

Roll No. _____

Very good
Essay - 1

PHNO1- 7827171517

Excellent!

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

65

125

content is very rich

Instructions to Candidate

Presentation could

- Both sections are compulsory. *be more compact.*
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks. *Introduction should be more straight and effective.*
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

66

125

Rich in content & analysis.
Sense of being compact yet missing at times!

Remarks:

131

250

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

1. Invigilator Signature _____
2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name BASUKI JHA
Mobile No. _____
Date 13/11/015
Signature Bhe

SECTION - A

1. There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.
2. Poverty is not just a economic condition.
3. In this world, fear has no place; only strength respects strength.
4. It is always difficult to fight against faith than against knowledge.

SECTION - B

1. Law and order is the medicine of the body politic, and when the body politic gets sick, medicine must be administered.
2. The danger of the past was that men became slaves, the danger of future is that they may become robots.
3. A free and fair election is not possible without media.
4. Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Need of Good Governance.

Poverty is not just an economic condition.

Historically, speaking, concept of rich & poor is not new to the world. In Indian context, a gradual progress from "band society" to a class based society brought forth the concept of "haves" and "have nots". Evidences in the form of differential housings, differential grave goods are a testimony to the above. In the modern context, first scientific data regarding poverty was proposed by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji. He calculated the per capita income of the people and compared with average to justify desciclate the theory of white man's burden & reveal the deplorable status of Indian people.

Ever since, our estimates base of poverty have been more or less focused on the economic condition of the people calculated through per capita income or consumption.

After independence the baton of estimating poverty passed on to the ^{Planning} Commission, ^(PC) deriving inspiration from the "Grand old man of India"; the PC followed the per capita approach. During 1960s, some element of improvisation was brought and poverty estimates were proposed on the basis of calorie consumption with the threshold level of 2200 calories. However, the entire concept of poverty was still based on the economic condition of the people reflected through income, food consumption, property ownership etc. This belief also gave strength to the view that economic growth in terms of GDP was the panacea for alleviating poverty.

It is in this light came the highly talked about LPG reforms of 1991. GDP figures surged to the extent of double the estimates, but concept of poverty as an economic indicator was belied.

World over the debate started on the concept of poverty. Two Nobel laureates like Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen etc argued that poverty was away beyond wages, & and a mere provision of two ends real didn't amount to poverty alleviation.

Instances of condition of people in Africa, countries of South America and South East Asia including India were cited, where people somehow managed to sustain with "bread to mouth" subsistence but lacked the basic provisions of sanitation, drinking water, healthcare, education, a roof to dwell, clothing etc.

The international organisations working for poverty demanded a holistic approach towards poverty. It is in this background that UN came up with its epic definition of poverty as "lack of physical and mental well-being".

This definition comprised a gamut of factors including economic - social, education, health care along with economic. Thus, the myth of poverty as an economic condition was busted.

India too got inspired by the new approach towards poverty. Tendulkar committee while deciding for a new baseline for poverty considered various factors including an enlarged food basket to measure consumption, availability of basic services of health, water, shelter & clothing etc. It came up with base figures of ₹ 27/ person for rural area and ₹ 32/ person for ^{urban} cons. exp. in term of per capita income. The overall poverty was considered estimated as 21% of total population. A further degree of refinement in this approach was brought by Shri C. Rangarajan. He re-oriented the consumption of food basket by adding the component of nutritional elements in food intake. Thus, he addressed the concept of "hidden hunger" in the poverty estimation, which was indeed commendable. He also proposed to increase include provisions of housing, urban transport, access of healthcare facilities in his poverty estimates. With the refined data, it was no surprise that the threshold value of per capita increased and total number of poor increased to 29.5% of total population.

