

Roll No. _____

Very Good!
Essay 1

ESSAY

Essay - 2

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

66
125

Instructions to Candidate

66
125

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- 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.

(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).

Emphases should be on gender

Remarks

Emphasis needed on

equality more than a goal - why? and how? you have done it but your arguments for the same are sometimes sudden in your long para.

- Why 'need for choosing wisely'
- what happens if not chosen wisely
- How to ensure wise choice
- Conclusion should not be abrupt

132
250

Name BASUKI JHA

Mobile No. _____

Date 17/11/015

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Politics without ethics leads to disaster
2. Beware the Barrenness of a Busy Life
3. Gender equality is a more than a goal in itself.
4. Forget success if you are without mission.

SECTION - B

1. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.
2. Civil servants convert political mandate into reality.
3. Science never solves a problem without creating ten more.
4. We don't have to Sacrifice a Strong Economy for a Healthy Environment

gender equality is more than a goal in itself.

gender equality in the true sense of the word would mean equal opportunities, equal participation and equal treatment of men & women in all walks of life, be it economy, society, polity, culture, military, entertainment etc.

Alternatively, it would be a complete erasure of the biological difference for achieving economical, political and cultural parity.

Historically speaking, during prehistoric times the difference between men and women happened only biologically. The Vedic society during its early days also ensured

equality of women by ensuring their participation in politics, society, religion, etc. However, as time progressed the patriarchal mindset strengthened & the 'biological weakness' of women was put as a shield to sideline them from different facets of life. The modern day discourse is however back on the topic of equality. This is after the world has realized that men cannot be sole contributors to the world and they inject they are just a living soul without their better halves.

Numerous reputed agencies have come out with objective evidences to show the growing inequality among ^{on basis} women of sex. For eg. the Global Inequality Index, which measures parity of women across dimensions like health, education & participation in politics, has rated India among the most unequal nations. On a larger perspective, gender equality ^{is not} can end in itself for ^{is not} just a means to achieve much higher objectives.

We shall now see the various aspects of gender equality and higher objectives it tend to achieve.

Economically.

Earlier, women were considered equal partners in economy. The paintings of Bhimbetka show a ~~di~~ very rational and a dignified division of labour. With turn of a clock, women were pushed into kitchens & managing families with men becoming a 'self-declared' torch bearer of economic order. However, even in traditional roles ~~women~~ of household management, women have shown their competence and excellence. With this I

am reminded of an incident when my father appreciated my mother for efficient management of the household within a limited budget; and admiringly said "you should be the finance minister of the country". Though said in a light-hearted tone, it goes on to explain, what women can do when given larger roles. World today faces

economic challenges like reduced GDP, slowdowns, recessions, poverty, unemployment etc. Women whenever, women have been given a say on these matter, in whatever limited scale, the results have been positive. Many successful business ~~women~~ ^{professionals} like Laxmi Veni, Chanda Kochhar, Christini Lagard, have always raised issues which concerns the world problems -

In fact, IMF chief Christine Lagarde ~~went~~ on to say that GDP growth of India can rise by 2-3% on equal participation of women.

Thus, gender equality of women in economic matters has wider implications which can address challenges of jobless growth, slowdown, poverty, misery etc.

Politically speaking, after initial days of equal participation of women during Vedic society, women were sidelined into cult of domestic hearth & kitchens.

However, whenever given an opportunity they have challenged their traditional roles and taken issues which matter to society at large. Razia Sultan,

when made the ruler of Delhi dared to change the entire structure of the nobility which led to a new era of homogeneity in society. Even today, in villages where women Sarpanchas have enough say, issues like rape,

female foeticide, alcohol consumption have reduced. Thus, politically, women have not ^{just} stood for their rights but the entire society. Thus, gender equality

in polity has more to do with mere equal representation. Rather, it is about taking up issues which matter to the entire society.

socially, women have been the worst sufferers. There is blatant acceptance of ~~ex~~ inequality in field of education, health, family planning, marriage etc. It is a matter of shame that right from the birth of a girl child and during her process of socialization, she suffers inequality in ~~issues~~ as trivial as food, education, clothing etc. Evils of illiteracy, rising population, rapes, honour killing etc are linked to social inequalities of women.

As rightly said "When you educate a man you educate an individual. When you educate a woman, you educate the whole family". So, female literacy has a multiplier effect and the evils of illiteracy can automatically be curbed on a personal level.

I owe my education to my mother, who could spare time to give me the basic education at home. ^{at a time when} my father was busy in office. ^{where} my mother was busy in office. Education with education, the women feels more empowered ~~there~~, and the associated issues like rising population, honour killing etc can be resolved. Thus,.....

even socially, equality ~~means~~ means more than equal participation, but a gradual erosion of social evils.

