


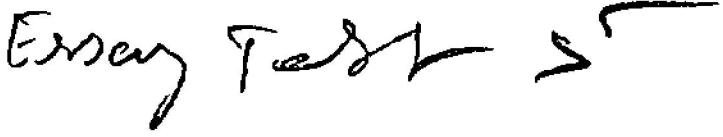
NAME - MEHAR PANWAR

MOBILE NO. -

DATE -

SIGNATURE - 

INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE -



~~57458~~
~~Mehar~~

SCIENCE IS A BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO HUMANITY,

WE SHOULD NOT DISTORT IT

In Ancient Greek mythology, Prometheus, the Titan, was given the responsibility of creation. He created creatures of all kinds, bestowed some with flight, others with the ability to swim. He created human beings in the image of gods out of clay. Taking pity at their creation, he stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans. This has enabled all of progress to take place. For his act Prometheus was tied to a mountain to be perpetually attacked by an eagle.

The history of science is akin to the fate of Prometheus. It is a gift for it has led to all of human progress. However, it also comes with a price. Several of modern-day problems have their origin in the distortion of science.

Our problems are due to the misuse of science. The story doesn't fit that narrative.

Definition
of Subject
used
input.
Of account
this is
a good
enough
examination

Science refers to a quest for knowledge. It has its basis in human curiosity which is never quenching. Beginning with the discovery of fire, science has traversed a long distance. The renaissance in Europe embraced the 'Scientific method'. The Industrial revolution introduced the Technologies of mass production, railways, ships run on steam power. The information revolution has led to global connectivity and made possible services such as digital transactions, e-governance, e-commerce, etc.

The 'new' Technologies of AI, Machine Learning, Robotics are paving way to machines that can take the place of humans. They can perform surgeries, drive around people, communicate and so forth.

(A) Thus, science has proven to be a gift on various counts. It has worked to improve the quality of human life. Discovery of penicillin, and now gene-editing using CRISPR for curing disease have improved morbidity and mortality rates. Development of means of transportation such as automobiles, railways, ships, planes to now driverless-cars and flying taxis; means of communication from telephone, telegram to instant messaging, have eased human activities.

Mass production of desired goods has enabled meeting of the needs of the vast multitudes. To a certain extent humans have been saved from back-breaking work by machines. Goods are produced for making human life comfortable such as air conditioners, packaged food, smart phones, etc.

1

B

Beyond the material gains, science has also laid down the foundations of modern civilisation. It has enabled dispelling of superstitions and misconceptions that held people back. The authority of religion has come down in informing a person's choices in the West. Religion continues to hold significance in India. However, it has been subjected to rational criticism.

Societal practices such as keeping menstruating women secluded, performance of sacrifices for religious merit, religious sanction of the caste system have been relentlessly challenged since the 19th century socio-religious reform movements. Such questioning continued to be attacked as witnessed by murders of rationalists Dabholkar and Kalburgi. But large sections have adapted scientific temper as well, taking the Kantian "leap of faith," unshackling their bondages.

(C)

Science has expanded frontiers of knowledge. Today, we are able to conceptualise the whole of universe using the laws of physics. We realise that millions of life forms from unicellular bacteria to massive blue whale walk on Earth. We have even unearthed the elemental nature of matter surrounding us.

With this expanded knowledge, newer technologies are emerging. Space technologies provide for better communications, mapping of resources, navigation, etc. Biotechnology has allowed inducing desirable qualities or removing undesirable ones from lifeform. Nanotechnology is creating desirable qualities within matter akin to bio-technology. With these man seems to have attained God-like abilities envisaged for him by Prometheus.

(A)

① Good examination of the contribution of Science.

However, the massive power is also amenable to distortions. Man's creations threaten to become like Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, after the life of their own creators.

New technologies have brought never challenges. The comforts of science have caused numerous "life-style diseases" such as asthma, diabetes, obesity among people. Technologies are also responsible for addictions. WHO categorised gaming addiction as a disease. A researcher recently compared the scroll feature on websites to a "bottomless soup bowl" which never runs out of soup.

Production by machines takes away jobs from people. Gadliji had warned against adopting large machinery as long as their are hands available for the same work. Sadly that advice has not been heeded.

