

- Q.1 You can't serve data on a hungry man's plate.
आप किसी भूखे आदमी की थाली में डेटा नहीं परोस सकते।
- Q.2 AI is overcoming our mental limitation but not expanding our mental horizon.
ए.आई. मनुष्य की मानसिक सीमाओं को नियंत्रित कर रहा है, किंतु मानसिक क्षितिज का विस्तार नहीं कर रहा है।
- Q.3 We are using environment for politics, not politics for environment.
हम पर्यावरण का उपयोग राजनीति के लिए कर रहे हैं, न कि राजनीति का उपयोग पर्यावरण के लिए।
- Q.4 The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.
असमानता का सबसे बुरा रूप है असमान को समान बनाने का प्रयास।

The worst form of inequality is to
try to make unequal things equal

A popular parable from 'Malgudi Days'-
When Swami and his friend got
100 and 50 marks in their tests
respectively, they started quarrelling.
Swami was asserting his excellence
while his friend was saying that
it's not fair. Viewing their fight,
their subject teacher intervened.
Swami asked his teacher to explain

his friend about fairness of test.

Instead of explaining, the teacher deducted 25 marks from Swami's score of 100 and added 25 marks to his friend's score of 50.

This made their score equal to 75 and equal to each other. Teacher asked other boy - 'Is this fair now?'

The boy replied in affirmation as for him inequality was removed.

However, Swami was astonished after witnessing all this. He was questioning - what was the worst? The ^{unequal} rewards given in proportion to the efforts or the equal rewards to all irrespective of the efforts. He started pondering - the worst form of inequality is to make unequal things equal.

In this essay, we will explore - what exactly is inequality? and what are its various forms? Why the worst form is making unequal things equal even though equality is desirable? What can be the proper solution?

"Inequality is the worst form of violation of human rights and human dignity." - Martin Luther King

Above quote reflects the dysfunctional aspects associated with inequality. Inequality simply means - a state of being non uniform, non-similar and different. When all these differences are evaluated and ranked accordingly determining one's access to other resources, it gives rise to inequality.

For instance, in Indian society, birth in a certain caste determines one's occupation and amount of prestige they'll get.

giving rise to racial inequality. Similarly, in South Africa, race and colour of skin used to determine one's social status giving rise to racial inequality.

Along with these two, inequality in income levels known as class inequality, inequality due to differential access to power - political inequality, inequality due to differences in cultural and educational consumption - cultural inequality are various forms of inequality.

Different forms of inequality contribute to different levels of exploitation. Caste inequality manifests itself in form of caste violence and class inequality is reflected through low wages and labour exploitation. Poor political representation of marginalised

sections is due to political inequality and poor educational outcomes of rural children - a sign of cultural inequality.

To address these inequalities, one may think - equality will be the panacea. That is, if we make every one equal in all aspects - social, political, economical and educational then inequality and exploitation will end. However, this hypothesis is easy to think but hard to believe.

All human beings are naturally different which leads to varied interests, different strengths, different problems and different efforts ultimately leading to unequal results. Amid all this, if we go on making all things equal and similar, aren't we undermining law of non uniformity of nature?

Yes, ~~we are~~ that's why the worst form of inequality is to make unequal things equal. Let's see how.

Our education system is aligned towards - a definite curriculum and a fixed system of examination in which rote learning becomes more important than conceptual clarity. Some students are more interested towards creativity while some are attracted towards scientific experiments and some may find comfort in sports. But schools made all these unequal students to study same curriculum and give same exams as equals irrespective of interests. Isn't this worst to kill one's creativity and innovation?

Similarly, if people from lower castes who ¹²always faced discrimination

and people from poor financial background who don't even have access to basic necessities are treated as 'equals' with people from higher castes and rich background - Will it be justified? Will it be fair if they all made to participate in a competition as equals?

Absolutely Not! This is because we know in any case privileged section will win due to better resources and training. This calls for the need to relook at the desirability of equality.

"Climate change is not the elephant in the room but it is the elephant in which we all are present"

- George Marshall

This quote of George Marshall came to seek the attention of developed countries towards the havoc of climate change. Their unsustainable economic

growth coupled with rising green
house gases emissions contributed to
global warming. So, they need to fulfill
adaptation and mitigation targets more strictly.
However, calls of developed countries
are for equal response from developing
countries as well. Former requires that
low income countries too phase out
polluting fossil fuels and switch to
green economy. This will be detrimental
to countries' economy and against principles
of climate justice.

Similarly, at World Trade Organisations,
many developed countries accused India's
farm and food subsidies as competitive
advantages which distorts trade. They
want to treat India as equal
country in trade₁₄. But wouldn't

it be injustice to 70 crore households
dependent on NFSA for food?

