

IAS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

DEEPESH KEDIA

Rank - 36

Essay Mock



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ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an 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.

Remarks

(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 Deepesh Kedia

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Deepesh

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.
- ② Poverty is not just a economic condition. ✓
3. In this world, fear has no place; only strength respects strength.
4. It is always difficult to fight against faith than against knowledge.

SECTION - B

1. Law and order is the medicine of the body politic, and when the body politic gets sick, medicine must be administered.
2. The danger of the past was that men became slaves, the danger of future is that they may become robots. ^
3. A free and fair election is not possible without media. ✓
4. Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Need of Good Governance.

Poverty is not just an economic condition

As per Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, poverty is defined as 'deprivation of opportunities'. As per Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, poverty is 'a state of mind'. As per various government criteria, poverty has defined differently. So what exactly is poverty?

While on a metaphysical level, poverty can be termed ^{as} a state of mind, i.e. how much deprived, a person thinks of himself. However,

for the purpose of developmental economists, poverty has to be more than. Poverty must be defined on some concrete criteria, which must be exhaustive enough to encompass the developmental challenges we face.

In the past several government committees have tried to find a criteria for the identification of poor. This has thrown up questions like ^{the} need to encompass other criteria, apart from economic, to get a true measure. Moreover, within the economic criteria, there hasn't been a consensus. For example, earlier committees focused solely on calorie requirement, while later Tendulkar Committee recommended income as a criteria and later Rangarajan Committee recommended inclusion of health expenses, education expenses as well to arrive at the figure of poverty line. Here, it must be understood this classification is important for the government to target her schemes properly.

But clearly, as we can see, this criteria for classification leaves out millions of those who are deprived in some form or other, e.g. job opportunities, healthy lifestyle, good level of education. In fact, merely accessing a particular thing, say health or education or livelihood opportunity, without adequate quality, also amounts to poverty.

In this regard, the idea of poverty proposed by Amartya Sen, i.e. 'deprivation of opportunities' can help sort out the problem.

As per this, Poverty is a very generalized term representing deprivation and certain people have multiple deprivations e.g. the poor people living in tribal areas ~~are~~ ^{may be} deprived of an adequate source of livelihood, health facilities, education opportunities (may be primary, secondary or tertiary), housing, social contacts (called social capital), but are interestingly, not deprived of a healthy environment.

relative
or equality of opportunity for females as compared to males.

On the other hand, even a rich woman living ~~in~~ ^{with} an affluent family in Delhi or Mumbai, might possess opportunities for education, livelihood & health & fitness, but she may be deprived of a good environment ~~or~~ (owing to heavy noise and air pollution) or be restricted by family in terms of exercising her freedom.

Now let us look into what other forms of poverty may exist/ do exist, especially in India.

- ①. Political poverty → It represents a situation where people are unable to participate in the politics. This is quite so in India, because of the promiscuous culture of Indian politik, money power needed, lack of inner party democracy, etc. To counter this, electoral reforms, state funding of elections, mandatory

Inner party democracy, inclusion of political parties under RTI are some solutions.

② Economic poverty → It generally represents low income and the constraints associated with it, such as health, education, lifestyle, livelihood, ^{quality of food}, etc. This has generally been the target of poverty alleviation schemes.

③ Social poverty → This usually refers to the deprivations due to one's social position in a society e.g. caste-based deprivations, such as low respect, religion-based deprivation, such as fear from the majority community, etc. This can be fixed through better integration of society by blurring these lines and giving way to constitutional ideals of liberty, fraternity.

(4) Environmental Poverty → It refers to unpeaceful and unhealthy environment that people get to live in. It can be tackled through incorporation of appropriate environmental ethics among the people.

(5) Legal Poverty → This is in fact, one of the ~~most~~ more pressing form of poverty, which is prevalent due to difficulty in exercising legal rights because of poor judicial system and a generally corrupt atmosphere.

It can be seen from above descriptions that most of the forms of poverty are closely interlinked and are in fact, re-inforcing.

