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खण्ड-A / Section-A

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- Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।
- Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।
- Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।
- Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

The opposite of poverty is not wealth

"Poverty is the worst form of violence."
The quote has gained traction across the globe.
Today tackling poverty is discussed from streets to social media. It has been included under the Goal 1 of Sustainable Development Goals of United Nation - to end poverty.

However, there are also debates surrounding the basic question - What is poverty? For many economists, common person & to some extent even state across the world poverty refers to lack of sufficient wealth.

The world government uses - ~~the~~ World Bank's objective definition of poverty. It refers to

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any individual who earns less than \$2.15 per day as poor or suffering from poverty.

This concept of poverty views that poverty is opposite to wealth. It argues for ways to enhance the wealth of individuals & community to address the poverty.

On the other hand, there are views that question poverty in different perspectives. As stated by Socrates - that "an unexamined life is not worth living." So we need to question the common sensical belief which equates poverty to not having wealth. This led to emergence of concept of RELATIVE POVERTY.

The proponent of this view argues that poverty differs from person to person, society to society, from context to context and so on. In this essay we will explore the many dimensions of poverty which establishes the fact that opposite of poverty is not wealth.

The famous philosopher, Plato has said that poverty is not economical rather ethical.

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Plato argued that opposite of poverty is not wealth rather lack of virtues. He argued that the one who lacks the virtue of wisdom, courage, temperance & Justice is the real poor.

Why did he say so? How can be the absence of courage, wisdom, temperance & justice is considered as poverty? To answer this question let's take the example of real life. There are many instances of rising violence against our mothers, sisters, childrens etc. Despite we becoming the world's 5th largest economy, if ~~our~~ we do not have courage to accept the issue of violence, if we lack wisdom to address this concern then it can be confidently said that we must belong to poor category.

This reflect that it is the lack of basic values which reflects poverty & not access to wealth. Apart from lack of values what are the other forms. Let us think about why Bhutan uses happiness as a measure of prosperity and not wealth?

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Can it be said that opposite of poverty is not wealth rather happiness?

From these questions it is debatable that person's happiness is measure of prosperity. As per many survey the countries like Japan; South Korea; USA etc which have high per capita income but low happiness score. They are considered as facing poverty of happiness.

If we see at individual level, take two examples of a rich family & economically poor family. The person heading the rich family who lives in a isolated Bungalow whose children reside in other bungalows faces alienation & anomie.

Whereas the person heading poor family enjoys his life while playing with his or her grand children, having meals with whole family members, enjoying & celebrating various festivals with his/her family. From these two tales who can be considered poor - the one with wealth or the one with happiness.

Thus, it can be stated that the opposite of poverty is not wealth rather

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happiness. Happiness is key to mental wellbeing & social wellbeing. Both of these will play key role in economical wellbeing, of individuals, community, society as a whole.

Apart from happiness, it is the freedom which is equated as opposite of Poverty. Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen has said that poverty is not lack of wealth rather it is lack of freedom to make choices. How freedom is opposite of poverty? Can bringing freedom is essential for addressing poverty?

Freedom to make choices, freedom to explore new things, freedom to speak your mind & heart is essentially an important perspective of life. By this logic, the one who just focusing on mundane aspect of life is poor. A businessman is poor if he/she is not able to free himself or herself to focus on life & wellbeing.

Freedom to choose your life partner, freedom to ask questions to authority is real measurement of individuals capability. If one

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lacks freedom, remain bonded to customs, rules etc can be considered as poor. Thus poverty is not opposite of wealth rather freedom.

It is evident from our freedom struggle that, our forefathers demanded freedom for our pauperised peasantry rather than demanding wealth. Having freedom means investment in innovation & creativity. And through these investments we seek to alleviate poverty.

Mahatma Gandhi has said that "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost. But if character is lost everything is lost." From this quote Gandhi ji tried to highlight that opposite of poverty is not wealth but character.?

How can be character should be seen as opposite of poverty? To answer this question we need to look at various life experiences of individuals. Why we celebrate good over evil? Why we consider Rama as good & Ravana as bad (poor). It is just because of their character.

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While Lord Rama choose the path of uprightness & did rightful actions for wellbeing of the people. The Ravana embarked on doing wrong things, didn't care for its citizens, didn't heed to the advice of brother, army etc.

