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SOCIOLOGY ESSAY

Name of Candidate	ARVIND SINGH	Test Code	359
Schedule		Registration No.	2856
Place	ORN	Time	12:10 AM
		Module	

Classroom ✓ Distance Learning ☐ Classroom & Distance Learning ☐

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

INDEX TABLE

Q.No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code) The Candidate should fill the index table, especially for him/her.
2. In the left margin, she/he should write only question number and in the right margin, nothing should be written.
3. The page number should be coded by the candidate himself and the range of page number related to the answer of the question should be used to complete the index table.
4. All Parts of the questions should be written at one place.
5. No Supplementary sheet shall be provided by the management. So the candidate is advised to accommodate required information within the space provided.
6. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
7. The candidate should respect the instructions, given be the invigilator.
8. The Examinee has to submit the answer sheet to the invigilator after completion of examination.
9. However, he/she is allowed the take away the question paper.

28/10/013

Essay - 359.

Question No. (प्रश्न संख्या)

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Governance is not about institutions but about people being empowered to engage with them.

The angry young man image of 'Amitabh Bachan' in the cinemas of 1970s was symptomatic of the general disillusionment that plagued the masses in general and youth in particular in India. It was a symbolic resentment of the people against the failure of the state to convert the top-down political democracy into the bottom-up social-economic democracy. It was the latter which would have really empowered the hitherto marginalized majority of India.

At the midnight of 14th-15th August 1947, India had a 'Tryst with Democracy' The political elites of the national movement showered the impoverished

masses with a 'Gift'. That gift was a 'structural' democracy, freedom in 'political sense' and a gift of its 'own government'.

Even after 65 years of independence, it is disheartening to note that we are still struggling to make India a 'functional' democracy, to gain freedom in socio-economic sense and establishing 'good-governance' instead of a mere elected government.

What is true about the organic development of a plant is equally true about a democracy or governance. A plant gets its vital nutrients and life saving water from the ground, through its roots.

Similarly, a sustainable and functional democracy gets its sustenance

from the ground level empowered citizens, through the roots of institutions and structures of governance. It is never the other way round. However, it was this universal truth which the newly formed 3rd world countries missed, in their mad rush to 'import' the top-down Westminster style democracy in their countries.

The great German philosopher Immanuel Kant in his ~~not~~ Deontological treaty has considered Human Being as an end in itself. Human beings are not merely a means to achieve an objective. For Gandhi ji the 'customer was the King'. While Nelson Mandela advocated that the education of the masses is the most potent weapon to achieve social change. These ideas have one central theme. It is the firm

belief in the virtue of putting people at the centre of all policy making and policy implementation. It believes that people are the best judge of their own destiny.

It is unfortunate that while the magnus opus of Kautilya on statecraft i.e. 'the Arthashastra' had enjoined a duty upon the king to deliver 'Good-Governance' to the masses, the 20th c, Westminster style democracies in the 3rd world countries have often confused Government with Governance. The case of many communist nations is not much different. They simply did not provide enough space for civil society articulation. The 1989 Tienenmen Square massacre in China is a case in the point.

The French Revolution of 19th c, had ~~although~~ given a new architecture in the political domain. People in general were promised to re-write their own destiny. France became republic. It had a great influence on the politico-administrative design of most of the European countries as well as that of America.

Based on that structures and institutions were designed in the 20th c in Europe for fructifying the new spirit of political emancipation. Such structures were by and large based on the weberian principle of structural bureaucracy, which was static and rules bound. Since the concept of democracy itself was an organic evolution in Europe and US, so even the static structures and institutions of democracy were

maintaining strong linkages with the desires and aspirations of the people. Also, apart from the active citizenry which ~~was~~ ~~enlig~~ got political socialization through the enlightenment philosophers like Rousseau, Montesqueau and Voltaire, including the effect of ~~Reno~~ Renaissance, market had played a significant developmental role. Thus even a rigid political structure did not fail as there were present other 'organs' to take care of the developmental roles.

However, in case of 3rd world countries including India, the context was vastly different. Here the 'westminster' modelled democracy was imported and fed from the top into the throat of unprepared masses. The

masses were supposed to 'consume' it without realizing what it was. No doubt the static structure quickly gave-in to the demands of dynamic reality. Instead of the intended empowerment of the masses, a class of political elites developed. After 73rd and 74th amendment act, although grassroot democracy has certainly taken deeper roots, but simultaneously, we are seeing the appearance of 'Sarpanch Patis' and 'SUV Sarpanchs' who are the new generation of political elites. It is ironic that Gandhi ji could foresee this anamoly in his own life time. No doubt he was a firm believer of the Grass-root democracy, based on village empowerment. He advocated the ancient Indian model of village democracy, where each

village was a 'little republic'. Unfortunately, the top-down structural democracy has kept the people at the periphery and treated it as mere passive recipients.

