

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Is our higher education system future ready?

Rahul is doing his graduation in mechanical engineering from a reputed college. His syllabus consists of things & technologies of the old past like basic motor, conductor, etc. !!! ~~to~~ ^{his} ~~it~~ finds sole focus during his college days & was to mug up the notes & pass the exams. Consequently, after graduation, he couldn't find any job because he lacked the necessarily ~~future~~ skills to manage modern machines...

The problem is that there are millions of Rahuls in

India ~~has~~ who are unemployed because they are not "employable". This is because our higher education system is, ~~not~~ as of now, "is not at future ready".

In this essay, we will discuss what the future is going to be like i.e. what does it demands from our higher education system. Then we will analyse how, at present, our system is incapable of delivering to the demands of the future! Finally, we will look at certain solutions to make ourselves future ready. Let us begin...

What the future demands?

We are on the verge of Industrial Revolution 4.0. It will be an era guided by newer technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, & data analytics. Old skills will get redundant and the "degrees" of today will become a thing of the bygone era.

Similarly, rising complexities in industrial operations will demand specific functional skills. ~~At That~~ For eg: There will not be "marketing managers" in future. But ~~it~~ ^{there} will be "digital marketers", content creators, tele marketers, etc. Vocational education, thus, will become extremely important.

In the field of healthcare, digital technologies like telemedicine, robotic surgery & AI based diagnostics are the future. Thus, ~~the~~ medical education of today needs to apprise students of it.

Tomorrow's agriculture will be guided by genetic engineering, AI based precision techniques, water smart technologies. Agricultural graduates need to be conversant with these future techniques.

Further, success ~~to~~ in future will be guided by one's capacity to innovate & be creative. It therefore demands us to inculcate an innovative bent of mind among our students.

They must be able to think out of the box & take risks if they have to succeed in future.

Furthermore, future also poses ~~the~~ ~~quiverous~~ challenges to us. Climate change, rising social tensions, falling ethical compass & lust for ~~the~~ power & money. ~~Our~~ It is the ~~onus~~ onus of our universities to turn the students of today into ~~good~~ better citizens of the future. ~~They~~ Citizens who are ethical & sensitive to the environment.

But ~~are~~ ~~at~~ are our colleges & universities ready for these future challenges? The answer is NO. Let us discuss.

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We are not future ready as yet

~~There is a~~
our colleges continue to teach outdated syllabus & are not apprised with the current or future realities. Acc to a recent survey, only 1.13% engineers in India ~~are~~ have ability to handle future skills. ~~When a~~

Further, there is a complete lack of R & D ~~at~~ in our higher education. The funding is meagre and the infrastructure is in shambles. We file one of the lowest # patents in the world. When the ~~teaching~~ education focuses only on rote learning & securing more marks, how can we

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expect any future oriented innovation coming out of this system?

The quality of teaching especially in state government universities is also a cause of worry. There is focus on theory but not on practical aspects of concepts.

Similarly, the level of internships & apprenticeships & vocational courses offered taken up by students to get hands on experience on jobs is woefully low.

Further, our universities do not focus on holistic development of a person. There is virtually no ethical training & no development of environmental sensitivity. This

dangerous. As Theodore Roosevelt has said - "To educate a person in mind & not in morals is to educate a menace to the society."

~~So, what can we do~~
~~about~~ Therefore, if we want our higher education system to be able to deliver workforce of the future, certain important steps need to be taken. Let us discuss,

Miles to go before we sleep...

Firstly, there is an ~~strong~~ urgent need to grant full autonomy to our universities. This will enable them to ~~update~~ update the syllabus regularly & offer multi dimensional courses. Eg: Krea university has started offering choice of subjects to students to

make "tailormade degrees" like BTech in food science with marketing Institute of Eminence (IOE) scheme, ~~is~~ ^{which} ~~appreciable~~ ^{is} grants freedom, thus, must be expanded.

Secondly, higher funding in R&D especially by government must be made. More industry - academia linkages and incubation centres must be set up to boost creative drive among students. This will help them develop technologies to face future challenges.

Thirdly, Centres of Excellence in future technologies like blockchain & AI must be set up. This will give practical training to students & give them a glimpse of what future

holds for them.

Fourthly, teacher training should be undertaken so that our teachers are also future ready. They must "teach students how to think & not what to think".

Fifthly, our ~~colleges~~ colleges must focus on holistic development of our students. To be able to face future, we must learn from the past. Similarly, we can learn from the holistic way of teaching that was followed at ancient India's Gurukulas.

Thus, students today must be made morally sensitive & made aware of their responsibilities as ~~good citizens~~ to vote as a

citizen, to conserve water, to respect women & to be inclusive.

Amartya Sen in his capability approach has said that true development comes by improving people's capacities. If India has to sustain its developmental path in future, we will have to usher in an "Educational revolution."