1 In the quest of reforming society,
several traditions have been discarded.

(b) Technologies of old were more sustainable—
Use of natural dyes as opposed to chemical
dyes; organic food production as
opposed to use of chemicals; producing
for need not for greed— The knowledge
of nature and working in harmony with
it has been left behind.

The newer technologies such as
AI, gene-editing, etc. raise ethical
issues. A machine which can think
is akin to a moral being. Who will
be liable for a surgery gone wrong or
a driverless car entering into an accident?
Moreover, Internet-of-Things raises
concerns for data privacy. Recently,
conversations of people with Google
assistant were reported to have been
leaked, for instance.

Scientific advancement is also behind the destruction of environment.
(C) Emissions from automobiles, industries etc. threaten the climate; chemicals being released from waste threaten land, water and air; the durable plastics have glutted the whole of Earth. The marine life is consuming massive amounts of plastics in a day.

Moreover, Science is also behind creation of deadly weapons - the atom bombs, the biological and chemical weapons, combat aircrafts, undetectable submarines, missiles with continental range; laced with nuclear warheads have raised the destruction that can be incurred during conflicts. Yemen and Syria are already facing the brunt of this.

(A) (C) Good enumeration of the threats from Science...

However, it is important to remember that these are distractions; Science will remain a Gift if a fine balance is maintained.

The solution to many of these modern problems also lies in science. The ease of accessing information can be leveraged to enable people to make better lifestyle choices. There are applications which assist people in effecting behavioural changes.

Technologies can replace humans in hazardous and life-threatening or degrading jobs such as manual scavenging. They also offer tools for faster skilling and learning to adapt to a changed working environment through MOOCs, online certificate programmes, etc.

This section needs to be more rigorous. Offer more solutions.

✓ Sustainable technologies can be promoted over the environmentally destructive practices. A Mexican scientist recently produced biodegradable plastic out of prickly pear cactus. Clean Ocean Mission is undertaking cleanup of Pacific using technology.

Cyber-security technologies can help in protecting user data. Challenges of AI, Machine Learning can be met through better programming.

good enough conclusion
However, over-dependence on technologies will come at a cost of human creativity, dignity of labour and unpredictable distortions. It is important to work in accordance to nature's dictates, following its laws.

Detailed Analysis on last Page.

SITUATIONS DO NOT MAKE OR BREAK US;
OUR CHOICES AND DECISIONS DO.

"We do not suffer from circumstances,
but from our judgment about them."

- Epictetus

The debate around what
matter more - fate or actions -
is age old. Those who favour the
former view life as a series of
events whether good or bad that the
person must go through. Those who
prefer the latter view an individual
as the agent actively carving out her/
his destiny with actions.

good
intro.
Outlines
the debate
of the
question

The significance of actions,
that is choices and decisions is emphasized
in various schools of philosophy.

Hinduism offers dictums like "karma kar, fal ki chinta na kar" and "nehi kar daripa mein dal". They focus on doing the right action without concern for its fructification as action itself is the desired end.

Similarly, Buddhism offers the "astangika marg" consisting of right recollection, meditation, views, resolve, speech, action, livelihood and conduct.

Here again making the right choices and decisions is emphasised.

Within Western philosophy, the Stoic philosophers held the belief that any adversity can be overcome with strength of character. They advocate for the four cardinal virtues of wisdom, temperance, courage and justice.

good
enunciation
of various
schools of
thought!
But
emphasis
of the definition
of the
pathways
what
are choices
& situations

Psychologists argue that people have two kinds of mindsets - 'fixed' and 'growth' oriented. The latter are those people who constantly strive to improve themselves and make progress, however little it might be. This mindset alone is a signifier for future success.

Angela Duckworth, a popular psychologist, has shown through her studies that a person's 'grit' is the best measure of their success. Grit is a combination of passion and perseverance. A gritty person does not get held back by the situations that life throws at them.

Success stories of people who fought extreme hardship to make it big abound. From Abraham Lincoln to a Tilda's son getting into the IIT, provide inspiration to many.

Such stories are also widely publicised and consumed. They make the content of best sellers and blockbuster movies. The biblical David fighting against the Goliath-like circumstances appeals deeply to human emotions.