After the massive failure of the nascent institutional democracy in most of the African and South Asian countries, several research were conducted to diagnose the real disease. Based on this research, the World Bank in 1990s came up with the concept of 'Good Governance'. The causal factors of their abject failure were non-participative, non-inclusive, rigid & static politico-administrative architecture. A passive recipient was bound to be marginalized and voiceless. Such citizenry could never ensure and effective checks and

balance over the functioning of the state. It was realized that the greatest investment that these countries were needing was the investment in human capital and social capital, more than ~~that~~ the investment required in financial capital or infrastructure.

In fact what is true for public policy, holds equally good even for the MNCs and ~~to~~ Market. Bill Gates once said that he can create 10 more Microsoft without much difficulty, provided he was given only some of the top talents of the parent company. It underlines the importance of human capital over the financial capital. The Apple (i-pad / i-phone) founder Steve Jobs was a firm believer that the most important asset of an organization was their human capital.

That is why in the contemporary Human Resource Management their is strong emphasis on Feedback mechanism, 360° and 365 days learning, participative decision making etc. Thus the focus is on enriching and empowering people.

This shift is analogus to the policy of community Development Program (CDP) of 1950s in India. It was an abject failure due to top-down, bureaucratic led and bureaucratic centric approach. This was critiqued by the subsequent Balwan Rai Mehta committe, which recommended a participatory and people centric approach. However, it was not until 1993, when a constitutionally mandated Local ~~self~~ self Government was created to empower people to discuss, design and implement policies based on their

unique context.

Moreover, even after the completion of 20 yrs of Panchayati Raj System, we can see vast cleavage in the empowerment pattern of the people in India. E.g. the 'Parsi' community of Mumbai has in 2012 raised the criteria of defining a ~~person~~ Parsi person poor if his monthly income is below Rs 90,000/-. Whereas for a tribal man in the remote forests of central india, governance and democracy visits once in every 5 year at the time of election. So governance means different thing to different people.

It was precisely for empowering the hitherto disadvantaged sections of our society, that ~~were~~ the affirmative action (reservation policy)

was provided in the constitution. The social infirmities that were heaped upon a large section of our society based on caste hierarchy, patriarchy etc had systematically socially excluded a large chunk of our population from the mainstream life. Thus mere enfranchisement was not adequate to a perpetually disempowered person. No doubt this provision ~~also~~ has helped, but in a varying degree. In south India, due to the influence of Backward Class movement, the empowerment and awareness had been much more as compared to North India.

Similarly, while both a woman and an SC has reached the highest position of the President of India, but till date neither a woman nor a SC has reached the position of the Cabinet Secretary of India.

As rightly pointed out by Amartya Sen, economic growth without affecting the masses at the bottom of pyramid are meaningless. E.g. the per capita income of our next door neighbour Bangladesh is merely half of India. But it fairs well on all the HDI parameters (like IMR, MMR etc.). Interestingly, in the initial years of 1990s i.e pre-liberalization, their was not much difference in the per-capita income of the two countries while India went for creating new institutions like market, stock exchange, regulatory bodies, etc Bangladesh inspite of meagere resources focused on grass root empowerment through a successful network of SHGs. It was mostly women SHGs in the rural areas with active support from the world renowned Gramin

Bank' of Md. Yunus. Thus what a grass-root empowered citizenry could achieve, that the institutions of economy could not achieve in India.

Even in our own country, the successful HDI indicators of Kerala inspite of only moderate economic growth, in comparison to economic engines like Haryana and Punjab is an eye-opener reality.

It is thus extremely important to realize that Governance must move down the ladder from the State capital down to the Gram Sabha. Otherwise a paradox like 1960s could again explode. In 1960s, while the North-west India under the impact of Green Revolution was empowered down to the village level, at the

same time a dicotomy made an appearance in the central-East India in the form of Naxalism. It was a symptom of a larger disease, called as perpetual marginalization of the adivasis.

