

- Rationalism is a battle to liberate humanity from ignorance, religious prejudice and superstition. Its main business is to make the discovered truths available to all and induce everybody to draw his own rational conclusions about the meaning, purpose and conduct of life.
- The accepted definition of rationalism evolved as early as 1899 is:- It is the mental attitude, that unreservedly accepts the supremacy of reason, and aims at establishing a system of philosophy and ethics verifiable by experience and independent of all arbitrary assumptions of authority.
- Speaking of ‘Rationalism’, Gowans Whyte states: “Rationalism”, as an intellectual movement, does not offer a ready-made creed to replace the religious creeds in which most people have been brought up.
- Was it to do so, it would be attempting to impose the same sort of official authority as the churches and to discharge the free exercise of Individual reason?
- Its proper business is to make the discovered truth available to all and to induce everybody to draw his own rational conclusions about the meaning, the purpose and conduct of life.
- Late D.M.K. Chief Annadurai says: “Rationalism does not mean repudiation of basic or fundamental truths and maxims, but the annihilation of dubious modes of thought and action”.
- Rationalism is not a system or a faith or a creed ready to be handled like a measuring rod. It is an attitude of mind. It is a movement of ideas.
- It is not an academic exercise indulged by the learned few. It is concerned with the people and community in all its aspects. Its task is to show the approach of
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reason to all problems of individual and his social life. It lays down the foundation of a new philosophy of life.

- It provides an alternative way of life and/ or philosophy for those who desire to throw away orthodox religion and morals based on fear of god. It is not a creed or set of dogmas, religious or philosophical.
- Its main task is the diffusion of sound knowledge. Since rationalism is mainly an attitude of mind, continuance of that attitude is essential to sustain efforts required for rationalists to keep abreast of the growth of knowledge, for that alone will prevent rationalism from getting rusty and unserviceable.
- The values that rationalism gathers are not permanent for all time to come.
- It calls for a constant and vigilant recasting of morals and other values to suit the changing pattern of society.
- Rationalism is not a negative approach:
 - It is not mere denial of the existence of god, it is a philosophy by itself like Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism as propounded by their founders. It is a struggle against injustice, inequality and slavery.
 - It is a quest for truth and social reform. Rationalism and humanism are a realistic alternative to theology.
 - It attempts to transcend divisive, parochial loyalties based on caste, race, religion, nationality, creed, class, or ethnicity. It strives to work together for the common good of humanity.
 - It nourishes common moral excellence like altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, reason, compassion etc.
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- It stands for belief in optimism rather than pessimism, hope rather than despair, learning in place of dogma, truth instead of ignorance, tolerance in place of fear, love instead of hatred, compassion over selfishness, reason over blind faith. Rationalist propaganda is the only solution to liquidate blind faith.

Aims and objectives of Rationalism

- Rationalism aims at the development of potentialities of the individual with freedom and independence.
- Its endeavor is to achieve the ideal of social freedom and to create a new renaissance.
- Its main objective is to liberate human thought from the limitations of caste, creed, religion, and nationality.
- Rationalism promotes an attitude of optimism, which helps to develop healthy and dynamic minds to overcome any crisis.
- It emphasizes the dignity and work of man as man and his potential capacity to build a peaceful, decent world where there is no exploitation of man and where hunger, poverty and racial prejudices do not exist.
- Aristotle was the first philosopher who defined man as a rational being. He taught that rationality differentiates man from animal.
- Animals act from instinct while human beings are endowed with the faculty of reasoning, which governs their conduct and action. Rationalism regards reason as the chief source and test of knowledge.
- Rationalism holds reason to be a faculty that can lay hold of truth, beyond the reach of sense perception.
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- For example, if democracy is considered to be the best form of government, rationalism demands that it must be shown to the people how this belief stands to reason.
- Rationalism wants people to learn to govern themselves by reason, as it is a supreme and innate human quality, which can be applied to the shaping of our future.