Especially in our country, economic poverty correlates to other forms very closely. If we pick out the deprivation data, we would see that economically deprived people overlap with other forms of deprivations.

Thus, what's the way ahead for poverty alleviation? Rightly so, and as reflected in the schemes, economic empowerment has to be

the basis for ^{focus of} target, ~~with~~ as part of a multi-pronged strategy. ~~where~~
 Here, tools for economic empowerment, such as skill development, education, sound health have to be focussed. But simultaneously, the criteria has to be demand-driven, i.e. person with a particular form of deprivation would strive to attain the object.
 Thus, rather than providing a house, or a bicycle or food to everyone below the poverty line, the people should be allowed to decide whether they want a particular service (and true empowerment) or not. This is already being done for schemes like Indira Awas Yojana, and MGNREGA.

Thus, a multi-pronged ^{integrated} approach alone, with a target to eliminate all forms of poverty, would minimize the inequality gap and push our society towards utopia, where every child will be able to exercise his free will, rather than carrying the burden of his family on his ^{tender} shoulders.

Indian Democracy at Crossroads:

Need of Good Governance

Consider Misbah's case. He is a 25 year old youth, ^{from the minority community} working on a small field in Dadar, a small village in U.P. He ^{did go} ~~went~~ to school. There, he learnt about our glorious freedom struggle and how the constitution is the soul of our governance process. He also learnt that the basic pillar of ^{our} constitution is democracy. He learnt that our democratic ideals are based on ideas of tolerance, equality of opportunity, brotherhood.

As he grew up, he thought (or rather desperately wanted), that a moment would come, when ~~we~~ he would see those constitutional ideals being practised in the surrounding environment. Unfortunately, he gave up on his hope and soon, the once aspiring patriot, ^{in him} who wanted to be a pilot and serve the nation, died inside him.

Misbah represents a large chunk of our population who are utterly frustrated with the rising inequality, lack of opportunities, and the growing intolerance in our society.

Democracy, which was meant to be 'of the people', 'for the people', 'by the people' has come to become, 'of the elites', 'for the elites', 'by the elites'. It is only after the interests of the elites are served, are the needs of the people catered to.

Both bureaucracy and politics are largely dominated by corrupt and indecisive people, who place personal benefits over public good. In this process, even those, who are honest and upright, are stereotyped as being corrupt, often demotivating them.

Politically, people are largely powerless as they don't have the money or name to ~~stand~~ contest

the elections. As a result, a selected few contest for such key positions. Thankfully, the election commission is doing a good job in ensuring clean elections. However, a lot more can be done to ensure political participation.

Economically, although efforts are on through skill development, education, etc. However, effects of these efforts are not clearly manifest because of historical inequalities, poor implementation of schemes, focus on output rather than outcome, rampant corruption at all the stages of the schemes. provisioning of quality

Socially, the situation is equally bad. Although, we are a secular & liberal country. But incidents like Dadri¹ lynching, indicate growing ~~in~~ religious intolerance in the society. Similarly, a clearly ^{growing} divide along caste lines has rendered the constitutional efforts a failure. Women continue to

be disempowered, having to face constant moral policing, deprivation of freedom of opportunities and restrict themselves to the pre-defined gender roles.

Even our legal rights are mostly available only on paper, as people have given up hope of justice from the largely defunct and slow judicial system, which has been unable to break itself free from the shackles.

So what is the solution to all this?

Nearly, despite various legal and constitutional provisions, this situation continues to prevail because of poor implementation of this provisions, i.e. poor governance.

Let us now analyse, how good governance can be brought about and how it would help in solving the problem.

Good governance would involve a bureaucracy, that is driven

by the ideals of democracy. Its highest priority must be public service before anything else.

While ideally, this feeling should come from within. But as the result shows, ~~there is a need to create~~ internal accountability alone is not enough. There is a need to create an institutionalized mechanism, where which would automatically force a bureaucrat to fulfill his responsibility.