We all know the end result of Ramayana. Rama emerged as victorious & wealthy while Ravana emerged as defeated & poor. Hence it is the good character that separates between poor & rich. Thus the opposite of poverty is not wealth rather having people of good character.

Let us now shift our focus to global politics that is poverty at international level. Accountability & responsibility have become important tool of good governance even in Global politics. But can we equate opposite of poverty is not wealth rather not having accountability & responsibility? Can be the developed countries considered as poor if they lack accountability & responsibility?

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Look at the condition of climate refugees; they are forced to live away from their homeland; while migrating from their homeland many of them are losing their lives. Also, can we think of the concerns of small island countries who are facing threat from rising sea levels. There is question of existence in front of them. But the question is who is responsible for this?

Many fingers are pointed towards wealthy developed countries for these issues. The industrial revolution, increasing global warming, climate change etc are responsible for the present condition. However, despite their historical actions, these wealthy nations are not ready to accept their accountability & responsibility.

This is evident from their rejection of Common But Differentiated Responsibility principles.

They have not only failed to finance the fight against climate change but also failed to transfer the technology they possess which can mitigate these impacts of climate change. From this episode, it¹⁴ can be said that

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opposite of poverty is not wealth rather lack of accountability and responsibility, lack of environmental ethics, lack of empathy and compassion.

Nonetheless, all these debate + discourse explaining relativity of poverty are important. But equally important is the premise that all the people should have access to basic essentials of life. What are the basic essentials of life?

It includes Roti, Kapda, Makean, that is, access to food, clothing, housing. However, in 21st century - access to education, health, sanitation, internet etc has also become essential for quality life.

for these essential things, services to achieve, we need to frame poverty in objective terms. Objective poverty help us in quantification and take concrete measures for its alleviation. This basic postulates has laid to emphasize that poverty is lack of wealth.

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Wealth acts as a mean to have access to all these basic essentials. Moreover wealth can be measured to track progress & thus help us to reach the goal of SDG-1.

NO POVERTY

Thus in order to address the poverty be it in objective form or relative form, we must be guided by quote of Swami Vivekananda - "Arise, awake & stop not till the goal is achieved."

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।
- Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।
- Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

There is more to life than increasing its speed

At the turn of 18th century & early years of 19th century, the life of Japan was moving at faster pace, it was increasing with every passing day.

The social, economical, political, technological advancement of Japanese life soon acquired geopolitical ambitions. Japan tried to have control over its neighbouring countries. History recalls these events as Manchurian invasion; Russia-Japan war.

With further increasing the speed, Japan entered into World War II, with

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territorial ambition. However, the speed itself became one of the reasons behind world's first nuclear attack on Hiroshima & Nagasaki. This also marked the defeat of Japan and acted as break on speed of its progress.

This story of Japan highlights that there is more to life than simply increasing its speed.

In this essay, we ^{will} ~~should~~ explore the meaning of life, why there is increase in speed of life, what are the consequences that it can result into and most importantly is diving into what more the life has to offer than increasing its speed.

What is life? It is the first question that comes to ~~first~~ mind while analysing these topics. The dictionary definition of life refers to 'struggle for existence'. It is for existence we do many activities from hunting, gathering to production in industry.

This highlights that the life has

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evolved from ancient times to modern times. The primitive man's life was simple with low speed. However with evolution in society it acquired speed. In today's world the life is moving at faster pace, from field to space. In search of new products, fulfilling new needs the life in 21st century has hit the highest gear.

As we have seen, with increase in time, the speed of life has also increased. But the point to ponder is why the speed of life has increased over time?

To answer this question let's delve into realm of two perspectives. One that is given by Lord Buddha during ancient time and the other which is given by Karl Marx for present life in modern society.

For Lord Buddha, the increase in speed of life lies at the root of increase in desires of human life. According to him, it is our desire that guide our actions. Let us take example of desire for having more

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wealth, status. We all know that it is desire to earn has led to rapid exploitation of nature, its resources. The zeal to earn more money has turned human life into a machine.

Many people work for more than 12 hours a day to fulfil their desire. They had to increase their speed of life to achieve their dreams. Imagine the life of farmer, the life of person who is running to board ^{crowded} Mumbai local, the rush at airports etc all reflects that it is our desire that have led to increase in speed of life.

What was the perspective given by Karl Marx, highlighting causes of increase in speed of life? Karl Marx argued that it is the desire to have more control over means of production, desire to make more profit by capitalists that has led to increase in speed of life.

