



## 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

## Section A

Is India's higher Education System future  
Ready ?

"Education is the most powerful weapon  
with which you can change the  
world"  
- Nelson Mandela.

In his famous 'Tryst with Destiny'  
speech Pt Jawaharlal Nehru said,

"The past is over, future beckons to  
us." In the 21st century, where

disruption is the new norm, aided

by technology, for the future

to beckon to us, we have to  
stop a second, look at our base

and rethink - Is our education systems

and in particular higher education  
system ~~is~~ future ready?

Are, we, the to be largest populous  
country with maximum of youth on

planet ready to face the world with our education system that has been stagnant in last atleast 3 decades?

In this essay, we would analyse our education system and its state of leadyness by analysing the past - present and future; our challenges and way through it.

## The Glorious Past

It ~~was~~ sounds contradictory but is a fact: that the country which had NALANDA and TAXILA University where foreigners like Huan Tsang studied for many years has no university of it in World's Top 200.

Indian education system - with all its diversity - from Pathology to Ayurveda to astrology to Spirituality was

equal to none other.

The mathematicians like Gautam Siddharth was given status of "Teacher of Nation" in china, the calendar of Tang Dynasty of china was based on Varahmihir's Panchsiddhantika.

Post Independence too, the system produced one of few elite brains of world - the CEO of Google, Microsoft are to few names. The IITs and IIMs have given best talent. They are giving

it even now. But what about future?

Before answering this we need to know what is so special about future?

What is in future?

future can be summed up in few ~~words~~ words - Technological disruption having spill over effect on virtually every sphere of ~~s~~ humankind - political, social, security, ideological.

The starting point of the disruption will be technology - the possible fusion of Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology may result in the new society being unequal - Not only in terms of wealth but also of mental strength.

The very thing which can help country stand on its own feet is the change with the changing world and elementary atomic changes are needed in education.

We have to transit our system from being past based to future, but there are obstacles.

## Obstacles in Transition to Future

Information Versus (Vs) Knowledge -

Our current higher education system is based on rote learning. The result is unemployability. This would have been great in the pre globalisation world where mechanisation was at low

level. But now a few millimetre of a chip can store few gigabytes of data, making learning useless. ~~while the~~

The future belongs to those who have knowledge. - As Prof Amartya Sen rightly puts it - "Knowledge is associated with power" - one of the power is to adapt to the changing world. Adaptation will be key to the future.

## Curiosity Vs Learning

Rabindra Nath Tagore believed that the true education kindles the fire of curiosity. Now the world needs a curious person than a learned person having hundreds of facts.

## Infrastructural Crunch

India has 800 universities and 40000 colleges; due to quality of infrastructure it does mean that the colleges are just degree mills.

What we ~~are~~ need today is a revolution in Quality Infrastructure - the labs of colleges have to be upgraded, the classrooms have to be ~~be~~ smart, college without wifi is same as library without books.

## Capital

With only 3% of GDP being spent on education, most of which goes to primary education means a minuscule goes to higher. It can't be expected that there will be a transformational change in education at this ~~min~~ cost. Nothing is free.

Learning begins with the teachers - the greatest casualty of higher education system is the unavailability of quality teachers. The "Adhocism" in appointment of teacher would become ulcer in the ~~bad~~ future.

## Equity -

The Gross enrollment ratio of India for age group of 18-23 years is mere 25%. This does not make the sense that only 1 of 4 student go to higher education. In comparison China's GER is 51%, South Korea's is 93% and Western Europe is more than 80%.

This facilitates growth of disparity. While there are 56 higher education institutions (of whichever quality) in Telangana, per million eligibles; the number is only 7 for Jharkhand. i.e. Regional equity is also a glaring issue. This may increase the demographic divide and may lead to democratic divide.

Even for those who enroll, the unemployability is issue. Mckinsey report says 43% of Indian graduates are unemployable.

While this gives a poor picture of education system, this also deters the enrolling students to join college.

The skill will be the key instrument to capitalise the human resource. At present only 5% of Indian labours are ~~easy~~ skilled (Economic Survey 2018-19). The data is 96% for S. Korea, 80% for Europe.

Curriculum →

In the age when computers will do complex coding; the ~~the~~ curriculum of engineering still uses C language is ridiculous.

The curriculum were designed in 1980s; since then an era of cold war has ended - world became multipolar - computers revolutionised the system - digital technology became as sharp as blade - new markets have come which needs new capital - but our education system has not changed.

Globe is standing on cusp of revolution and the one at fore front will rule the world of future. At present rate, we are surely  $\bullet$  not at fore front if not at last.