Though Mr. Rajeev Ranjarajan made commendable efforts to redefine poverty estimates but the essence remains unchanged i.e. per capita income. There are numerous problems with this approach. Firstly, despite numerous additions in terms of health, education, basic facilities etc, but ultimately it boils down to estimating poverty based on per-capita income - an economic indicator. Secondly, it doesn't provide the idea of "depth of poverty". Anyone, whose per capita income is above ₹32 (as per Ranjarajan) in a rural area is not poor while any one who is even paise short of it is poor. What about answering questions like - how poor? Which indicators are lacking? Is she living a dignified life? etc etc

The answers to these questions came from numerous researches. Amartya Sen proposed his famous Sen's 'P' index. He argued, anyone who is living a life below dignity is poor.

A joint research by Oxford University & UNDP came up with the idea of Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

By far, the MPI provides the most

wholesome approach towards poverty.

It assesses 10 indicators which are based on 3 broad parameters - health, education & provision of basic services.

The indicators include - child mortality rate, life expectancy, mean years of schooling, number of persons completed education, access to drinking water, toilets, housing, transport, recreation etc.

Any person who fails in 4 out of the 10 indicators is termed poor. It thus marks a remarkable shift in the

poverty estimation based on single criterion of per-capita income. Surprisingly, when

applied to India, poverty based on MPI, close of 57% of people were found

poor. Thus, half the population are poor in one sense or the other compared to only 29% as per economic indicators.

With a lengthy discussion on analysing ~~poor~~ multi-dimensional nature of poverty, the natural question is - what's the need of such analysis?

Now, since we realize that poverty is not just deprivation of economic conditions, so, its impact is also not just limited to economic development of the country.

Economically, it slows down the growth of the country. The vast pool of human resource who could add to the development of the nation become mere takers of benefits adding to the financial burden of the nation. Further, as a part of its social impacts, poverty breeds inequality, discrimination, corruption, illiteracy. On a larger front the menace of left wing extremism, increased militancy and increased corruption are also linked to poverty. Thus, any efforts to tackle ^{poverty} corruption, considering its multi-dimensional approach automatically addresses the above problems.

Addressing poverty therefore will also require a new approach which is multi-dimensional in nature. Firstly, it is important to address the economic indicators like unemployment, skewed growth of agriculture & manufacturing in India, food security, etc.

The schemes like MNPREGA, ~~the~~ National rural/urban livelihood mission, manufacturing policy; Skill India mission, Food security Act, rightly address the above issues.

From social perspective, issues like income inequalities, inclusive growth, as deteriorating health service, lack of sanitation & housing, overpopulation, and illiteracy have to be addressed. Government schemes like National Health Policy, Swachh Bharat Mission, Housing for All, Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat, Right to education addresses the concern. To contain skewed growth, ever since 12 Five year plan (FYP), the govt. has been focussing on Inclusive growth. Income inequality, as measured through Gini Coefficient is 0.37 which is better than many developed countries.

Therefore, the gradual shift in viewing poverty & economic condition brings to us a wider field of view.

A multi-pronged approach of viewing poverty will invariably address its

Multi-pronged impact, causes and will bring an all-inclusive solution.

It will enable the policy makers to bring more and more people under its agenda of development. The socio-

economic caste census (SECC) which

was the first of its kind in the world

is a very positive step with regards to viewing condition of people.

Internationally, a shift from Millennium Development goals to sustainable development goals is also a reflection to address broader concerns related to humanity. Therefore, the positive vibes have spread around, and India needs to capitalize on it. Our idea of an ideal global power cannot be a reality without addressing these concerns. The world SBCC and other progressive approaches we are on the right track. The time is ripe to walk the talk as and as Swami Vivekanand has said --

"ARISE AWAKE AND STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED".

Free and fair election is not possible without media.

Consider an utopian situation, where every candidate is provided equality in ~~each~~ candidature for elections, every participant exercises his voluntary right of franchise, the state has no control over voting process, the citizens have made an informed choice without any prejudices of caste, religion, kinship ties, etc and finally there is no cap malpractices of booth capturing, & rigging. Imagine, the quality of people we will choose in this situation! The above mentioned above is nothing but a glimpse of a free and fair election.

