

On dependence, independence and interdependence

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It is well-known that *human beings are a social animals*. We are emotionally and physically attached to our neighborhood that comprises of aspects right from family ties, friends' circle, work environment to weather conditions, internal feelings and past upbringing etc. All these aspects are attached to a human being like threads. The attachment level varies from person to person. Some of these aspects are dominant in one personality while the rest in others. In fact our social fabric is woven out of these threads. All of them have impact on our personality depending on how strong they are and how strongly we are connected to them.

Let us imagine this social fabric as a fishing net. A **dependent** person is the one who is badly entangled into this fishing net, so much so that he is unable to move freely. All of his movements are bound to these threads. He cannot do something beneficial for himself or for others around him unless his threads allow him to do so. Such a person is physically and emotionally dependent on his neighborhood. If, for example, the strongest threads are his family ties or his circle of friends, he will be strongly driven by these factors. Whenever his relationships within family or friends deteriorate this will have a huge negative impact on his performance. Thus dependent people are not consistent performers. Their efficiencies are bound to their neighborhood. They cannot hold to their principles farther than the flexibility in the net they are entangled in. Such people are generally compromising against hardships and are unable to stand to the trials and challenges. On the other hand an **independent** person is the one who has got himself freed from the intertwined net. His movement is no longer limited by the flexibility of threads around him. His performance and efficiencies are unaffected by whatever is happening in his neighborhood. Such a person can act on his freewill and is naturally a more consistent performer. Independent person can think more openly and logically. He is a self driven and a focused individual who can better meet deadlines and keep commitments. Independence means making oneself untangled from the net with or without leaving it completely. The one who leaves the net altogether is an independent

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lone performer. He is free in personal capacity and unaffected or unharmed from the net. Neither he is getting suppressed by the net nor he is able to use it for any benefit. Moreover there can be another independent person who does not get trapped by the net rather he chooses some strong threads from where he can hold the net without getting himself entangled. Such a fisherman who can use the net for some benefit without being trapped is called an **interdependent** person. Interdependent person is not only free from net but can also use this net for individual and collective benefit (fishing). Interdependence is an ability to impact surroundings for some benefit rather being influenced. It is superior trait than independence.

Interdependent person is an unbiased thinker who is also well aware of his environment and surroundings. Thus he is better capable of taking fair decisions in a challenging environment. He is a trend setter and can more easily stick to his long term goals and life long principles. Interdependent person knows the strong threads in his net and can better hold them. He knows how to lead his physical and emotional world in the guidance of his principles. All these unique traits make interdependence a leadership quality.

Finally for further thinking let us answer ourselves on following questions.

Q1: *Can you close your eyes for a few seconds and try to imagine if there is a net intertwined?*

Q2: *If yes, how to get free?*

Q3: *Can you categorize your threads as strong and weak?*

Q4: *Imagine that you are a fisherman holding your net, can you see yourself as someone who can fish for a collective benefit?*