

**Abstract No 03*****Vidyā and Avidyā in Isāvāsyopaniṣad*****Shakuntala Gawde****Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai, Indai.****[shakuntala.gawde@gmail.com](mailto:shakuntala.gawde@gmail.com)**

*Isāvāsyopaniṣad* (9-11) mentions terms *Vidyā* and *Avidyā*. *Vidyā* is taken as knowledge and *Avidyā* as ignorance when literal meaning is taken. One who follows *Avidyā* goes to darkness and worshipper of *Vidyā* to even more darkness. One who knows *Vidyā* and *Avidyā* both together crosses death with *Avidyā* and attains immortality through *Vidyā*. Here words *Vidyā* and *Avidyā* are cryptic and do not mean the general connotation. Dictionary meanings of these words are incongruent with the meaning of complete verses. In this case, commentators have adopted different meanings suitable to their philosophy. It is however interesting to note the hermeneutic tools they used for interpretations. Paper aims to investigate and understand concepts of *Vidyā* and *Avidyā* through different commentaries and throw light on philosophy behind it.

Keywords: *Vidyā*, *Avidyā*, Connotation, Hermeneutic