

Can creativity be nurtured?

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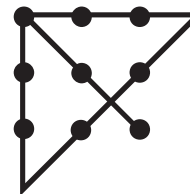
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The first use of the word 'Creativity' occurred in 1875 and represents the quality of being creative or the ability to create (something) new. The word itself is synonymous with ingenuity to create, innovation or invention of that which was not known already and which is original.

The following 'Nine Dots Puzzle' in Sam Lloyd's 'Cyclopedia of Puzzles' :



represents thinking 'outside the box', which is considered the *sine qua non* to creativity. One of the many solutions to the puzzle is to link all the dots with four straight lines, as in the figure above (with a pencil on a paper, starting from one dot and going over each dot once and only once) illustrates thinking outside the square boundary of the nine dots.

In this article, the life and work of Physicists: Satyendra Nath Bose, Sir C.V. Raman, S. Chandrasekhar and E.C.G. Sudarshan and two mathematicians Srinivasa Ramanujan and Kannan Soundararajan are detailed highlighting briefly their achievements, with the hope that it would be possible for us to draw possible conclusions as an answer to how talent and creativity can be nurtured.

*"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."* – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Satyendra Nath Bose (January 1, 1894 – February 4, 1974)



S.N. Bose was a student of the Hindu High School, Calcutta and the Presidency College, Calcutta. Among his teachers were Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Roy, who influenced him and his career. After his M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Calcutta, he joined the Dacca University (now in Bangladesh) in 1921. He translated Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity from German into English and contacted Einstein who appreciated this effort.

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