

Roll No. _____

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt both essays
- The test carries 250 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

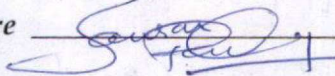
(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

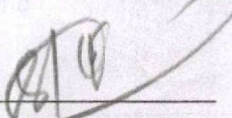
65+69
 134
 134

Name SAURAV PANDEY

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature 

1. Invigilator Signature 

Remarks

Blank area for writing remarks.

1. One is not born but rather becomes a woman.
2. India vs. Bharat: Is it still relevant?

1. ONE IS NOT BORN BUT RATHER BECOMES A WOMAN

Women do not simply take birth and live with their natural rights as a human being. Rather they are subjected to a paraphernalia of restrictive and discriminatory norms. These are derived from the prevailing socio-economic and political environment. What a woman becomes and the kind of status and opportunities she will have depends on these external factors rather than her human nature.

clear Most women have been systematically suppressed and limited to socially induced idea of woman. Despite that, some women have always fought against all odds and become the woman they were meant to be.

In contemporary times, we see what becomes of a woman in an urban area, is very different from a rural area. In urban areas, women enjoy relatively more personal freedom, economic opportunities and even social mobilities. On the other hand,

Rural women are still under the throes of medieval patriarchal practices such as child marriage, dowry, purdah system, etc.

However, this difference is intervened by other factors as well. Upper caste women in India are deified and considered family's honour. This puts more restrictions on them as compared to lower caste. Even income levels determine what will become of the woman's career. If the male earns well and enough, women may no longer pursue her career. irrespective of her ambitions and skills.

Cultural aspects also determine the destiny of a woman. Agrarian cultures have been historically patriarchal. Wars and invasions have had turned women into a lesser human being treated as commodities. That is reflected in today's low sex ratio in northern Indian plains as well.

Tribal cultures, on the other hand display a relatively equal treatment of women! Khasi tribe of Meghalaya, for example, is matrilineal.

This factors can be viewed at a global scale as well. Status of women is largely described by prevalent political and social systems. Anglo-American societies have established fair levels of freedom for their citizens irrespective of their gender. Scandinavian countries have the maximum level of freedom granted to women. These can be linked to high levels of economic development and constitutional safeguards. However, incomes and development are not a panacea to realization of equality for women. West Asian nations and emirates have attained high levels of incomes without a commensurate empowerment of women. Rather they face excessive acts of patriarchy.

This general survey illustrates that women are born as a biological different human beings to a small extent, but most of the asymmetries imposed upon them is due to the dominant attitudes. Thus a gender divide is created where a woman is forced to realize narrow outlook and

traditional orthodox roles.

Who determines these norms that decide traits of a woman? These are predominantly men who enforce ideas of patriarchy. Even women are conditioned to follow these norms as ethical. From the family level itself, upbringing of a boy and a girl varies as far as expected behaviours from them are concerned. Boys are taught to be tough and strong, whereas girls are taught to be soft-spoken and gentle. Gradually, thus the woman becomes what these traditions require. There are exceptions to these kinds of upbringing^{ing}, but more often than not it results in making of a fairer and weaker sex out of a girl child.

Outside home also women are made to realize traditional roles. They are expected to dress in a certain way and talk in a certain manner. Gender wage gap, pink collared jobs and glass-ceiling have become an expected phenomena.

Changing these norms is possible through representation. Whether it is political bodies or corporate boards, women have dismal representation. Half of our population is women who are represented by a meagre 14% women Parliamentarians. Outcome is that men only decide what happens to women and it results in a patronized empowerment. In fact a "gendered" policy approach often reinforces that only men can chart a course for women empowerment.

That is why reservation in state legislature and Parliament becomes important. Women can decide that they deliberate over preferred issues and choose what they become in political set-up. Already we can witness better outcomes at local levels where women lead in politics. But due to lack of political mentors at state and national levels, reservation can provide a big boost in self-realization of women power. However, it needs to be ensured that powerful

families do not enforce patriarchal set-up through proxy candidates.

