

**GS SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

**IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

**ANKUR KAUSHIK**

**Rank-37**

**Essay Marks - 151**



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Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

**ESSAY**

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

**Instructions to Candidate**

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

*(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).*

Name ANKUR

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature ANKUR

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Remarks**

**SECTION - A**

1. A free woman is one, who does not live in the shadow of others' judgment, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom,
2. Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.
3. We are good architects of future, if our coming generations are not victim.
4. The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

**SECTION - B**

1. Patriotism is to support your country, not your government.
2. In a healthy politics, the leaders do not serve any ideology or political party, but people.
3. The difference between insanity and genius is success.
4. Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of imagination.

A free woman is one, who does not live in shadow of others' judgement, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.

In a sleepy town of Kolkata, a girl of 14 was forced to marry someone twice her age. Deprived of her basic rights to education, free will, right to a dignified life. What followed her marriage was torture - domestic abuse, sexual assaults became daily rituals for her. But one day she decided - she had 'had it enough'. Selling the only piece of jewellery she had on her. The girl 'Rani' - She fled to her freedom.

The place is new, means are less, with no resources at hand. She had one asset she never had - A free will. With her new found freedom, she began from washing dishes, doing household chores. Meanwhile educating herself, getting basic skills and

investing. Over time the girl falling and rising but choosing her own path.  
 The girl now a woman, is the head of a million dollar company - 'Avictor'.  
 She has helped plethora of women and is a living inspiration for many. The woman is CHANDA ZAVERI - A woman who set herself free (BBC, Telegraph)

The above excerpt details how a woman faces imposed decisions in her life, be it marriage, education or job. Every step of hers is guided, directed. Chanda Zaveri's ordeal and success indicate/imply one basic truth → A woman is and can be much more than a father's daughter, a son's mother, a wife. She can be 'Herself'.

Remarks

This essay delves into issues that women face in taking simplest to ~~no~~ life-changing decisions. And how society, politics, economics have restrained their choice-making abilities. This also provides examples of women who broke their cages and set out an independent journey to be leaders in their respective fields, ~~so~~

### The IRON CAGE : Imposed Judgements

Since time immemorial, history showcases how women have been subdued to decisions of others. From practices of

Sati : where even life, right to life was on whims and fancies of society.

Child Marriage where women were married ~~at~~ at tender ages of 6-7 and

~~also~~ politics was a man's game. Women had been at receiving ends of wisdom

of others. The impositions imposed historically pervaded even to modern day societies.

In present day Societies which are ailed with cancer of Patriarchy. A woman is considered 'a property of Men'

With only 37% women completing their education as per ASER survey, women are deprived of their basic right to education (Article 21A) that sets off a chain domino effect in their loss of freedom.

A woman in modern day society is seen as one who cares for the family, raises and nurtures children.

The onus of family is befall upon shoulders of women. A woman is deemed

responsible for taking care of elderly, catering to needs of her husband and

providing a 'Mother' to her children. Her right to work, job is restricted because of the responsibilities not taken but given to her.

Women have a share of 27% in Indian labor force, world over women head less than 2% of organisations.

Not only jobs, they face discrimination in pay (gender wage gap is 29%) and moreover, even in organisations while crucial decision making is handled by men. The tasks of hospitality, HR management are given to 'Women'. The economic <sup>can be stated</sup> disparage in gender <sup>as</sup> Robert Frost remarked "Being the boss anywhere is lonely, but being a female boss is pure fiction". The restriction of freedoms

not only is pervasive in Economy but deeply corrodes politics as well.

Women form only 11% of Parliamentarians in India. Most of the decisions on Women issues are decided mostly by the men, who though are apparently 'feminist' and try to strengthen women but miss one important fact that Women are already strong, all its about our perceptions that need to change about them. Even when women were granted political representation under 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act, reserving seats for one of 5% for women. PRIA survey found out that most of the Gram Sabha women representatives suffered from 'Beta, Baap, Patti syndrome'.

Remarks

Decisions were taken by men and others ~~for~~ on behalf of women. They were chosen as representatives but represented not democracy but the entrenched restrictions, patriarchy they faced.

The above excerpts demonstrate how women have been considered as 'Recipients' or 'Passive benefactors' of Decision-making by society, politics alike. Their independence is restricted, free will choked by juxtaposition of a number of factors viz. Patriarchy, lack of education, skills and minimal political representation. The urgent need to remove these shackles is imminent and realising that a nation sustains itself only when it is Inclusive

and caging half of population (Women ~ 50% of pop.)  
 makes development, democracy, growth,  
 nothing but a farce.