Such a mechanism would involve following components:

e-governance ^{& technology}; Citizen Charter and Right to public service delivery; an active judiciary; electoral reforms

e-governance would ensure that:

- ① there is limited scope of discretion, as in case of procurement, etc which would reduce the leakages.
- ② Speeding up of processes, e.g. issuance of passport
- ③ Bring in accountability for wrong officials by bringing forth their misdeeds.

Citizen

The government is implementing a massive digital India programme, through which, not just governance, but delivery of services, empowerment of people by providing education through Massive Open Online Courses, e-health, e-business, e-markets, transfer of benefits such as cash transfers, etc. will be done through use of technology. This would speed up & ~~make~~ increase efficacy of services delivered.

Next, citizen charter by every organization would ensure that the officials are accountable for delivering the services. This would provide a legal recourse to those deprived of various rights based schemes as well as general services.

To back both of these up, is the need for an active judiciary. The slow judiciary can be unchained by greater efficacy of alternate dispute mechanisms, use of technology to speed up hearing of cases and management of information, reforming the recruitment procedure at lower levels of judiciary

and increasing the strength.

And finally, electoral reforms would ~~not~~ involve state funding of elections, mandatory inner party democracy, inclusion of parties under RTI act's ambit, strong punishment for corrupt officials & under representation of people and Prevention of Corruption Act, etc. This would ensure that the right people, who are willing to serve the country get to the right positions.

It is upon us, as a society, to decide where we go. While reforms at higher levels are surely needed, but we too need to change our attitude towards the system and society. We need to be more responsible, dutiful, compassionate and demanding of the system. It is only then, that the dreams of ~~the~~ other Mubars will not die, but rather realize itself to the fullest.

The democracy is at crossroads and the choice is ours, where we want to take it.

This needed schemes.

poor → of what? deprivation

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Poverty is not just an economic condition:

① Is poverty really a state of mind? X

Everything about poverty

② Deprivation of opportunities [Sen] [PESTEL]

- Educaⁿ
- Health
- Lifestyle
- Home
- Job Politics

hobbies

participaⁿ

③ Criteria (BPL)

→ Different committees:

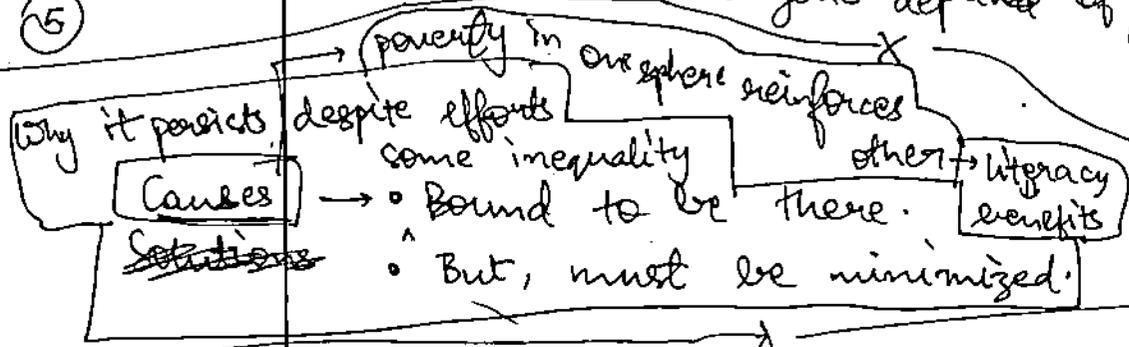
- Tendulkar
- Rangarajan

④ Issue of BPL vs. APL → they are too deprived.

• Everyone deprived of something

↳ absolute vs. relative [Inequality]

⑤



Solⁿs!

→ efforts should be in all directions e.g. IAY

- ↳ Collaborative efforts → Govt. + state of mind.
- ↳ Change of mindset
- Give up wrongs.
- Active participants.
- Ideas of caste etc.
- Schemes → efficacy

↳ NREGA
↳ need based
↳ don't standardize solⁿ

Forms → PESTEL
↳ Re-inforce.

Tackle → Multi-dimensional approach.
Along with schemes

& educaⁿ, eduⁿ
↓
other forms also tackled.

& accountability.