All is not, however, gloom and doom.

Various women have taken the control of their destinies despite prevailing adverse conditions and become inspiring women, etching their names in history.

In ancient and medieval times, we have witnessed the likes of Gargi and Andal who raised philosophical ^{questions} ~~thesis~~ of contesting the prevalent ideas in Vedic times and later caste distinctions. Prabhavati Gupta, of ancient Gupta empire, to Razia Sultan of medieval era and Sarojini Naidu of modern India, they broke their ranks and became leaders of our society, kingdom and nation.

When the world developed the ideas of democracy, women did not become citizens because they had no voting power. Women decided to become citizen and fought through suffragette movements. In India, Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins and others continued this fight.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Dakshayani Velayudham, fought for India's freedom and not only became independent powerful women, but also crucial contributors to national awakening. They rejected western ideas and inspired women to become what shows the strength and distinct nature of India.

② Savitribai Phule ensured women do not become what society forces them to. She ensured women are educated and empowered. Post Gandhi's arrival in India, women chose to be co-equals in India's freedom struggle. Be it the launch of Quit India Movement in 1942 by waving of Indian flag by Aruna Asaf Ali, or the courageous and ingenious underground radio run by Usha Mehta, it was all a reflective of what was to become of an empowered Indian woman.

In independent India, we have seen women becoming great leaders, activists, scientists and sportsperson

③
From
Point
①
to
③
↓
Have
clearly

despite being a traditional patriarchal society. From Indira Gandhi to Sushma Swaraj in politics, to Medha Patkar who fought for downtrodden and Tessy Thomas who is hailed as the missile woman of India, it is clear that they were may be born in a poor, unfavourable conditions, but they became inspiring women out of sheer commitment and hard work.

Explained about the women who have challenged stereotypes.

Today's woman is fighting difficult battles of political representation, economic self-sufficiency and equality of status and opportunity. The basic realization of them being an equal human and citizen needs to be established.

A woman has limitless capacities encompassing everything between courage and compassion. It is time to remove all external distortionary lenses to view them any differently. So that wherever they are born they become the best of our inspirations.

2. INDIA VS BHARAT : IS IT STILL RELEVANT?

Have
properly
opened
up
the
topic
the
introduce
it
to

India lives in different centuries at once. Even as many regions are progressing towards high technology led prosperous lives, a vast majority of Indians live with age old life styles and burdened by poverty. High disparity is glaringly evident even with a cursory glance over India. India, the progressive section is thus at a stark contrast with Bharat, the poorer and aspirational India.

The symptomatic indicator of this disparity is change in incomes, especially since liberalization of Indian economy when we started to grow at a fast pace. Becoming the envy of the world as the world's fastest growing major economy, we are failing to reconcile this growth story with sharp inequality. As per Oxfam report, 70% of growth in incomes since opening up of our economy is cornered by a mere 1% of our people.

P.T.O.

The states such as Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi and Haryana have seen high per capita income growth. Southern states have been close behind. However, central, eastern and north eastern India has lagged far behind. The states comprising of northern plains from Rajasthan and Odisha, have been called Empowered Action Group and various policies aim to bring an equitable growth in these states. Yet they are still far behind.

A clear expression of disparities lies in the migration streams. States of UP, Bihar are source of migration towards Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and southern states. Demography of "Bharat" is beyond its carrying capacity and people move towards prosperity pockets of "India" for better means of livelihood.

Some are looking for bare means of livelihood and can hardly afford to lead a fully nutritious life while others pursue a life full of modern health practices, fortified foods, nutritional supplements. Disparity in health is outrageous in India. EAG states have infant mortality of more than 45. "India" of urban and

Some inequality &

Regional inequality

both have been oppositely

Converging

Also highly-gated

- India - engaged

mainly services

- about -

prosperous life can not imagine this. That there are hundreds of mothers who die in child birth and are ^{often} unable to breastfeed their children is something we don't imagine happening in a rising global power.