How Rationalism can neutralize casteism:

- The Caste-based social system has assigned a hierarchical position to each caste and the result of this feeling of superiority and inferiority based on birth have been deeply embedded in the minds of the people.
- This in turn has led to the disappearance of the spirit of brotherhood, oneness, and comradeship in our society.
- Rationalism affirms that humanity is one and indivisible.
- It emphasizes that, every human being is entitled to equality of status and equality of opportunity in every sphere of life irrespective of his caste or creed.
- It wages a war on the false theory of superiority and inferiority attached to birth, and declares that the unjust social order of caste must go in the interest of social justice and human solidarity.
- Rationalism can effectively take up the creation of a new social order without caste.
- How Rationalism can counter communalism and religious fundamentalism
- Religious fundamentalism in India today displays the most incendiary form of intolerance towards other religions.
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- It challenges the very fundamentals of our conception of a secular state.
- It is the greatest enemy of national integration in multilingual and multi-religious country that is India. Rationalism inculcates the spirit of tolerance and promotes universal brotherhood. It promotes humanism with a natural and scientific approach to our problems.
- A rationalist by training and temperament is governed by reason. A man of reason has tolerance and understanding.
- A man of understanding can never be aggressive in his thought or action. Religious bigotry or religious intolerance has no place in the minds of rationalists.
- Hence rationalism is the best antidote to communalism and religious fundamentalism.
- If the doors, windows, ventilators of our brain are allowed to open, there will be free flow of thoughts and then we will think freely.
- First, we should make people think. When they think, they start questioning; when they start questioning reasoning commences.
- One tries to get answers. Newton could give us the theory of gravitational pull by questioning why an apple falls down on the ground instead of going up.
- Great thinkers like Periyar, Ingersoll, Bertrand Russell and others have not accepted anything for granted.
- They questioned every statement with a probing mind and realized the truth that there cannot be any supernatural power called ‘god’.
- “Reason is the light, the sun of the brain. It is the compass of the mind, the
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ever constant northern star, the mountain peak that lifts itself above all clouds”.

- Any man who stands for progress has to criticize, disbelief and challenge every item of the old faith.
- A man who claims to be a realist has to challenge the whole of the ancient faith. Item by item he has to reason out every nook and corner of the prevailing faith. Reasoning is the guiding star of one’s life.

- Mere faith and blind faith is dangerous. It dulls the brain and makes a man reactionary.
- Here is what Shaheed Bhagat Singh says, “Study was the cry that reverberated in the corridors of my mind, study to enable yourself to face the arguments advanced by the opposition. Study to arm yourself with arguments in favour of your cult.
- When I began to study, my precious faith and convictions underwent remarkable modifications.”
- When reasoning commences, man arrives at the conclusion that the so-called holy books are not sacred. He no more considers them as holy.
- He no more considers them as containing the knowledge revealed by certain chosen men of god, Prophets or god’s son or his angels in the language known to them.
- He no more considers that these chosen men are god’s men or so-called prophets are chosen by god.
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- He comes to know that they are all utterances of so-called god's men or prophets in their delusion or trance and written by human beings at various stages, at various thinking levels.
- Most of them are mystics. Saint Paul was one, Mohammed another, Chaitanya was yet another, Dostoveski a fourth, Ramakrishna a fifth and the list can easily be made much longer.
- He will come to the conclusion that religions are creations of human imagination.
- With the view to making people non-skeptical, the so-called holy men and their henchmen propagated that they contain sacred knowledge revealed by god, and therefore not subject to questioning.
- Most religions of the world do not want reason. Everyman should be allowed to investigate to the extent of his desire and his ability. There is no real investigation without freedom from the fear of gods and men.

Rationalism and scientific temper:

- Rationalism is fundamentally the tendency of human beings to ask questions and look for solutions to the different aspects of reality.
- It is a phenomenon that stimulates awareness and prompts questioning. In reaction to philosophical movements, rationalism thrived.
- It places a lot of focus on applying logic to evaluate facts and concepts. Rationality is applied in the majority of domains of life.
- Although there are many various views on what rationality is? It is widely accepted that it is the capacity to learn from the failures and successes of the past.
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- Rationality is the result of a critical mind. Being rational requires the ability to think critically.
- It is the capacity to assess a claim, viewpoint, or ideas critically and decide if it is true or false. Rationality requires a logical mind and the capacity for critical thought.
- Rationality promotes scientific temperament in the individual.
- Scientific temperament enables people to raise the question of what exists in the universe.
- Scientific invention, discovery and exploration are all the outcome of human rationality. Rationalism is the very fundamental essence of humanity.
- When the light of rationality illuminates the human brain, intellectualism takes birth. The rise of rationalism is the renaissance which happened during the 14th to 17th century in Europe.
- Following the Middle Ages, Europe had a passionate era of cultural, artistic, political, and economic "rebirth" during the Renaissance.
- The Renaissance, often seen as occurring between the 14th and the 17th centuries, fostered the rediscovery of ancient philosophy, literature, and art.
- The Renaissance was basically the rise of rationalism. Every intellectual perspective became more visible under the illumination of rationalism.
- Article 51 A(h), of the Fundamental Duties (FDs) which was introduced in the Indian constitution in the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976. It is
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the responsibility of every Indian citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. The spirit of inquiry is basically promoting rationalism in human beings.