In the field of science and technology, as well, women have proved their mettle. If someone would have visited a tea garden, they would see women workers plucking ripen tea leaves. The skill and proficiency with which they do it can foil even the best technologies. This was just a day-to-day example. In areas of research, space, nuclear science, chemistry etc, women have shown they can lead the world. The Nobel Prize for medicine which was awarded to a Chinese lady for discovering inventing a medicine for malaria, accorded her invention to observation of patients and sympathy for them. So, my argument is that more often than not, women have a natural trait of sympathy and a considerate approach towards people. Invariably, their researches are more human centric & societal. Therefore, in field of science and technology as well ~~women~~ talent and expertise of women can be used to invent things which matter the most to society.

In field of culture and entertainment, women have shown great talent and in many cases surpassed their male counterparts.

Artists like MS Subbalaxmi, Lata Mangeshkar, Ashoka Shergil, Sonal Mansingh have gained appreciation throughout the world. This has brought a new repute to our country and raised our prestige.

In the field of entertainment as well, female centric movies like Jaggammni, Fiza, Chandni Bar etc have received wide appreciation.

However, there is a need for greater encouragement of female in this field. There would be numerous dancers, singers whose talent would have been wasted due to lack of encouragement.

Even in fields like popular entertainment, focus should be on portraying talent of actors than exploiting their face value.

Thus, equality of women in culture and entertainment would bring

greater innovation in the field and also raise the prestige of nation. Who knows the next Oscar for India could be to a female centric movie? After all, it was Mother India movie which could make it to the final list of Oscars.

This is also very much true in case of sports where equality has brought in enough glory along with medal for India.

Similarly, there are endless, arenas where the equality of women is put at stake. The recent debate on participation of women in military is a case in point. Here as well rather than treating them as a liability, an equal participation could bring in better strategic planning & better execution. The role of women has to move from offices and conferences to field as the case demands. Thus, gender equality adds more better vision, planning and execution in military actions. This is also very much.

In the international forum as well, the issue of gender inequality has taken a center stage. The Beijing ^{Declaration} conference took up the issue of women equality, development & peace for all women.

Even if we shift our eyes from national perspective to international area, we see that there are numerous examples, where women equality has provided contributed enough to the world. The leading financial institution IMF is working towards a stable financial order under the leadership of Christian Lagard.

the commendable task of providing shelter to refugees in Germany was decided by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Brazil, entered a phase a renewed development under Dilma Rousseff.

thus, the central idea of gender equality a means to a larger end holds true.

Now, with the understanding of gender equality as a tool of a greater good we come to question of how to do it?

This has to begin right from the birth of the child itself and should continue through the socialization of the child. acts of female foeticide & infanticide should be prohibited by force of law & better awareness. The agenda of gender equality will begin only with

equality in male to female ratio. Government sponsored schemes to be put to best use for education of girl child.

For economic equality, entrepreneurship skills of women ^{can be promoted through} self help groups (SHG).

For political equality, the much awaited women's reservation bill can be issued out and enacted fast.

However, we must realize that rules & regulations have their own limitations.

A greater change has to be brought about in the society. A wide acceptance of female counterparts in various roles is required. It is mandatory to shed the garb of patriarchal mindset ^{which} curtails woman. Furthermore, during the course of ensuring equality, it is to be ensured that this agenda doesn't remain only to the elite section of the society. A state with a woman chief-minister doesn't ensure equality among woman in the state. But a family with equal status ^{to} mother will ensure equality ^{to} of all members. So, equality should creep down to lowest possible level. Equality as stated before should be in all walks of life - economic, social, political, ~~and~~ cultural, military etc. Further, realizing its multiplier effect ~~on~~ equality should be seen as a means to achieve a much larger aim to eradicating the evils in society and securing a peaceful world order. For me, ~~as~~ gender equality will come when a girl child in the remotest of village will get to decide herself her education, her profession, her marriage and her way of life.

Essay 2

Democracy cannot succeed unless those
express their choices are prepared
to choose wisely:

In common man parlance, Democracy is the rule of people. As best represented by Abraham Lincoln, democracy is "rule by the people, of the people and for the people". Thus, the entire concept of democracy revolves around 'the people'. The essence lies in the fact that citizens elect their leaders who in turn work towards the betterment of the citizens for the next few years (5 years for India). Now, this ^{is} one time exercise by the participants, can have profound impacts on the people of the nation. History is replete with examples, where an unwise choice in elections has turned the ~~world~~ entire political system of the country. For instance, Hitler was democratically elected, but it ~~came~~ took him few years to become a Führer, the effect of which was the Second world war. In this case, leave aside success, the entire existence of democracy was put at stake because of unwise choice of electors.

Destructive

Let us now examine, what constitutes success of democracy?

The very first parameter is the exercise of rights by the people. Every successful democracy provides to its citizens, certain amenable rights which citizens can enjoy to limit the power of state. In India, ~~such~~ we are fortunate have them embedded in the constitution itself.

