

SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW OF JBS HALDANE

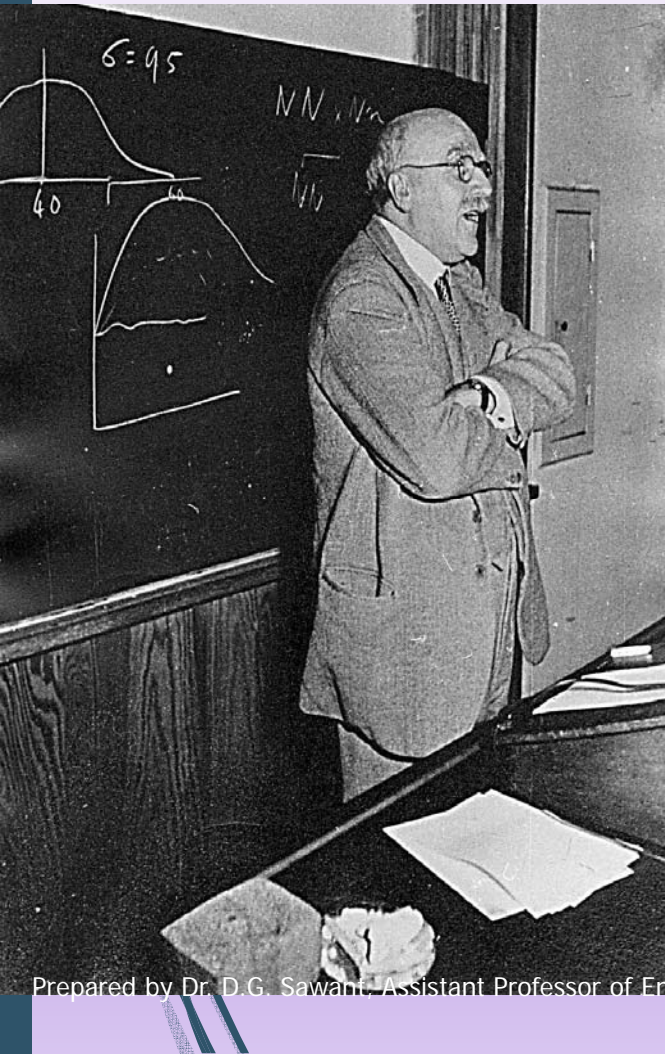
By

Dr. D.G. Sawant

Assistant Professor of English

Toshniwal Arts, Commerce & Science College,
Sengoan, Dist. Hingoli

Bio-Note



Full Name: John Burdon Sanderson Haldane

Born: 05 Nov. 1892, Oxford (England)

Died: 01 Dec. 1964 (72), Bhubaneswar (India)

Lived in: UK, US and India

Specialization: Biology and Biostatistics

Awards: Darwin Medal (1952), Darwin-Wallace Medal (1958)

Better Known for: Oparin-Haldane Hypothesis, Malaria Theory, Population Genetics, Enzymology, Neo-Darwinism

His Major Works



1924:

Daedalus

1927:
Huxley)

Animal Biology (with Julian

1932:

The Inequality of Man

1932:

Causes of Evolution

1938:
Sciences

Marxist Philosophy and the

1947:

Science Advances

1954:

The Biochemistry of Genetics

He taught at the University of Cambridge,
California, Berkeley, London and Indian
Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

What do you mean by Scientific? And point of view?

Scientific: related to truth, it is impartial and has logic.

Point of View: how you perceive things and express your opinion.

e.g. a good judge: impartial between Mr. John Smith and Mr. Chang Sing.

a good scientist: impartial between Mr. Smith, a tape-worm and solar system.

A common person thinks most of the time on emotional and hence for him, scientific point of view becomes eye-view.