Knowing the challenges, we need to ~~to~~ reform our system of education so as to avoid a new  $\bullet$  type of colonisation - "educational colonisation".

## Stepping into Uncertain Future

Future by its definition is very uncertain - the only certain thing is 'change'.  
So, with change - we have to change.

~~The~~ We have to build an education system which let the child explore the world on ~~at~~ his own. At level of higher education, a ~~at~~ student does understand his good or bad. ~~He~~ She must not be chained in one discipline.

We need a multidisciplinary system where a ~~man~~ student having interest in computer science and history can study them simultaneously.

The ~~Real~~ future is all about fusion-fusion of sciences, of technologies, of ideologies, of humanity. So fusion of subjects is the starting point of ways to adapt to the fusion world of fusion.

On the same note, the quality of teachers needs to be strengthened.

For upgrading the education system, first the education of teachers should be strengthened.

Similarly, to reap the benefit of so called "Demographic dividend", the GER has to be increased. The ~~low~~ low GER is due to exclusion based higher education. The culture of

entrance exam is not based on the question of whom to select, but on whom not to select. This system needs a review.

The Indian Education system is over regulated by multiple bodies like UGC, AICTE etc., The system should be replaced by single regulatory body as suggested by Draft National Education Policy.

The funding of institutes will determine the level of technology in the country. The funding needs to be increased to at least 6%, we should learn from our neighbour - Bhutan which spends 7.5% of GDP on education.

The transformations should not be limited to the technical colleges & education as 93% of graduates are not in technical courses (NITI Ayog report). We must understand that the philosophies

of liberalism and current ideologies of marketism were made in the era of Industrial revolution. These may not be very ~~help~~ helpful in the AI age.

So

Government has taken steps like Institute of Eminence, which give more autonomy to colleges. Schemes like RUSA to transform education in state universities. INSPIRE to increase collaboration, GIAN to leverage Indian diaspora's wisdom.

These shall be steps in the right directions but we need to take more steps ~~to~~ in not only full, but also very substantial measures. Otherwise there may be fear of, as Yael Noah Harari writes in "21st lessons for 21st century", ~~that~~ human becoming irrelevant.

for our aim of prosperity to each Indian, 5th & economy, becoming global power, a knowledge based economy, we have to modernise the "weapon of education" with modern artillery.

Our lethargic status quo will lead to nowhere, even when we have potential.

we must be guided by the dictum -  
"Alasya Kuto Vidya, Avidasya Kuto Dhanam,  
Adhanam Kuto Mitram, ~~Amikam~~ Amikam Kuto Sukham!"

i.e. A lethargic man can't get education,  
an uneducated man can't get capital,  
a man without capital can't have friend  
and a man without friend can't be  
happy and peaceful.

So, we need to put our lethargy of status quo in the past and move towards the glorious future. If all things done correctly. The future will

as said by Nehru "...beckon to us" truly.

## Section B

\* Nearly all men can withstand adversity,  
but if you want to test a man's character  
give him power.

"Your Character becomes  
Your Destiny"  
- Mahatma Gandhi

Jonathan Glover in his book  
"The Moral history of 20th century"  
writes that we not only have  
to look at what happened but also  
need to take a hard look on some  
monster in us and ways to cage it.

Although generalised as 'we', he referred  
to the people in power. The technological  
advancement by man in last thousands  
of years had given a world of most  
ease. But people could not digest and  
had the most brutal century of

the human history - crores of people died.

It is a human tendency to become cruel if anyone gets power. It was studied by Milgram in his famous Milgram's experiment. In it, a person was asked to give shock to another person if he did mistake. Contrary to what people thought, nearly all increased the shock every time.

Thus, in general power corrupts, though there are exceptions.

Given the power, man becomes alpha male (the leader of a chimpanzee group) and tries to dominate the group. This relation between ~~man~~ man's general tendency and chimpanzee's reality has a lot to say.

evolution of man and chimpanzee has same roots. Though the mental capability of man got better, there is a lot of similarity in DNA of both.

However we can't excuse ourselves for the similarity, given that the history is replete with example of persons changing character. Most famous example of all of them is the story of Great Ashoka. After brutal Kalinga war, the policy of 'berighosh' (conquer through violence) got converted to 'Dhammaghosh' (conquer through Dharma or path of righteousness). This change was basically due to change in character of Ashoka. And this character converted Ashoka to "The Great Ashoka".

While in Adversity, the man is at receiving end of blow. ~~This is~~ the requirement to withstand adversity is only mental strength or physical strength. The ~~is~~ capability to be firm in character requires moral strength. And Mark Twain, in his inimitable witting

style has wrote \* that it is so common to have physical courage but rare to have moral courage.

