explanation of the concept of intellectual humility and the necessity of addressing it in the discussion of education. In the second part, solutions are proposed for teachers and professors who consider it necessary and wish to cultivate intellectual humility in their students.

Intellectual humility

There is still no certain definition of intellectual humility that every thinker would be able to agree on. By examining the perspectives of the latest thinkers, there are a minimum of three basic definitions of intellectual humility:

According to the primary view, intellectual humility includes knowing one's intellectual limitations. The second viewpoint emphasizes the interpersonal dimension of this virtue. According to Roberts and Wood, intellectual humility suggests that it is not being concerned about one's intellect or intellectual activities (such as concepts and insights) and has an effect on one's social position (Roberts and wood, 2007. P.209)

The third perspective points out that intellectual humility is the boundary between two vices, intellectual arrogance and lack of intellectual self-confidence (Barrett, 2017: 1-2).

I agree with the view that intellectual humility is the meads of two vices. An individual who is intellectually arrogant lacks intellectual humility. Moreover, an individual who does not have enough intellectual self-confidence and perpetually humiliates himself also lacks intellectual humility.

Instructing Intellectual Humility

Philosophers and education specialists have long believed that formal education plays a vital role in cultivating and flourishing intellectual virtues corresponding to curiosity, open mindedness, intellectual courage, intellectual humility, intellectual forgiveness, and etc. The point that education ought to be within the direction of cultivating virtues is valued and accepted by most up to date educationists. One of the goals of education is to nurture and strengthen qualities of virtues in students. This crave requires that academic ways ought to facilitate students to strengthen and cultivate virtues in themselves (Pritchard, 2020: 398). Therefore, 5 methods for instructing intellectual humility are discussed.

1. Introduction of vices against the virtue of intellectual humility
2. Craving for similarity to models
3. Modeling intellectual humility
4. Practicing generosity and gratitude
5. Cultivating intellectual humility through cultivating a growth mindset

Conclusion

Intellectual humility is one amongst the vital and difficult intellectual virtues that has been emphasized a great deal in virtue epistemology.

Although there's no agreement concerning what this virtue is, it might be noted that intellectual humility has 3 key elements: a) recognition of one's intellectual limitations and weaknesses, b) accurate and precise assessment of one's intellectual weaknesses, and c) management and mastery of weaknesses and strength of one's owns. An individual who has intellectual humility has these three components institutionalized in him and constantly demonstrates them, and subjects will crave for this virtue with the motivation of achieving the truth.

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