

What is Human Factor? The Key to A Joyful Life

Vipin Gupta

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Reviewed by Megan Weiss for Reader Views (9/2021)

Vipin Gupta's "What is Human Factor?" is the 8th installment in his Project VIPIN series, a twelve-book series delving into the very depths of human psychology, philosophy, and culture. In this book, Gupta is evaluating how the physical reality we all see is really only a partial reality. This partial reality thus forms our belief systems and may close off our minds to other possibilities and ideas.

"What is Human Factor?" is definitely captivating. I have never seen anyone approach the very essence of human consciousness and thought the way Gupta has. He uses complex formulas, economic theories, and personal experiences to construct a narrative that forces a reader to think about how they might be depriving themselves of true happiness, or of achieving their goals, because they are subconsciously closing their minds to a world that has more possibilities than we could ever imagine.

I think "What is Human Factor?" would be quite interesting to many readers, but Gupta does use complex terminology that many people might not be familiar with unless they also have done research in a similar field. For example, in the opening, the author expresses a wish that children will read the book and master "the method of enjoying their absolute freedom to be the superhero." This is a fantastic sentiment, and a great lesson for kids. We spend so much time when we're growing up trying to emulate our heroes that we don't realize that as kids, we can be heroes too. I think teaching kids this would really help make them feel more confident as they grow and gradually figure out who they are and who they want to be. The book and the way in which the theme is conveyed would need to be simplified quite a bit, however, before anyone younger than perhaps college-age would be able to read and understand it.

Some of the image scenarios and language in "What is Human Factor?" might alienate female audiences. I understand the message that the author is trying to convey, but by portraying an image of a male boss berating a young female employee and adding a caption that insinuates that she will be "rewarded" by "serving" the male boss, it might send the wrong message to female readers. I don't believe that there was any intent of sexism, but in a book where we are reading about learning how to master our potential to be our own superheroes, it feels a little degrading as a female reader to see these kinds of images. There are also passages where the trait of being a leader is relegated to being inherently masculine, while the feminine is more passive, patient and compassionate. Finally, there are passages which present the idea that the feminine is the trait of a "follower." As a well-researched piece of work, I think I just expected the narrative to present itself a little more objectively, and right now just seems a little subjective instead.

Overall, I think “What is Human Factor?” fits in well with the previous books in the project that Gupta has taken on. Readers interested in philosophy and psychology, who have significant background in the field and understand the terminology, will find “What is Human Factor?” to be a worthwhile read.