

We all have limitations in our thinking, but those who are aware of it are much fitter for any purpose. Openness to opposing views and recognizing the fact that one's beliefs and opinions might be incorrect is a quality we call intellectual humility which people are not born with, but the quality they can certainly gift to themselves. In other words, intellectual humility is recognizing the limits of one's own knowledge and at the same time appreciating others' intellectual strength. It is also the basis of critical thinking which help us to grow more congruent and tolerant rather than simply open-minded. Intellectual courage and intellectual empathy as subsets of intellectual humility strengthen peoples' cooperative behaviour and therefore, are necessary skills for realizing happiness in a democratic society. Research shows that more intellectual humility brings more tolerance as well as more openness, which can be learned and required for co-existence in society. Therefore, the integration of intellectual humility and openness is one of the desirable changes that we want to see in peoples' behaviour. The present study aimed at exploring the extent of both phenomena in stakeholders of higher education. A sample size of 880 students and 200 teachers from 100 colleges and 22 universities spread across 21 districts of West Bengal was studied using a cross-sectional survey method to obtain a good representation of the population in the said geographical region. The Comprehensive Intellectual Humility Scale and Openness questions from the Big Five Inventory were administered to find out the extent of intellectual humility and openness among the participants. Results showed that the students in higher education had a good deal of intellectual humility and openness while the teachers possessed more. Amount of intellectual humility and openness varied in terms of personal, socio-demographic, academic and behavioural characteristics of the participants as laid down in the study. It was also found that intellectual humility significantly predicted the openness of the participants. The study discussed on probable causes of the variation in both constructs in light of the different characteristics of the participants. In addition, it was concluded that intellectual humility and openness need to be realized as having a significant effect on our life and instrumental in bringing sustainability to today's knowledge society.