### BREAKING THE CAGE: FLYING FREE

The basic idea for 'free Women'  
 emerges from one basic principle i.e.  
'Women decide, what's best for them'

Any reform, change that is brought  
 by women, unless includes them is  
 a farcical exercise. Every policy,  
 measure must involve participation  
 of women and from all sectors as  
 well. Only then can we stand true  
 to Ro'eh's idea of a Utopian Society/  
 Nation

"In this era of ~~men~~ caging and  
 shackling them, let's remember the best  
 society is what - Let's Them Be"

Remarks

The cage can be set free when change is brought by them in all fields of social environment, education, health, economy and importantly Politics / Political domain.

The change begins / freedom begins begins primarily with idea of Right to life. A woman unbridled by other's judgement should be free to decide her life's journey. Starting with dismantling the "son-preference". Society must ~~get~~ be reformed to give a girl equal rights to be born as a boy.

After the girl is born, and raised she should choose her field of education and every field be it

engineering, technology or humanities must be her independent choice. At present, women are restricted to fields of humanities, teaching, ~~care~~ nursing. They must be free and empowered to choose any field they desire. Kalpna Chawala if world have been restricted, would have deprived the world of a top-notch inspirational Astronaut. Hence, let them be.

Education unless supplemented with Right to health renders one inefficient, unhealthy and malnourished. As economic survey states 'girls/women' are 53% anaemic as are deprived of nutritious food. They must be accorded a Right to health, a right to grow healthily, and have among

Remarks

their right to a dignified, healthy living. With scheme like SABLA, Matru Vandana Yojana women are entitled to a healthy living. With choices in health and education, the real choice and real freeing of woman begins with political representation, and real political freedom (unlike Beta Pati syndrome)

Bihar raised reservation for women to 50% and saw a rapid increase in sex ratio, educational reach to women, reduced dropouts rate and a safe reproductive healthcare. Showcasing that once women are adequately represented they can choose their own paths.

The idea of a free woman must

be emboldened first by increasing their representation to 33% in Parliament which would ensure ~~pol~~ policies are women-centric and women-oriented. India can produce its own Angela Merkel's and Indira Gandhi's → women who marked their presence in political spaces globally. Gender-Budgeting is a good start but needs effective implementation.

~~Process~~ A comprehensive overhaul that permeates even to rural areas where women have faced most oppression is the foundation stone for harnessing the potential of free-woman. Choices must be theirs, support-ours to choose them

Remarks

to be a proud woman in this man's world. Following lines by Rupa Kaur summate the crux of this essay :-

“ Any time when a woman is set free - it's a powerful thing. Be it reading a book in school, applying for a job she desires or taking decisions putting herself as priority. Every time she has freedom to choose - Magic happens”

Let the magic happen in a world that is equal and free for all.

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A Free woman who doesn't

live in shadow of others but  
makes her own choices based  
on her own wisdom.

In a sleepy town of Kolkata, a girl of 17  
was forced to marry someone 10 years  
twice her age. Deprived of her basic  
rights to education, a free will.

What followed was no less than a  
torture. Sexual abuse, domestic violence  
became daily rituals for her. Till  
the day she decide <sup>was</sup> she had it

enough" Selling the only piece of gold  
earnings on her. She took a flight  
to ~~us~~ abroad.

Though means were less, distress was  
more, fear was great but choices were  
hers. ~~before~~ ~~distress~~ to household ~~ch~~

Remarks

Make her own choices. She ~~was~~ educated  
herself, got an higher education and

with little failures, a bit more success  
 her decision made her owner of a  
 million dollar company 'Avictor'. The  
 girl is now an inspiration to many. The girl  
 is Chanda Zaveri → A free-woman in  
 a world that sought to chain her.  
 chain her.

Above story reflects chains →

What is a Free Woman

free will

choices → educat., dignit. & etc

NOT AN EASY PATH: The Shahis

Historical

• Social, ~~Political~~ Economical, Political, Internationally

• ~~BRUNN~~ The CASE Zojat Pabed

Social → Govt. RTE, BPBP, Gender Budget, One Bill, 73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup>

Malela, Younsai, Chanda, Indira Gandhi, Angela

Husb → Khat  
 → Sati  
 → child m

Social → Chait  
 → Dour

Market.

Ec → Ched Zaveri

Patronage  
 → Edu

Remarks  
 → Edu  
 Economic

Econ → Shilpi  
 → P  
 → Rukhsana

Polit → 14  
 → woman  
 → Sahel K

Conclusion

I face many <sup>worlds</sup> battles, fight many battles  
Every step directed, Every choice <sup>included</sup>  
What I get, how I get,

marked

Remarks

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Remarks