The world is full of such examples, where prolonged disengaged of the state with its own population has created a social volcano, which when bursts is hard to contain. E.g. the issue of ~~Eelam~~ Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka is a manifestation of continously marginalizing the ethnic Tamil populace. E.g. in Pakistan, the emergence of Baluch Nationalism is a consequence of their systematic disempowerment by their Punjabi and Sindhi co-citizens. The very basis of bifurcation of Bangladesh from Pakistan was due to the disengagement of west

Pakistan from its own citizens in the Eastern part. Similarly in China, the xinjiang and Tibet provinces are systematically subdued leading to the rupture of the very idea of 'One China' policy.

Real Governance is an 'umbrella concept'. It is analogus to a mother's heart, wherein it accomodates and appreciates all her children, be it

- white or black
- boy or girl
- brahmin or dalit
- tribal or city dweller

and irrespective of religion etc.

If people are marginalized for a prolonged period of time, then disruptive forces will one day or the other dismantle the established institutions and architecture what

happened in 1789 during French Revolution was "not an one-off event". 190 years later it happened in Iran in the form of the Cultural Revolution of 1979, where the state institutions created by Shah of Iran failed to satisfy the urge of the people for development.

The assertive civil society in the contemporary times is nothing but a reminder that people want their due space in the governance architecture. They want to shape, modify, reshape their destiny. The 'Occupy Wall Street Movement', 'the ~~Arbat~~ Arab Spring', the 'Nirbhaya ~~Movement~~ Protest' in New Delhi is simply a harbinger of a much larger assertive citizenry waiting to make appearance in the future.

(PTO)

PTO - (Essay not concluded)

PTO — Essay not concluded

Question No. (प्रश्न संख्या)

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PTO (Essay not ended)

- Yogendra Yadav
  - Democracy has to be claimed & repeatedly reclaimed. It is not a given.
- US, Britain, Pak, B'desh, India are all democracies. But what they offer to people in terms of their day to day exp is what it really matters.
- Amitabh Bachan's angry young man image of 1970s was symptomatic of the failure of the structural democracy.

(I)

- At the midnight of 14-15th Aug 1947, India had a tryst with its destiny. ~~became independent~~. The political elites of the national mov^n showered the impoverished masses with a gift. That gift was a 'structural' democracy, 'political' freedom and its 'own' government.

tryst with destiny (II)

Even after 60 years, it is disheartening to note that we are struggling to make it into a 'Functional' Democracy, 'social and eco' freedom and a 'good governance' instead of mere govt.

- The 19th c — gave the idea of political empowerment. The French Rev had re-written the role of common man in deciding the political destiny of his nation.

(6)

Based on that in 20th c, structures and institutions were created in Europe for realising the spirit of political freedom. However, the static structures quickly gave-in to the demands of the dynamic reality.

Based on that few recommendations (India-centric) may help in putting the things in right perspective:

(i) Transform the structural democracy into functional democracy.

(ii) Realize that investment in human capital is the best form of capital.

(iii) Treat all segments of citizenry with respect and empower them. Focus especially on women, old age citizens, persons with disability, people engaged in manual scavenging etc.

(iv) Decentralize power to the lowest possible level.

(v) Make efforts for ensuring secondary education as the fundamental right.

(vi) Confer 'Schedule 6' status on the tribal areas of central India for more autonomy.

Eventually, it is high time to accept that just like what Galileo had realized that it was ~~Earth~~ Sun which was at the center of the solar system, ~~similarly~~ and not the ~~Sun~~ Earth, similarly the political class must also accept that it is the people who are at the center of the governance and not the other way round.

Thus empowered citizenry is the causal factor for the governance as well as to the government and not the other way round. Keeping people at periphery will only invite the events like the ouster of Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Galileo ~~and Copernicus~~ was ostracized for speaking the truth, just like what Aung San Kyi and

Nelson Mandela suffered. But finally institutional and structural governance had to accept the merit of keeping the people at the center. Let this synergy be exploited for mutual gain of all, because real democracy is not what it is given from the top. Democracy has to be claimed and repeatedly reclaimed by the citizens for its true survival and growth.

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Since the democratic structure was 'organic' and naturally evolved in West, so it still had strong linkages with the demands and desires of the common man.

But in case of 3rd world countries, including India, who got ind. after WW-II, the reality was vastly diff. Here the 'Westminster' modelled structural democracy was 'imported' and fed ~~to the~~ from the top into the throat of unprepared masses.

Unfortunately, a political elite class developed and people became a passive recipients, lying in the periphery.