With regards to equality of candidature and voluntary right to exercise franchise, Art. 326 of our constitution has provided inalienable rights. To keep a check on the power of state, a constitutional body set up under Article 315 of constitution, called election commission, enforces strict control. The moral code of conduct, which is imposed just after declaration of elections ensures that state doesn't have any added advantage over other

candidates. Similarly, Art 328 of our constitution, allows the High Court to question any malpractice or like things, booth capturing etc. Thus, text of our constitution has enough provisions within it to ensure free and fair elections with regard to the aforesaid matters. But, when it comes to making an informed choice, it requires an external locus of control. It is here that institutions of media & civil society come into foreplay as deciding agent in free & fair elections.

Media, in modern times include the print media viz newspapers, magazines; broadcasting media - news channels & radios and social media i.e. facebook, twitter, google etc to name a few.

In India, media enjoys an immense reach. In fact, India has the largest number of dailies & magazines published and we are among top nations in terms of viewership of broadcast media.

The last telecom revolution witnessed in the past decades have also increased the reach of social media to people

Further, freedom of press is also an inherent right enjoyed by the media as part of Art- 19(1)(a). i.e. Freedom of speech in Part III of the constitution.

The recent judgement of upturning Art- 66(1)(a) of the IT Act has also ensured the freedom of speech in social media.

Additionally, provisions like Right to Information, RTI, have ensured that a citizen can procure data about the functioning of government as a matter of right. This has benefited the media the most which has brought out governance from rooms & conferences to debates & discussions in the open forum.

Given, the above privileges enjoyed by the media, it has become a prime source of dissemination of information to the common people. For eg. even though the Supreme Court has mandated to submit the educational details, criminal antecedent etc. of the candidates, but such information reaches the people through the media.

Further, the media is also has an onerous task of evaluating the news critically. It reads between the lines of various policies & programmes and is expected to provide a critical review of it.

The popular knowledge and review of recent bills & acts like Land Ordinance Acquisition Bill, Juvenile Justice Bill etc were attributed to the media.

Many a times, it is the media which forms a public opinion. The massive upsurge during the India Against Corruption movement was due to the strong atmosphere of anti-corruption belief spread by the media.

In the past few years, the breed of media houses collaborating with data collecting agencies to report opinion polls & exit polls have also cropped up. These polls help gauge the opinion of people regarding the incumbent government & also decide the likely contender.

Thus, we see that media has a dramatic role to play in making informed choices & soliciting popular opinions which, as seen before, is a standing pillar of free elections. The Lok Sabha elections is a testimony to this. The media in all its forms esp. the social media was used widely to open cases of corruption, poor governance, policy paralysis and generate an anti-incumbency feeling among people. The result being, a new party sweeping the polls with a majority.

However, but, the trends as seen in recent times do not present a rosy picture. On one hand where the media has lived up to the top its responsibilities, on the other hand certain grey shades have marred the trust over media in ensuring free & fair elections.

Firstly, though opinion polls & exit polls were devised to read mind of people to enable them to make an informed choice, case of their inaccuracies have been lay bare. In the Delhi assembly elections, & recent Bihar assembly elections, the opinion polls were a big failure and were alleged to have misled the people.

Second, case of paid news have been a recurring phenomenon. The popular TV channel have disguised advertisements of political parties as news in return of pecuniary benefit or favours. This was evidently seen in Gujarat assembly elections.

Third, corporatization of media has also reduced its impartiality. The water tight separation between media's editorial board and its ownership has been leaked. This has led to sycophancy and nepotism. This evidently, this will provide a biased view to the people.

The ~~new~~ social media, which is largely un-regulated as of now has also been seen as eroding the role of media in free & fair elections. Numerous, rumours, cases of communal hatred, false informations have been floated on the social media, which tends to affect the mind of a naive viewer who doesn't take pains to check the veracity of the news but gets influenced by it.