But it is all different from that of religious views.

level,
God's-

- Science cannot determine what is right and wrong and should not pass judgement on them.
- It work out the consequences of various actions. e.g. a bacteriologist merely points out that pollution of the public water supply is likely to cause many deaths.
- But he/she cannot say whether it is wrong or right.
- Science does not pay attention to the moral considerations and it is criticized but the criticism is wrong.
- Common person thinks of emotional and ethical side of a case whereas scientist thinks of facts; e.g. there is the problem between Negros and Whites in America but a biologist cannot say who is superior of inferior.

- The author opposes superstition and supports rational thinking.
- Our approach to the problem of disease is even less rational.
- It is highly based on some religious grounds that one falls ill due to some sin....this is completely devoid of facts of medical and a scientist can't accept this approach.
- To cure a disease, we need to reach at the very causes of it and then only it would be possible to cure/prevent it.
- Many say that the diseases can be prevented by returning to nature but 'live according to nature' is quite meaningless.
- Civilized men live longer than uncivilized as per statistics available.

- Today medical science is advancing more and more but it is becoming harder and harder to apply its results in practice.
- e.g. the injection of insulin can cure the worst patient of diabetes; but if the patient is not taking regular injections of insulin prescribed by doctor, what's the use of invention of insulin for such people.
- It urgently needed to change the attitude of people towards the diseases and should be more scientific than emotional/ethical.
- Typhoid infection can only be dealt by public control of the water supply.
- We should follow medical rules while dealing with any disease.

- For, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world.
- St. Paul thought that the world was largely ruled by demons.
- Today our real enemies, the rulers of the darkness of this world are from bacteria to cyclones and we should fight against them.
- Until humanity adopts the scientific point of view, those enemies will not be conquered.
- Structure of the Essay: there are 12 paragraphs
- Each paragraph supports the author's standpoint.
- In each paragraph, he emphasizes the scientific point of view by providing various examples.

Lets do some MCQs:

1. The scientific point of view is.....
 - a. related to truth
 - b. it is impartial
 - c. has logic
 - d. all the above
2. A good scientist will be impartial between.....
 - a. Mr. Smith, a tape-worm and solar system
 - b. Mr. Smith and Mr. Sing
 - c. Him and others
 - d. none of the above
3. Who wrote The Inequality of Man?
 - a. Swami Vivekananda
 - b. Ruskin Bond
 - c. JBS Haldane
 - d. No one
4. JBS Haldane died in.....
 - a. Bhubaneswar
 - b. Calcutta
 - c. Mizoram
 - d. Delhi
5. What cannot be determined by science?
 - a. Logic
 - b. truth
 - c. right or wrong
 - d. a and b

Questions for homework:

A. Long Answer Questions.

1. How did Haldane explain scientific point of view?
2. “Until humanity adopts the scientific point of view, those enemies will not be conquered” illustrate with your own views.

B. Short Answer Questions.

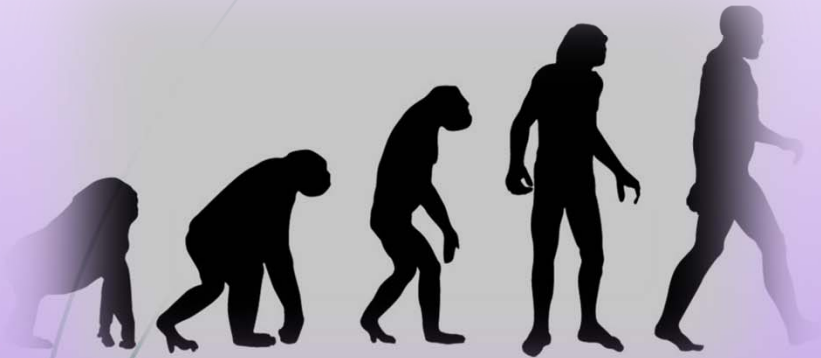
1. Why a good scientist need to be impartial?
2. What is the scientific difference between a Negro and White person?
3. How religious point of is different to scientific point of view?

Lets review Haldane once again

Questions are welcome



I have a question for you: if we are born from evolution of monkeys, why do monkeys still exist ?





Thank You Very Much

Prepared by Dr. D.G. Sawant, Assistant Professor of English, TACS College, Sengoan