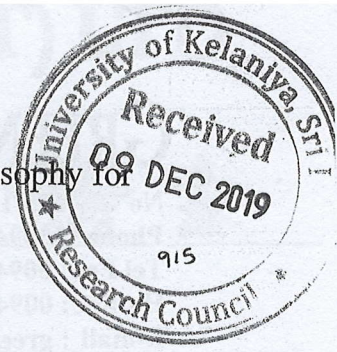


A Comparative Analysis of Epistemology in Sāmkhya and Buddhist Philosophy for
Wellbeing of Human Society



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Abstract

India is a country where multiple views of philosophy existed. Pertaining to Buddhist Literature (Digh p.80) there were sixty two schools of philosophical notions in India, except Buddhism. The six systems, viz Nyāya, Vaisheshika, Sāmkhya, Mimānsā and Vedānta are prominent between and among them. These philosophical concepts, except Sāmkhya are based on Vedic teachings. Sāmkhya system is different from those others, because of accepting dualism. The duality in Sāmkhya is the first cause (*Prakryti*) and soul (*Purusha*).

Both in Buddhism and Sāmkhya contain useful and valuable data according to all the four main branches of Philosophy namely Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics and Cosmology. Buddhism is entirely distinct doctrine not only from Sāmkhya but also from the other canons in all over the world.

Buddhist and Sāmkhya philosophy focus on emancipation themselves. In accordance with these two concepts, the followers who wish the wellbeing of the society and to attain salvation should gain the knowledge for their mindfulness. Absence of knowledge the person will not be able to develop his mind. A person failing to build mind up becomes danger to society. Human beings must, therefore, grasp the knowledge for their mindfulness, for wellbeing of the society. Both Buddhism and Sāmkhya have a specific path for acquiring knowledge. Buddhism recommends two fold activities such as perception and inference for grasping the knowledge. The Sāmkhya accept these two fold activities referred to in Buddhism itself and in addition to that the revelation or scriptural testimony. (S.K.4)

Thus the two of these philosophical concepts led their followers to make a peaceful society and an attempt to discover the liberation by gaining knowledge through these two or three fold activities. Various similarities and differences can be seen in connection with theory of knowledge predicted in these two doctrines. I propose to examine them in this research.

Key words :- Philosophy, Buddhism, Sāmkhya Epistemology.