All the innovations such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, drone technology, to name a few is for increasing speed of life and thereby increase profit of have, stated Karl Marx.

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It seems that increasing speed of life is nothing but progress. Then the question would arise why it is said that, there is more to life than simply increasing its speed.

The answer to this question lies in the consequences that the increasing speed has produced. Let us now discuss the consequences that have resulted into in different domains.

Firstly, in social sphere, the increased speed of life has led to enhanced mobility. It has caused the breakdown of families. One need to be empathetic with the old age people who are getting affected due to increased pace of industrialization, modernization & growing individualism. At this age when they require protection of family are getting left homeless.

Secondly, in the economical sphere, the increased speed of life has brought many consequences. Out of all these, the worst discussing is the growing inequality in society.

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How can we justify the speed which is benefiting only top section of society.

As per the Oxford inequality report, the top 10% of population owns 70% of national wealth, while the bottom 50% of population owns meagre 4%. The speed has increased space between the upper class & lower class.

Resulting into two types of social exclusion. One which is voluntary & the second which is forced. The urban areas that have both high rise building as well as slums.

Thirdly, the increased speed of life has also negatively impacting our children, youth and students. We hear continuously or read in newspapers or get information on social media about student committing suicides.

In this fast moving world, the blossoming mind of students are not able to withstand the speed requirements of society. In pursuit for achievements, they are experiencing performance pressure. The pressure is so much so that they find it easy to end the life

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rather try to explore other things. This makes one to think, can life is restricted only to achieve better result in examinations? who should be held accountable for death of students? Answer is the increasing speed of life.

Fourthly, it is the technology that has emerged as driver of increasing speed of life. Modern day technology acting as Double Edged sword. Though it has some benefits, it has its own consequences too.

Social media, which has brought people closer, is also responsible for radicalisation of youth. Can you imagine the negative impact of technology on children. It has resulted into issue of Child pornography - one of the most immoral act. Internet which has lightning speed, destroying the life of children with that pace itself.

Childrens are trafficked, separated from their parents for the purpose of child pornography. For them the life becomes hell & they curse the increasing speed of life brought by these technological innovations.

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After explaining the consequences of increasing speed of life, the next question that needs our attention is, what more the life is needed instead of increasing speed?

As famously said by Socrates that "An unexamined life is not worth living." We need to examine the purpose of our life, we need to explore the goal of life. Apart from speed what matters is constant need for introspection & focus on betterment of life.

"Life which is lived in the service of others is true life." - Thus rather than speed, life should be evaluated on the parameter of help it has offered to the needy people.

Life will become meaningful, if all of us unite to wage war against poverty, wage war against child pornography. When all of us unite to tackle issues and ~~concerns~~ concerns of old age people, violence against women & all those things which affect the vulnerable sections of our society.

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The purpose of life is having honesty, integrity, empathy, compassion, tolerance etc & other ethical values. Life filled with empathy and compassion will make this world a better place to live.

A ethical life will help not only help in self development, but also helps in social, environmental, technological development. For example why we celebrate people like Kailash Satyarthi, Sudha Murthy, Harekesh Hajjabba etc, because these people focused on the purpose of life rather increasing its speed.

As stated by famous philosopher Emmanuel Kant that the more to life lies in understanding that it is our mean that should be treated as end in itself. This comes close to our traditional value of NISHKAMA KARMA. This means that one's life should be devoted towards right action without expecting end goals.

This will help us achieve a society where everyone ²⁷ is respected. The society

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in which tolerance, peace & love will be unity of people. Humanity will become the religion of society. Unity & brotherhood will be cherished and promoted. Such a life will respect dignity of women, dignity of labours.

When the social, economical, political, environmental aspects of life gets guided by rationality, ethicality, other virtues, apart from increasing speed, then only the life becomes meaningful & waste living.

Thus, it is our duty to question ourselves, impart education to our children which not only focuses on knowledge but also moulds their character.

As stated by Plato that "Education that does not mould character is useless." Let the force of love overpowers the speed of hate in the modern world to make our society humanity driven.

In the end, we need to learn from our mistakes, as stated in the story of Japan we all need to learn that the purpose of

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Life is wide & infinite. Just we need to focus on ethical applications and not on blind speed. In this regard we should be guided by following Shloka:

"Sam Gachadram, Sam Vadechram.

Sam vo manansi, Janatam." which means

"Let us walk together, let us move together and together we should make the whole world a better place."

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