Adversity gives a challenge to a body, power gives challenge to character. While we ~~are~~ intake the daily doses of vitamins and minerals we lack the doses of morality, ethicality and values. With education falling in trap of commodification, the source of moral, values and character have dried. Thus it is not just man's fault, the fault is of society.

Given the current scenario, the bar of character has been raised too high that scam of few cores is ignored. This generalises corruption and densensitises the people especially the children.

Apart of fattening failing education and generalisation of crime, the consum-

erist economy is also to be blamed.  
The advancement has increased the  
desire, but human, owing to his lethargic  
attitude does not increase his productivity  
thus resort to the other = unethical way  
is not very uncommon.

Power need not be political or  
~~social~~ economic power or power of  
military. Social power pollutes too. For  
example a boy who has withstood  
all the adversity of poverty and got  
education and a job; he demands dowry -  
a showcase of decline in character,  
driven by his rise in "social hierarchy"  
of the medieval era society.

The reason often given is that  
even if the boy did not want to take it  
he would be forced by a society to  
accept it, to be in line with 'norms'.  
He, even if takes dowry due to the said

season, again showcases his strength of character. A wrong is a wrong ~~even~~ even if everyone does it.

Think of the most cruel man to line on the planet till now. One common picture emerges in everyone's mind - image of Adolf Hitler. The man was so cruel that 'Hitler' has become a synonym of cruelty. He too survived adversity ~~with~~ with his father being dead, he came to ~~the~~ Munich, was denied admission into Arts college and served as common soldier in World War I. Thus he ~~is~~ withstood all of the adversity. - But come to 1939. He changes the Germany to a graveyard of Jews and marches to do the same in Poland.

Near to home, take example of China, the one who had suffered ~~the~~ most brutal ~~colonisation~~ colonialism by the Japan after fall of Manchuria in war. But as soon as red revolution swept the power, the Vighiners to this day are treated as

2nd class citizen.

There are many more examples like Stalin, Mussolini etc., These all were people who rose from adversity to cruelty due to power.

Every man is different and so is his character. ~~There~~ earth has been home to the men who maintained their integrity. Most famous example is none other than <sup>our</sup> Father of Nation - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. On the 14th August 1947, when a India was going to "Awake to freedom", its architect - the man with enormous power to take any office of his choice - either in India or the new nation, was not in the Lutyens Delhi. He was walking barefoot in the streets of Noakhali district to calm the situation of..

Akbar - the one of the longest  
ruling monarch of Medieval India was  
all powerful to do anything. But  
with standing his integrity he chose path  
of 'Din-e-ilahi' and instead of dividing  
the population on religious line, he built  
Ibadat Khana (place where religious leaders  
had discussion and debate)

Post independence, Lal Bahadur shastri stands  
out in the character. Before giving  
a call to his countrymen to leave  
one time's meal to increase supply to  
army during 1965 years, he first tried  
this at his own family. This was textbook  
example of a man with character.

With rising affluent society, the  
examples like above are becoming rare.  
When TN Sheshan (Ex CEC of India) was  
asked about how elections happened in  
India, he gave a witting but seemingly true  
answer; he replied - election in India means  
"liquor for father, cloth for mother and money  
to children" was all that is needed to

to win. This shows a gruesome but true picture - not just the affluent elite & powerful political class, the poors also, when get power (here power to vote) become character; else they are strong.

But what is need of character when our life has been smooth without it? -

• The need is, ~~and~~ -

• firstly to give a prosperous society where happiness is not only outer but also inner. A society where no more

~~For~~ #Me Too campaign is possible; a society where corruption is exception and not norm, which will ease the life.

• Secondly to give human ~~a~~ ~~a~~ a wholesome life. ~~Plato~~ Socrates called

a ~~a~~ man without character as no man at all.

while the characterless man may have bungalow in posh area, may roam

in Mercedes Benz, may live lavishly. But his soul is dead. There is no meaning of a body which has dead soul.

• Lastly for global growth, growth in environment of trust will be more than in envy. ~~That~~ And growth with character ~~the~~ will translate itself in not just data of economic growth, but for growth of society, growth of humanity.

So, what should we go to bring character? In the world where AI will further concentrate the power in few hands and may make man 'irrelevant', the character will be a deciding factor of human growth.

for a character based society; we have to shift our • focus from the economic world to human world. A dedicated education to character is more important than learning GDP

growth of nation .

An education which mixed intelligence and character is need of hour.