उम्मीदवारों को
 इस भाग में
 लिखना नहीं है।
 Candidates
 must not
 write on
 this margin

"Two roads diverged in wood,
 And I took the less travelled by,
 And that has made all the difference"

— Robert Frost

(Poem — The road less travelled)

Given lines of closing stanza of Frost's poem shows the importance of new path in dealing with problems.

Similarly, we need to take road less travelled by of equity and justice instead of the popular road of equality.

Equity enables recognition of inequalities and coupled with justice — they strive to make relevant arrangements in order to bring true equality.

For instance, Indian constitution is based on pillars of justice and substantive equality. That is, first

it's needed to bring people at equal platform and then let them compete.

This is reflected in A-15 and A-16 which provides reservation to socially and economically backward classes along with members of scheduled castes and tribes. This will ensure that their long term discrimination won't interfere with equality of opportunity guaranteed to them by constitution.

As Plato said, 'only light can evade darkness, light of disabled friendly infrastructure in public places has evaded darkness of discrimination towards person with disabilities. This inequality was recognised and ramps and lifts in public places were built up for their ease.

Similarly, strengthening principles of climate equity, Paris climate agreement devised approach of

common but differentiated responsibility' which ensures decent policy and carbon space to developing countries in fight against climate change.

India's Nuclear policy also treat unequals differently. It says- 'India will never use nuclear weapon against a country with no nuclear weapons'

As Anekantavāda philosophy of Jainism believes in manirer of reality, we should also look at other approaches to look towards inequality.

Sometimes, it is necessary to treat unequals as equals to bring behavioural change in society. 'women' should be considered as equal to men to reverse trends of pink collarisation and glass ceiling. Similarly, same sex relationships should be treated with equal respect as hetero-sexual relationship to remove any kind of stigma and exploitation associated with homosexuality.

Hence, our whole discussion on worst form of inequality has showed us way towards equity and justice. In order to realise goal of equitable, inclusive and sustainable world as enshrined in sustainable development goals, it is desirable to accept inequalities and address their root causes by structural measures.

Similarly, goals reflected in the preamble of Indian constitution - social, political and economic justice, equality and liberty will be achieved when we are ready to go an extra mile and address unequal problem of unequals.

These efforts will ultimately lead to fraternity and notion of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbam'.

As popular Hindi poet - Jaishankar Prasad has said - "Apno ko Hasta Dekho Mande,
Khud Haso or Sukh Paao,
Apne Sukh ko vistrat Karo,
Aur Sabko ^{is} Sukhi Banao".

- Q.5 Existence is a science. Living is an art.
अस्तित्व एक विज्ञान है, जीना एक कला है।
- Q.6 If the truth shall kill them, let them die.
यदि सत्य से किसी की मृत्यु होती है, तो उन्हें मरने दो।
- Q.7 The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them.
हालातों से परे जाने का एकमात्र तरीका उनसे होकर गुजरना है।
- Q.8 Dream for the best. Be prepared for the worst. Enjoy life in between.
सर्वश्रेष्ठ के लिए सपना देखें। सबसे बुरे के लिए तैयार रहें। इसके बीच के जीवन का आनंद लें।

The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them

We all know the name of first female physician and medical graduate of India - Anandibai Joshi but few know the inspiring story behind this achievement.

Anandi was married in childhood and she lost her first child when she was just 15 years old. At an age where she was still a kid, she was facing the grief of losing her own child due to poor health and malnutrition.

She and her child couldn't get timely medical intervention due to limited access as well as limited knowledge on subject of pregnancy issues of Indian women among British doctors.

This never ending pain made Anandibai to think about reversing this situation and she decided to pursue medical education. Earlier her admission was rejected but after many struggles and support from some christian missionaries, she began her career

She published her thesis on "Birth giving process of Indian women" and started serving poor people with her husband. She was determined that she wouldn't let anyone face same pain what was borne by her. She succeeded in transforming situation. It won't be wrong to say- 'Only way to go beyond things is _{to} go through them'.

In this essay, we will ponder over- why we want to go beyond certain things and what are those things? what role does 'going through them' play? Is it always necessary to go through things to go beyond them or any other way is possible?

"We should be thankful to challenges. If they wouldn't have been there, each person remained in their primitive form and no human progress would have been possible" - Anandibai Joshi

These words reflect the importance of challenges in our lives. The things which we want to overcome in our lives are none other than struggles, obstacles, ordinances and different kind of crisis in our lives.

These 'things' act as roadblocks in our way to progress and make

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us frustrated. This frustration made us to think about escaping these things and have a smooth journey.