- If we want to know the reality of the universe or cosmos, then our approach should be rational. The truths about who we are, the world we live in, and the cosmos may be discovered if we think logically and rationally.
- Rationality is continually looking for reality, and reality can only be found in the light of rationality.
- The Indian legal system is based on the principle of rationality. Judges attempt to make judgements based on evidence rather than preconceived notions, emotions, and sentiments. Rationality serves as the standard by which reality is evaluated.
- Rationality is continually trying to give truth the upper hand and truth is real. Thus, what is rational is also real, and vice versa.
- Rational people may attain their life objectives by having the ability to control their thoughts and conduct.
- They have the self-control to avoid engaging in unhealthy life habits such as drinking alcohol or disordered eating, and they are able to make rational judgments without letting their emotions affect them.
- A logical mind constantly thinks calmly, attentively, and objectively. It may be said that everyone with a rational mind has this as their ultimate goal.
- If you consistently participate in rational thinking, you can base your
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conclusions on facts and evidence. Using reason, you can recognize bad conceptions and practices.

- We may better comprehend ourselves and those of others who surround us by using rational thought.
- It can also help us succeed since we can comprehend realities regarding true desires instead of becoming sidetracked or behaving unreasonably. Although full objectivity will never exist, logical thought is still possible.
- As far as objectivity is concerned, rationality encourages individuals to make informed decisions. Setting feasible micro and macro goals is the fundamental indicator of being rational, and one should be proud of one's capacity for logical thought.

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- Rational people refrain from making mistakes they'll later regret. They frequently make sound decisions because they thoroughly consider all of their possibilities.
- Rational individuals have unique and clear views on the purpose and vision of life. Arguments need to possess the quality of truthfulness.
- A belief possesses the quality of truth when it accords with reality. Similar to this, it is asserted that a belief is false when it is inconsistent with reality.
- Knowing the truth is necessary in order to tell it.
- To determine what is right and what is not, one must exercise rationality.
- However, reason and the application of reason also lead to truth. While we may experience some of the truths that exist both inside and outside of us, these truths are not reliant on our understanding or our capacity to perceive them.
- The truth exists without our intervention. We can comprehend things because we can think about them rationally.
- The seeker of truth cannot ignore the search for reason because finding based on emotions and our feelings generally ignores reality and truth.
- The ideal circumstance is one in which you are free to choose solely what is best for you, without taking into account the repercussions or any other factors. When we are logical, we may draw conclusions that are in our own best interests.
- Financial matters need more accurate decisions.

- When we act impulsively, our judgments typically reflect our emotions instead of reality or reason. We can end up making poor decisions about our finances or even our interpersonal relationships as a result of this.
- As a result of their illogical behavior, this can cause them to make one poor decision, which might cause them to experience financial insecurity.

- Financial matters need more accurate decisions.

- Accuracy in decision making depends on basic information and conceptual clarity.
- Conceptual clarity and basic information bring the ability to think and make decisions rationally.
- Poor financial choices frequently lock people in a cycle of poverty where they are unable to advance because they continue to spend more than they bring in.
- People who get into this debt trap frequently end themselves in even more debt because they use credit cards and other types of credit to pay off debts from earlier purchases while acting irrationally, which causes them to slip into the debt trap.
- The rational is real, and the real is rational. Both reality and rationality are true. It very clearly signifies how reason and reality both complement one another.
- Considering that there are two viewpoints on truth, real and rational. Both viewpoints come to the same conclusion: both reality and reason are true.
- It is essential to understand how these factors interact. Creating arguments, drawing conclusions, and identifying causes and consequences are all aspects of rational justification, which is the main focus of rationality.
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- In other words, thinking and emotion are both involved in reasoning.

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