(3) It is unfortunate that while 'Arthashastra' had enjoined upon the king to deliver 'Good-Governance' to the masses, the 21st Westminster style democracies ~~often~~ confused government with governance.

(4) Immanuel Kant in his Deontological philosophy has treated Human Being as an end in itself. Gandhi ji advocated that customer is the king. While Nelson Mandela after becoming President in 1995, propagated the idea that Education to the masses is the greatest driver of social change. These ideas have one commonality, ~~and~~ that it puts people

at the center of their policy making & policy implementation

- In the 1970s, when it was clear that Government's have failed in most of the African countries and there was huge political turmoil in South Asian countries, then massive research was conducted to diagnose the disease.

(7)

The World Bank in 1990s came up with the concept of Good Govn. They put Bad Govn as the solely responsible for all the ills that plague the underdev countries.

The greatest shortcoming was the lack of human capital and social capital. A passive recipient was bound to be marginalized.

- Even in the same country the daily experience of governance means diff thing to diff people. E.g. the Parsi community in Mumbai in 2012 has "raised" the limit of poverty line indicator in their community to Rs 90,000/month. whereas for a tribal man in central India government and democracy may make the "divine appearance" once in every 5 year during elections.

(8)

- It was precisely due to the logic of empowering people to rewrite their own future, that the constitution provided the Affirmative Action (i.e. Reservation Policy). The social infirmities which have been forced upon a section of society due to rigid caste hierarchy and patriarchy had systematically socially excluded them from the mainstream of life.

(10)

- Resident < Female, SC C.S. < no, no.

Eg. Bangladesh per capita income 1/2 of India
" " = India in 1991

Kerala – moderate eco growth

- Governance has to move down from the state capital to the masses at the Gram Panchayat. otherwise just like 1960, a dichotomy will occur. In Northwest India, while Green Rev was empowering people, in the central East India, Naxalism has taken its roots.

- The Tamil elam problem in SL is a fit case of disempowerment of an ethnic group. In Pak, the Baluch-nationalism is a product of systematically excluding people from charting out their own policy for dev. In China, the Xinjiang and Tibet areas are systematically marginalized.

- Real Governance is an 'umbrella concept'. It is analogous to a 'mother heart' wherein it accomodates and appreciates all the children be it
  - white or black.
  - man or women
  - higher caste or lower caste
  - irrespective of religion
  - tribal or city dweller.

~~taken~~ So empowered citizenry is the causal factor to the government as well as to the government and not the other way round. Keeping government in center and people at periphery will only invite the disruptive events like the 1979 cultural revolution of Iran, the 2011 Arab Spring, the ouster of President Mubarak of Egypt.

conclusion

- A natural question arises that why democracy has taken relatively more roots in Bangladesh as compared to Pakistan, while Pakistan is much more strategically place, has much more fertile land and resources and was in fact the mother nation of Bang prior to 1971. Because strong SHG movement carried out by women under the able guidance of 'Grameen Bank' ensured

(III)

- What is true of an organic development of a plant is true of the democracy & gov as well. A plant gets its nutrients and life giving water from the ground, through its roots. Similarly, a sustainable and functional democracy, gets its sustenance from its empowered masses. Grandiji too advocate an empowered and a grassroot democracy.

However it was unfortunate that model we adopted was a structural democracy. In most of 3rd world countries.

DPSP → panchayat empowered disable.

(12)

- The failure of CDP in 1950s and the subsequent observation of Balwant Rai Mehta com on people participation was an eye opener.

- The role of civil society:
  - it was the CS pressure — convicted politicians

- Bill Gates once said, if Microsoft were to be shut down today.
- The Apple i-pad creator Steve Jobs, believed that the most imp asset "in an Org" was the HR.

(9) Today even the capitalism has undergone a massive change from the times of Karl Marx. The 19th capitalism put machines and fixed capital and the centre and labour at periphery.

- Rabindra Nath Tagore — Internationalism to prevent wars, as govts are prone to wars. E.g. the people to people tie b/w India's Pak is normal, but the military estbl at Rawalpindi".

(13) Recommendation:

1) structural democracy - f" dem
2) schedule 6 in tribal areas of north
3) Human capital
   - disabled
   - old
   - gender
   - manual scavenger

(14)

Conclusion:

Just like Galileo realized that it was ~~Earth~~ sun at the center of solar system and not earth, it is high time to

Galileo & Copernicus were penalized, ostracized and executed for being the harbingers of the reality & rationality. Similarly in many societies like Rayanna, Phula etc the reality is obfuscated from the masses. Let the