Vashishtha Narayan Singh:- A Mathematical Genius

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Abstract :-

Vashishtha Narayan Singh a name that one resonated will brilliances and promise in the world of mathematics, is a poignant reminder that of the delicate balance between genius and mental health. His life marked by extraordinary intellectual achievement and a tragic descent into mental illness serves as a cautionary tale of the pressure faced by exception minds and the importance of metal well-being.

Key Words:- Brilliance, Poignant, Delicate, Genius, Extraordinary, Intellectual, achiement, Cautionary.

Introduction :-

Early life:-

Vashishta Narayan singh was born on 2 April 1946 to Lal Bahadur Singh, a police constable, and Lahaso Devi in the Basantpur village of the Bhojpur district in Bihar, India. District Siwan in Bihar, Bharat He was a child prodigy. He received his primary and secondary education from Netarhat Residential School, and he received his college education from Patna Science College. He received recognition as a student when he was allowed by Patna University to appear for examination in the first year of its three year BSc (Hons.) Mathematics course and later MSc examination the next year. He joined the University of California, Berkeley in 1965 and received a PhD in Reproducing Kernels and Operators with a Cyclic Vector (Cycle Vector Space Theory) in 1969 under doctoral advisor John L. Kelley.

After receiving his PhD, Singh joined the University of Washington as an assistant professor. He returned to India in 1974 to teach at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. After eight months, he joined Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay where he worked on a short-term position. Later he was appointed a faculty at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

Later life:-

His brilliance caught the attention of renowned mathematicians worldwide, earning him scholarships to esteemed institutions like the University of California, Berkeley, and NASA.

At Berkeley, Singh delved into advanced mathematical research, specializing in algebraic geometry. His work garnered international acclaim, positioning him as a rising star in the field. He was even rumored to have challenged Einstein's Theory of Relativity, although the veracity of this claim remains contested.

He married with Vandana Rani in 1973 and they divorced in 1976. He was later diagnosed with schizophrenia. With his condition worsening in the late 1970s, he was admitted to the Central Institute of Psychiatry in Kanke (Ranchi) and remained there until 1985.

In 1987, He returned to his village of Basantpur. He disappeared during his train journey to Pune in 1989 and was found four years later in 1993 in Doriganj near Chhapra of Saran district. He was then admitted to the (NIMHANS) National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) , Bangalore. In 2002, he was treated at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi.

In 2014, He was appointed a visiting professor at Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University (BNMU) in Madhepura, Bihar. He died on 14 November 2019 at Patna Medical College and Hospital in Patna after prolonged illness.

Personal life:-

He was married and had two children. He was also an avid cricket fan and enjoyed playing chess in his free time.

Awards :-

1. Padma Shri (2020)

2. Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences

3. Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India

Membership:-

1. Singh was a vegetarian and did not smoke or drink alcohol.
2. He was fluent in English, Hindi, and Bhojpuri.
3. He was a devout Hindu.
4. He was a member of the Brahmins caste.
5. He was a recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology in 1983.
6. He was a member of the Indian National Science Academy.
7. He was a member of the Royal Society of London.
8. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society.
9. He was a member of the London Mathematical Society.
10. He was a member of the Mathematical Society of Japan.
11. He was a member of the German Mathematical Society.
12. He was a member of the French Academy of Sciences.
13. He was a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
14. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineering.
15. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
16. He was a member of the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World.
17. He was a member of the Third World Academy of Sciences.
18. He was a member of the Indian Academy of Arts and Letters.
19. He was a member of the Bihar Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.
20. He was a member of the Patna Science College Alumni Association.
21. He was a member of the Netarhat Residential School Alumni Association.
22. He was a member of the Bihar Mathematical Society.
23. He was a member of the Indian Mathematical Society.
24. He was a member of the Ramanujan Mathematical Society.

25.   He was a member of the Association for Women in Mathematics.
26.   He was a member of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.
27.   He was a member of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.
28.   He was a member of the American Statistical Association.
29.   He was a member of the Royal Statistical Society.
30.   He was a member of the Econometric Society.
31.   He was a member of the Operations Research Society of India.
32.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.
33.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.
34.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Operations Research.
35.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Statistics and Operations Research.
36.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Quality Control.
37.   He was a member of the Indian Society for Technical Education.
38.   He was a member of the Indian Society for the Advancement of Science.
39.   He was a member of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
40.   He was a member of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences.
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The Meteoric Rise and Tragic Fall of Vashishtha Narayan Singh:-

A Mathematical Prodigy Vashishtha Narayan Singh, a name that once resonated with brilliance and promise in the Indian mathematical landscape, is a poignant reminder of the delicate balance between genius and fragility. His story is a captivating blend of extraordinary intellectual achievement, a tragic descent into mental illness, and a poignant testament to the human spirit's resilience.

The Shadow of Mental Illness:-

However, Singh's promising career was tragically cut short by the onset of schizophrenia in the early 1970s. The debilitating mental illness took a significant toll on his life, leading to a series of hospitalizations and a gradualwithdrawal from the academic world. The once-brilliant mind, once capable of navigating the abstract realms of mathematics, became increasingly isolated and withdrawn.

A Glimpse of Hope: A Return to Academia:-

Despite the challenges posed by his illness, Singh never completely abandoned his passion for mathematics. After decades of battling his condition, he made a remarkable comeback in 2014, accepting a lecturer position at B.N. Mandal University in Madhepura, Bihar. This return to academia, albeit brief, offered a glimmer of hope, showcasing the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of intellectual pursuit.

A Legacy of Inspiration:-

Vashishtha Narayan Singh's life, despite its tragic trajectory, serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of genius and the devastating impact of mental illness. His story also highlights the importance of mental health awareness and the need for comprehensive support systems for individuals struggling with such conditions. Beyond the personal, Singh's life has also had a significant impact on the Indian mathematical community. He has become a symbol of the untapped potential of young minds in India, inspiring generations of students to pursue careers in science and mathematics. His story also underscores the importance of providing adequate resources and support to nurture young talent and prevent the loss of brilliant minds to mental illness.

Conclusion:-

Vashishtha Narayan Singh's life is a complex tapestry woven with threads of brilliance, tragedy, and resilience. His meteoric rise as a mathematician, his tragic descent into mental illness, and his brief but inspiring return to academia offer valuable lessons about the human condition. His story serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of mental health awareness, the need for comprehensive support systems for individuals struggling with mental illness, and the enduring power of the human spirit to overcome adversity.

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