Knowledge claim : An Analysis

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In our Daily life we often say that, "I Know that Rabindranath was a great poet", "Ram knows that Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal", "we know that 2+2 = 4'', "they know how to play cricket'' and so on. It is very easy to use the term 'know', but difficult provide a concrete definition of knowledge. Though in Western Philosophy several attempts have been made to define knowledge, but still now we are not in the position to say that we have a concrete definition of knowledge. In this regard I would like to say that, though we have no concrete definition of knowledge but we can see in Western Philosophy there is a deep discussion to analyze the nature of knowledge. Several attempts have been made to analyze the nature of knowledge. The western philosophers have tried to analyze the nature of the term 'know' by the virtue of its different sense of use, though the different uses of term 'know' is not like a definition of a knowledge.

The western philosophers have dealt mainly three different sense of uses of the term 'know'.

The term 'know' used as --

1.Knowing who or Knowledge by Acquaintance. (I know Ram)

2.Knowing how or Knowledge by Ability. (I know how to swim)

3.Knowing that or Propositional Knowledge.(I know that 2+2=4)

Knowing who or Knowledge by Acquaintance-

In this Sense, the term 'know' used to know something or someone to which or whom I am acquainted with. We use the word 'know' to mean Knowledge by Acquaintance. For example, I know Rabindranath Tagore. Here, 'know' means I am acquainted with Rabindranath Tagore who was a great poet and he wrote Gitanjali.

Knowing how or Knowledge by Ability –

In this Sense, the term 'know' means having ability to perform an action. For example, I know how to cook, I know how to sing, I know how to ride cycle etc.

Knowing that or Propositional Knowledge-

In this sense the term 'know' used as 'I know that…..', 'He knows that…….' etc. Here, the word 'that' is always followed by a sentence or a proposition. For example, ''I know that 'green fruits are green' is an analytic judgment'', ''He knows that 2+2=4''. Propositional Knowledge must be true.

Now the question is when can we say that, ''I know some things''? This question helps us to analysis some new angles regarding knowledge. The question like, when can we say ''I know something'' or when can we say that ''S knows that P'', demand some conditions. It can also be said in this manner that, to know something you have to fulfill some requirements or conditions. The western philosophers have dealt a lot to show the requirement or the condition to know something.

We can see there are two types of conditions one is

1. Truth,   necessary and another is sufficient.

2. Belief

3. Justification

Separately Truth, Belief and Justification known as necessary condition and altogether it is known as sufficient condition of knowledge.

Conditions of knowledge claim

1. **Truth:** To know something truth is the first condition of knowing that. When S claims that he knows that P, that means that S knows that P is true.

2. **Belief:** Belief is an important condition of knowledge claim. Without believing something we cannot say that we know something.

3. **Justification:** As truth and believe justification is also a prime condition of knowledge. S knows that P means, S knows that P is true, S believes that P is true and also S is justified in believing P is true.

Problem regarding knowledge claim

As we have mentioned earlier that truth, believe and justification is the condition or requirement for knowing something. But can we say that, whether the conditions are adequate to know something. This problem is not so easy. As Gettier in his article ''*Is Justified true true belief Knowledge ?*'' has raised a problem to show the inadequacy or insufficientness of insufficientness of the conditions of knowledge claim. Pollock and Chisholm have tried to solve the problem by adding a fourth condition. But the problem raised by Gettier and solution made by polock and chisolm was from two different angels. Gettier problem helps us to enquire the nature of condition by which we claim to know something and the solution made by polock and chisolm helps us to develop theory of knowledge by adding some new dimension of justification which is the base of the knowledge claim.