We have to bridge the gap between ~~our~~ ^{the} existing capacities of our colleges & the demands of the future. Only then, ~~for~~ our youngsters like Rahul will be able to succeed

in future because :-

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose"

nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

In the heat of the French revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte rose to prominence. He faced several adversities in the form of wars with Austria, Prussia & other European powers. But ~~it~~^{he} was ~~his strength~~ able to withstand them & emerge victorious. However, once he rose to power, his real character was revealed. A leader who earlier claimed to be the champion of liberty, equality & fraternity now became an oppressor, a crusher of freedoms & a mass killer!!!

Thus, Abraham Lincoln has rightly ~~to~~ said that people are able to withstand adversity. But the real test of their character comes when they command power.

Power refers to the ability to influence the behaviour of others. It flows from authority to command, reward & punish.

The reason ~~on~~ a person wants power in the first place ~~&~~ ^{and} then, the way ~~on~~ ~~&~~ he/she uses it ~~reveals~~ reveals a lot about one's character. This can be seen in various different fields.

If we look at politics, nearly all candidates have to face ~~with~~ challenges in the form

of elections. But the real test lies when they are elected to power. If they ^{may} use the power to bring in governance reforms, boost citizen's rights, reduce inequality & promote welfare. Or, they may use it for their own selfish gains, nepotism & scams. This only will show whether they are selfless, dedicated & honest or corrupt & vile. The use of power differentiates whether a leader is Gandhi or he is Hitler.

Similarly, all ~~candidates~~ successful candidates ~~to~~ of civil services have to face the same adversary in the form of CSE exam. But what differentiates their

character is how they use power & while on the past. ~~They~~ Some become ~~to the~~ ideals ~~in~~ of probity & dedicated like TN Seshan (former Election Commissioner) who cleaned up the electoral ~~malpractice~~ malpractices during his time. On the other hand, some become the blots & scots of the ~~to~~ bureaucratic system.

In the world of business, nearly all business leaders ~~start~~ faced serious failures & setbacks while starting their business. Most of them came through successful. But how they ~~use~~ utilise the vast economic power in their hands ~~is a~~ defines their character. They may work towards giving back more to society

like Bill Gates who works to strengthen health system in poor countries. Or they may indulge in crony capitalism, loot their own country, exploit their workers & escaped like fugitives. Eg: Vijay Malhe & Mehul Choksi. Again, its all about how they use their power.

Going further, many of social & religious leaders have to face ~~resistance~~ problems in their lives. Several of our Sadhus & Yogis face especially Jain monks face hunger, extreme weather & extreme penance. This does strengthen their character. But they also command huge social

power to influence millions of their followers. Here comes the real test. They may use it to further social reforms like done by Raja Rammohan Roy. They may use it to counter communalism & promote ethical living like done by Swami Vivekananda. Or, they may make ~~it~~ a religion a ~~source~~ source of money & women exploitation ~~like~~ with likes of Asaram Bapu or Ram Rahim.

If we probe further, there is another aspect of power known as "gender ~~power~~ power". Males, when face adversity, start worshipping female Goddesses like Kali, Durga, etc. But, when the same male enjoys patriarchal

power, how he treats women reflects a lot on his character. If he believes in equality, then he will treat women with dignity. But, a person of poor character will objectively & exploit women as shown by #MeToo movement.

Finally, if we look at it globally, nearly all countries have faced adversities at some point or the other in their history. But ^{their conduct,} once they become ~~a~~ global powers, ~~is~~ an important test of their stated values & character. So called champions of democracy turn into hegemonic powers once they become strong. Anti-imperialistic countries

like china become ~~expans~~ expansionist
once they ~~have~~ command enough
global clout.

Thus, power reveals
the true inner self in people.
Only those with tremendous strength
of character, self control & high
sense of conscientiousness can handle
power responsibly. Others are often
corrupted & blinded ~~to~~ by ~~the~~
~~more~~ intoxicating power. Thus,
how people handle power is
a great test of their character.

But is it always so?
Doesn't the way people face
adversities also reveal a lot
about them? Let ~~the~~ us discuss.

Don't write
thing this
margin
(न लिखें
यहाँ)

To face challenges is also an art. ~~of~~ ~~our~~ our character will determine whether we are cumped against problems & quit. Or, we face them ~~but~~ courageously & rise up again. The way Gandhiji faced racial discrimination in South Africa & how he challenged it with Satyagraha showed ~~how~~ his remarkable character.

Ultimately, it all comes down to one's character. A strong character will be able to face both adversities & power in a positive way. ~~to~~ while a weak character will neither be able to face adversities, ~~nor~~

~~handle~~ or even if he is able to, then
he will not be able to handle
power properly.

Therefore, there is a
strong need to inculcate value
based education among our students.
They must be taught values of
Ahimsa, Anekant vad, Nishkam
Karma & Vasudev Kutumbakam. They
must be taught that with power
comes responsibility. They must be
taught the importance of transparency,
rule of law & accountability while
using power. This way, we can
ensure that those who handle
power tomorrow, are of strong
character...