

Indian Philosophy

Author: Dr. Satya Sundar Sethy, HSS, IIT Madras, Chennai-600036

Lecture - 10

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain the pramānas accepted by Sāṅkhya philosophy.

Ans.: Sāṅkhya philosophy accepts three pramānas; perception, inference, and verbal testimony or sabda. They believe that perception is of two types; determinate and indeterminate. Determinate perception is one where the cogniser cognizes the object as it is, whereas indeterminate perception is one where the cogniser perceives the object but couldn't able to identify the object. According to Sāṅkhya philosophy, inference is of two types; affirmative and negative. Affirmative inference is constituted of universal affirmative propositions. Negative inference is constituted of universal negative propositions. Verbal testimony on their viewpoint is again of two types; laukika and vaidika.

2. How many types of suffering find in Sāṅkhya philosophy?

Ans.: Ādhyātmika, it is due to mental and physical causes. Ādhibhautika, it is happened due to material and natural causes. Ādhidaivika, it is due to extraordinary causes such as ghosts, etc.

3. How does Sāṅkhya treat the concept 'liberation'?

Ans.: According to them, there are two types of liberation; jivanmukti and videhamukti. In case of jivanmukti, one can put his/her best effort to detach from the worldly objects. Hence, he/she can live and won't fall in the cycle of karmic influx. Videhamukti is possible only after the death of an individual. It is so because once the body dies, the soul is free from gross and subtle bodies. The Sāṅkhyatheory of liberation is termed as 'apavarga' or the summum bonum of life.