However, little did we realise:-

"The struggle ~~you~~ we are in today is developing the strength we need tomorrow" — Robert Tew

Facing these challenges make us stubborn to whatever life throws at us. And as it's said - Universe loves a stubborn person, we move closer to our destination.

For instance, Shri Gauri Sawant, first transgender person to file a petition regarding recognition of transgender as third gender in Supreme court, was her journey easy? Absolutely Not! She left home at 12 and was undergone a surgery. Despite

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these, she used to face discrimination from society. But she made her struggles - her strength and founded 'Sakhi Char Choughi' - a foundation for transgender counselling and awareness center for safe sex practices

"Taking a new step and uttering a new word - is all people feared the most" - Fodor Dostoevsky

Yes, a new step is fearful because it needs courage. Courage is needed to cross obstacles as well as to remove obstacles from others' path.

This courage was shown by Waria Dirie - a Somalian model who fled from forced marriage at 12 and had faced female genital mutation at age of five. Those horrible scenes are still

Next IAS ID: PTP220889, TC065, 05-09-2023 08:33 AM She was
fresh in her memory. Chosen as UN Goodwill Ambassador
to spread awareness against this
inhumane practice of genital mutilation.

'Diaries' according to her name
founded - Desert flower foundation to
attack age old stereotypes and taboo
associated with such practice.

"Faith is that bird which starts
singing even though dawn is not
clearly visible" - [Rabindranath Tagore]

As above quote establishes, we
need to take a giant leap of faith
to go beyond crisis while gathering
the learnings by going through it

This was best exemplified by
India in two instances -

One was just after independence,
when we were still dependent on

USA's PL-480 programme for our food demands. As soon as threats from USA were visible, we began working towards green revolution and became a food secure nation. Only because we faced crisis of food insecurity, we understand gravity of this problem and we are helping our neighbours with our experiences.

Second was during 1991 balance of payment crisis, when need was to take urgent measures of liberalizing our economy to protect it from collapsing. We took leap of faith and came up with LPG reforms. With all our efforts and capabilities, we not only came beyond crisis but also reaped benefits of it.

"If we focus on hurt, we tend to suffer. If we focus on lessons, we keep growing" - Anonymous

when we go through some obstacle,
of course we get hurt but it's the
experience and learning from that which
matters.

Learnings from 'war with China'
in past in 1962 made India more
alert during border skirmishes at
Galwan valley in 2020. Soon after
settling down of violence, we started
building infrastructure in border areas
to boost capability of our armed
forces. Also as we have seen
the struggles of border population,
we decided to improve their situation
and came up with 'Vibrant Village
programme'

" The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go ₂₆ before I sleep"
— Robert Frost

These lines of closing stanza of poem - Stopping by Snowy woods show the importance of an attitude of keep going and searching for better solutions.

When Odishe faced havoc of super cyclone, they decided to build resilience in their communities as well as in their infrastructure.

They constructed mangrove plantations as nature based solutions to decrease speed of cyclonic winds. Even though they succeed, they didn't stop here and went on building 450 shelter houses along with tuva mitra - a rescue force made up of local youth to respond in emergency situations.

Till now, we have seen how going through challenges gives us courage and makes us resilient. However, it is not always necessary to go through things in order to go beyond them.

As Leonardo Da Vinci said, 'Wisdom is daughter of experience, that experience can be of someone else also. We can learn by others' mistakes and improve to avoid facing situation of crisis ourselves.

For instance, when whole world was running in a nuclear race, no attention was being given to adequate safeguards till the ~~so~~ unfortunate event of Chernobyl Nuclear disaster.

After this accident, efforts are being done to ensure adequate safety measures along with inspections by DAEA to avoid such kind of disasters in future.

Similarly, some innovative approach can be used to go beyond roadblocks. For instance, 'Project Umagali' started by a district collector in Tamil Nadu to connect remote village with city hospitals via telemedicine. Hence, without going through remoteness, hurdles of accessibility are crossed.

To sum up, it can be said that we must remember -

"No matter how many skies have fallen, we are bound to live"

- DH Lawrence

We should have faith in our abilities, an optimistic attitude and an attitude of perseverance to make

things happen.

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Going beyond challenges is desirable by everyone but going through them is what - which requires courage and fortitude to walk alone. We should instill that courage in us by reminding words of Gurudev

Rabindra Nath Tagore - Jodi Tor

Dak Shume Keu Naa Ase Tabe
EKLa Chalo Re' (If no one responds
to your call, have faith and go
your own way)

Also going by virtue of collective
wefare, we should strive for
transformation of human lives facing
darkness of challenges to light of progress:-

A sato Ma Sadagamyā (From falsehood
Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamyā lead me to
meityuma Amratama**Gamyā truth, from
darkness to light
and from death
to immortality)
— Beeharad Brahmajoke
Upanishad