Next, the democracy is based on acceptance of diversity and dissention. Unlike, an authoritarian regime where will of a single person or institution prevails, a democracy functions on basis of consensus. It is the duty of the democratically elected government to consider the welfare of not just who voted for them but also who opposed them. For instance, in the 16th Lok Sabha election, the government came to power with 33% votes. But, its policies and programmes should reflect the requirements of remaining 67% as well.

Further, democracy is based on the fact that ~~we~~ those who govern are servants of the governed. This is because the government derives its legitimacy from popular support and secondly, the resources obtained for governance are obtained from

tax payers money. As such a successful democratically government will always ensure to uphold the best of people and maintain strict financial propriety.

For finally, the overall working of the democracy is not based on whims and fancies of a person but relies on people who have been chosen by virtue of his merit.

A democracy thus ensures ^{only} right people at right place. For instance, it was the anti-incumbency feeling which made the people realize the Congress was not fit to rule & in the 16 L's elections and voted for a new party.

The basic agenda to demonstrate a successful ~~demo~~ model of democracy was to support the argument that it is dependent on people-electors.

In each of the case, it is the people who elect the government and in turn are affected by it. Therefore, ~~the case~~ democracy provides to its people not just rights & privileges

but also an onerous task of electing a wise government.

Having seen the success model of functioning of democracy, it is now easier to analyze cases of its failure when people ~~also~~ tend to exercise their vote with indifference. For ~~Myanmar~~ our very own neighbour Maldives, is facing a severe threat to democracy. After its installation in 2008, it is now under severe threat because people voted a power which ~~was~~ was likely to authoritarianism. The result of which is forceful imposition of emergency, curtailment of rights of citizen, imprisonment of people etc. Even, in our country, ~~which~~ which has stood the test of time & has been accepted as the largest democracy, there are cases of certain grey areas. The cases of financial impropriety, nepotism, corruption, communalism etc against elected leaders are due the fact that citizens failed to gauge the background of candidates and voted on certain prejudices. It is however, ^{because of} ~~the~~ ^{have} high level of maturity that we reached our democracy still stands strong despite such sporadic incidences.

Keeping in view of ~~hundreds~~ instances of failures of democracy and the widescale suppressions it can have on people, it is important that people make a prudent choice.

But before making a prudent choice, it is important that each one makes his choice ^{in the first place}. The average voting percent in India is 66%. (as recorded in 16 Lok Sabha elections). ~~This~~ This means that 44% (approx.) don't even cast their votes.

The first-past-the-post system, this can be a huge margin to decide the party in government. Further, with recent trends ^{have} showing that a mere 38% of votes in favour can bring a party in government. Thus, the parties can safely ignore the 44% (who don't vote) without caring for their demands and requirements.

The next step is to make well informed choices. We should be thankful that ~~our~~ progressive judgement of Supreme Court has made sure that the electoral candidates declare their educational qualifications, criminal antecedents, property qualifications etc.

But it is a great irony that we do enquire about such details before

employing subordinates ^{& workers}, but not before electing leaders. People at large continue to vote on basis of caste, community, religion, kinship ties etc. This leads to election of leaders who are corrupt, dishonest and have little value for democratic values of tolerance, empathy & public welfare.

Further, in a country where direct democratic mechanisms like referendum, recall, initiative are not available, indirect tools become very important. RTI (Right to Information) is one such strong tool. It keeps the public informed about government processes and the people can reward or punish the incumbent govt. in next elections. Numerous acts of corruption viz 2G scam similarly, the leakage of medical or coal scam were revealed due to RTI. This cost the then govt. of day heavily and it suffered a defeat in the following elections.

Similarly, the exercise of media, pressure groups and civil societies to express displeasure or dissent is also an indirect tool - for successful democracy. India Against Corruption gained a Pan-India response because

the people showed their dissent against corruption and the media highlighted it. Consequently, there was a change in government in 1999. NCP and a newly formed party made a sweeping victory - a hallmark of true democracy.

Therefore, a democratic setup offers both direct and indirect opportunities to exercise choice of people. Every citizen of India must realize that it took over 200 years of relentless efforts to shed the yoke of colonialism and despotism to achieve democracy to the level of target democracy. Further, when we see the crisis like 'Arab Spring' and the widespread destruction caused due to transition from authoritarianism to democracy, our respect for democracy in our country should be further enhanced. It should therefore be treated as an asset which can be preserved by making informed and prudent choices. It is ultimately the people who can make or break a democracy with their own choices.

If we respect our rights in a democracy we should also respect our obligation and duties towards it.

Finally, I ~~have~~ conclude with a hypothetical situation and a question.

Imagine ourselves as a part of small group. One of the members, as everyone knows, is corrupt, unethical and despotic. For sure, we will never choose him the ~~best~~ leader of the group. Then why do it for the nation?

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