Thus, the media, as we see, is a two-edged sword. ~~With one cut can cut the ig~~

Thus, media has both positive and negative roles to play in free & fair elections. But, the question is it is sole agency to determine free & fair elections. The answer is however NO. The cases of Bihar election & Delhi election have shown that people have voted against the trend projected in the media. This goes on to explain that after 67 years of independence, people have become politically mature to frame their own views. The rising cases of corruption & nepotism in the media have caused them to frame opinions with their best of reasoning and not the media or political party behind it. Social media has evolved as a new tool to spread independent opinions which has been positive many a times. So, though media exercises a tremendous influence on people in making informed decisions but it doesn't possess unquestionable authority in this regard.

But given the wide reach & gradual maturity of the citizens, it is important to regulate the media to ensure it fulfills its responsibility towards free & fair elections. The opinions polls & exit polls should have greater control of election commission. The agencies involved should be transparent in terms of sample size, promoters & degree of error. With regards to paid news, the news agency should refrain from the immoral or act of disguising advertisements. The case of P they need to be more transparent in terms of T&P and revenues generated due to advertisement.

To end corporatization, editorial boards should be made independent. A better regulatory framework for press, radio broadcasting & social media is required. Broadcasting Resource Authority of India in lines of Press Council of India can be formed. Further, guidelines to regulate social media can be ~~circulated~~ disseminated among people.

Thus, we see that media is a two-edged sword. With one edge, it tend to cut ignorance & callousness among the people, with other it tends to degrade their trust by involving in propaganda. Though the media doesn't have unquestionable influence over conducting free & fair elections in the country, but its ~~side~~ side cannot be sidelined. For a long term, it is important to continue to educate people to think critically & form their own opinion. On an immediate basis, if any moves of deflection by the media to avoid only then, we can think of a qualitative government which takes on the lead to rise India to a global power.

Free & fair election

- What → no pressure.
- ↳ informed choice
 - ↳ no malpractice
 - ↳ no participation
 - ↳ equality of participants
- When → everyone

- Why → (i) - govern.
- (ii) - future depends on them.
 - (iii) - parties.
 - (iv) -

- Weaknesses - (i) - informed
- (ii) - elect state power
 - (iii) - under pressure
 - (iv) - transparency - EVM
 - (v) - no fraud & clear clear
 - (vi) - no punishment for duplicity - Adhar

- 3rd P. era. Broad awareness
- ↳ Being of media
 - ↳ regulate
 - ↳ BPAZ
 - ↳ paid news - EC recon
 - ↳ segm. corp
 - ↳ opinion

Media → mass media
→ social media
→ print media

GS SCORE

- (i) - public opinion
- (ii) - Infor
- (iii) - critical news
- (iv) - opinion polls & exit polls

How → reach

- St E informed media
- F.R. freedom of press

- Issues
- (i) - paid news
 - (ii) - opinion & exit polls
 - (iii) - corruption of media
 - (iv) - transparency - reputation
 - (v) - social media + veracity & confusion, fake content

- (i) - people vote for heli
- (ii) - opinion polls
- (iii) - Delhi elections
- (iv) - people have become aware
- (v) - critical thinking
- (vi) - nature

Poverty

econ con'n

→ What → deprivatⁿ of physical & mental well being.

→ Who → largest no. of poor & hungry.

→ Where -
→ How -

base of

low income

evolution → poverty estimates traditionally calories based

poverty → estimates began - as early - around tribal -

poverty →

poor & rich divide not zero. - tribal so all "bad" jobs → state cap → difference. policy - ... In modern

income → per capita income → hard a per capita income. - ... the dependence - lot of per capita + high → food consumption → caloric consumption

by economic food consumption. & technical committee.

→ economic con'n

gradually, GDP ↑, food supplies ↑, health care, education, employment poverty reduced & poverty estimates:

① economic, social. In dev. countries, poverty, now

② development begins by village - prior. satyagrah movement

③ Nobel laureates. In 1970s, UN agencies

④ → change in eq.

→ SECC → households, physical educaⁿ, social, health

⑤ (MDE) (MPE) →

causes of poverty: (i) unemployment, (ii) inequality, (iii) - corruption. (iv) -

Multi-dimensional approach → food security, → wider

Poverty → example

→ best benefit → (MDE) (SDA)

Poverty → development

① poverty → economic

impact → economic → food & security