However, with so much attention being paid to the individual's fight and heroic actions, one forgets the prevalence of inequalities and systemic forms of injustices which unequally affect different people and prohibits them to choose ^{good} just judgment.

The rich-poor divide is wide in India. OXFAM reported that top 1% of people in India amassed 73% of wealth generated in 2019. This translated to the rich minority having their way while the vast multitudes of poor suffer even to make their ends meet.

examined
relevance

Caste is a continuing source of privilege for some and damnation for others. Reservations for the scheduled castes and tribes and socially, educationally and economically backward seek to remedy the situation. However, everyday humiliation and caste-based violence make life miserable for many.

examined
show
help us
overcome
situation
before
analyzing
the limits

Gender is another source of advantage for the males and disadvantage for females and other genders. The

latter face discrimination, difficulty
in attaining positions of power. The
"glass ceiling" holds back the growth
of many a women in various fields.

*excellent
relevant* Regional imbalances in development
between states, between different
regions within a state and between
rural and urban areas also create
additional challenges. The Empowered
Group of States (EGS) - Bihar, Jharkhand,
MP, UP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh,
Odisha, Uttarakhand - contribute to
migrants - who are at a vulnerable
position outside of their home states.

Furthermore, the "free will"
implicit in celebrations of human
action does not take into account
several factors. A person's upbringing
and community and culture of which

*good
argument
that
you've
stated
previously*

s/he is a part have a bearing on the choices and decisions they take.

As Aristophanes proclaimed --

"Justice is only in question between equals, while the powerful do what they can, the weak suffer what they must."

Good argument

Thus, the absence of a level playing field forces a re-think of comparing different people in similar situations.

Having looked at the additional factors which have a bearing on a person's actions in a given situation, the possibility of taking the correct steps is still not deniable.

One need not become a slave to one's circumstances. The person's personal qualities and strength of

Character play a huge role. As Marcus Aurelius famously stated - Character is fate. However, character can be built, altered, shaped thus changing one's fate.

Attitude is defined as one's pre-disposition to respond favourably or unfavourably to a situation. A positive attitude goes a long way in determining what one makes of a situation. Bad luck for one can be a challenge for another; difficulty for one can be opportunity for another.

However, it is also not justified for allowing social hierarchies and injustices to curtail one's freedoms. Thus, the notion of equity must replace equality. It involves putting

could link this to perspective

You've made this point before. Around reputation

the ones who are left-behind. It can take the form of affirmative action, special provisions for education, and so forth.

Further, the state and the society shall take it upon themselves to create congenial conditions for the growth of every person. Good education, healthcare, food and nutrition are essential for the same. Fulfilling livelihoods and equal opportunities are also crucial.

Schemes such as MGNREGS, Right to Education, Right to Food, National Nutrition Mission are working towards these objectives.

However, freedom of thought expression and action forms the

Individuals brought on by society; but we choose or are chosen as individuals. However, how one can choose to overcome our situation at hand as we choose better?

springboard for individual's growth.
It must be safeguarded. Moreover,
dignity and self-esteem, especially
for the marginalised groups must be
promoted for effective decisions and
choices to be made.

good
enough
conclusion

57

"You can cut all the trees,
but you cannot keep spring from coming."

- Palle Neema

- Defeat the preconditions.
- Repeated the argument that social environment limits our ability to choose.
- State the power of perspective: we have power only over our decisions and how we look at a situation. The way we think affects our actions. If the outcome isn't desired then also we must have perspective to accept what is as it is. We can't control the outcome, but we control how we think.
- We choose better by weighing pros & cons of all options and making faith in oneself.

Section A

- Could be more interesting in your definition of science and how deeply entwined it is to humanity. Books, food, knowledge, clothes are all science.
- Examined contributions of science and the threats.
- Could offer better solutions.
 - ↳ Science has one purpose - to serve humanity's interests which lay in preservation of environment.
 - ↳ Some communities are skeptical of science (some for very valid reasons. Māori/Kea issue for eg). Scientists need to prove to these communities that they will consider the societal impact of scientific endeavours.
 - ↳ Science should have long-term wider goals and be more inclusive.

68