

“Colour is a matter of Perception”

Hence colour is Subjective - Subject to several factors.

1. When the light falls on a red surface, that surface reflects light of one colour - red and absorbs all other colours. If we say that light has seven colours, the surface has absorbed red and reflected light rays of six colours.

So what is the true colour of the surface? Red is not the colour of surface. Red is the colour of the light that is reflected. We see only red colour beam and hence we assign the red colour to that surface.

2. There are many colours, many combinations and many shades. In electronic instruments, advertisers talk of lakhs of colours.

Animals, butterflies and birds see some colours that we don't see. Those colours exist. But we can't see. For us those colours don't exist.

For a blind man no colours exists.

3. A peacock's feather shows brilliant combination of colours. The feathers are so built that Peacock feather surface is not flat. Within the surface it refracts colours. Actually the feathers are of brownish colour. However, due to refraction etc., we see a beautiful range of psychedelic colours. (Note 1: I have simplified a complex phenomenon of light's play on peacock's feathers.)

Point is, the surface may have one colour. We may ascribe another colour to it. What we see, we believe it to be the fact.

4. Assume that there is no light. Either it is a dark night, or you are in a dark room. Now what is the colour of all the objects? None? Probably, as far as our sense of vision is concerned, none of the objects exist. It is only with other senses like touch and smell that we may experience the presence of the objects.

So colour of an object depends upon -

Availability of light; and
the spectrum of colour which the object will reflect; and
the perception of that colour which our eyes see and brain recognises.

5. When we say “colour”, it is actually colour of the light that we can perceive. It is quite independent of the object's characteristics.

In a blue coloured room everything appears shaded by blue.

If I wear blue sunglasses, everything appears shaded by blue.

Nothing has happened to the objects. But my perception has changed.

6.

We have five senses of perception.

The sixth sense is generally undeveloped or underdeveloped.

For those who are handicapped by one or more senses – the perception of the world is limited.

For us only that world exists which we perceive. Reality of the world may be different.

Colour is a matter of perception.

Similarly, our experience of the world is a matter of our perception.