The high bar on corruption and ignorance of "soft corruption" should not be tolerated at any cost.

The child is the beginning of new generation ; so the change lies in three persons - Mother , father and Teacher.

These three have to be man of character so as to make future of character.

Because the character of child will become his destiny and destiny of child will become destiny of nation and world.

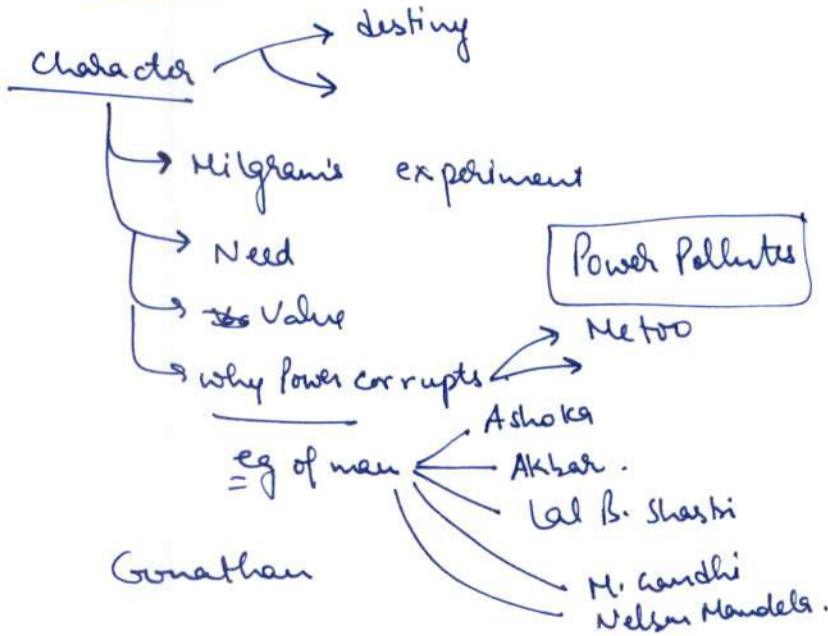






Nearby

↳ M. Gandhi

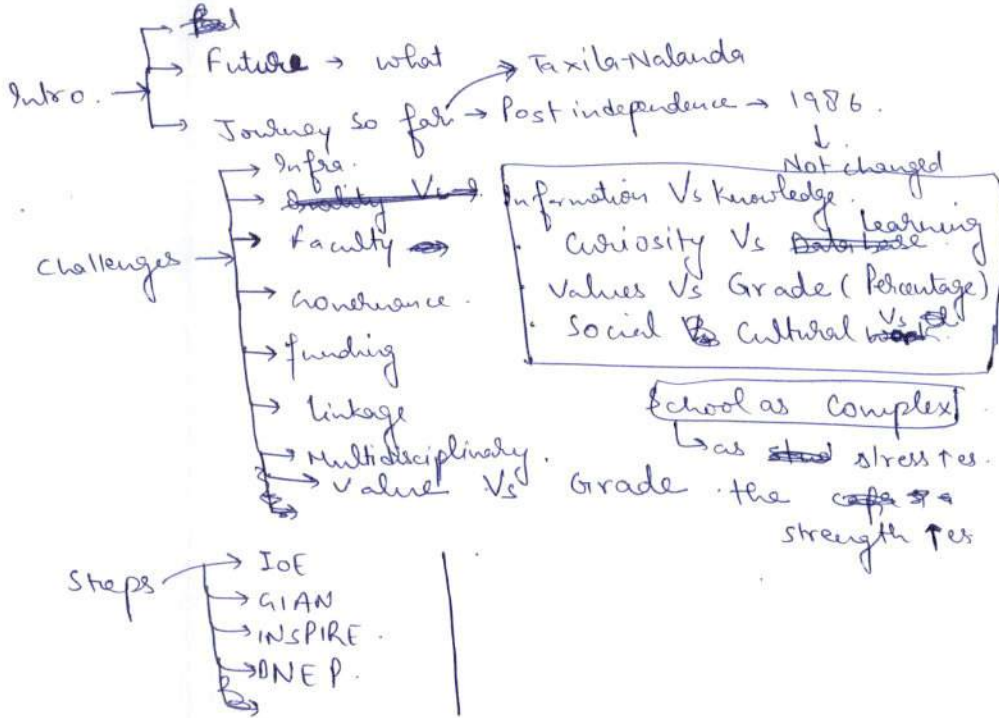


future → Power in few hands due to AI, Bigdata - Misuse



95 India's

Future Ready? →



Conclusion -

अनलस करी विद्यया, - - -

We can't be lethargic.