While rural areas struggle to provide basic medicines and treatments in Primary Health Centres, "India" has become a successful hub of medical tourism in providing cutting edge medical technology in a host of urban medical hubs. Basic infection vaccines are unavailable and people, especially children die of ~~diarrhoea~~ diarrhoea, dengue, etc for want of clean drinking water. And then there is this world beyond our 'Bharat', where people can order and track all kinds of foods and beverages from their phones. Isn't that an unfathomable existence of disparity? But it surely exists.

With this kind of health scenario differences, expecting a healthy workforce to participate in our growth story is

over-optimistic. Apart from health, the other aspect of unequal human capital in India lies in education. Education should not create inequality but should bridge them. In our country we have a disproportionate importance given to English-speaking urban educated, while skills and talents of a simple, humble Bharatiya is valued less if he relies on vernacular language. This sharp inequality in our mindset is an impression of colonial approach. Skills, talent and employability should not be dependent on this especially in today's era of technology.

Young population has broken barriers of language and limits of a rural society to migrate to distant places in urban centres. A graphic display of India versus Bharat is visible even in these centres or islands of prosperity. Largest slums of the world sprawl in our cities. gated communities separate the high income, affluent lives from the poor and vulnerable workers who sustain those

Have
adequat
ly
highli-
ghted
the
gap
b/w
India's
relevant
in terms
of
social
services

gender
also
Qualified
in
terms of
India:
- indand-
nation
about:
collective

societies. These two sections lead a very different lives and have very different status and opportunity levels despite all of our Constitutional goals.

Living such different lives & invokes very different socio-cultural and political responses. Poor and vulnerable are more open to political populism. They have issues directly impacting their daily lives. We see that voting percentages in poorer pockets has consistently increased whereas in urban agglomerations such as Mumbai and Bangalore, voting percentage has been around 50%. Such difference in participation is also witnessed in high voter turnout among rural, women and backward section. "India" views democracy very differently whereas "Bharat" depends on it and is manipulated because of it.

Result of politics and growth has accrued in 'India' and left out "Bharat". Digital literacy is weak in most of India as we are 70% rural. These people

are more vulnerable to cyber fraud, misuse of data and even fake news. Wrong health practices and rumours have been spread out in rural regions claiming lives and causing lynching. Developed pockets, meanwhile, continue to enjoy services of these technologies.

Many people don't even have access to basic services. Red corridor states affected by left-wing extremism, have struggled to have rural roads, water, one school and any semblance of basic development. It is outrageous that even today millions in India are bonded labours as pointed out by the Slavery Index. Do we live in the same country? How can we become compatriots in true sense is an urgent question.

A lot of India's growth can be attributed ~~to~~ at the cost of Bharat. Millions of tribes have lost their livelihood and culture due to development induced displacement. Environment/disasters impact those with lowest capacities. Even pollution

levels impact the vast majority of non-affluent sections. Urban solid waste and industries have ruined clean drinking water for masses whereas the top-most of our developed population can easily install water purifiers. We can easily switch on Air Conditioners in hot weather whereas daily wage earners and migrant workers die due to increasing heat waves.

All these regional and social disparities need to be recognized proactively and appropriate policy interventions are needed for balanced regional development. While a faster growth will help, it will not be sufficient. Government needs to provide capacity enhancement and opportunities in Bharat. Doubling farmers' income, health insurance to poor, focus on under-developed states, transformational of aspirational districts and affordable housing are some relevant measures which need to be brought to

fruition.

We can not have a small section of people who live at the cutting edge of technology while the masses languish at the edge of survival. As our Prime Minister appealed to the nation, we now need to focus on only two castes - the one that is poor and the other that can bring them out of poverty. From India vs. Bharat, we must reach the India, that is Bharat.

Conclusion
11.10
done
with
the
topics

65
125

* Essay has been well-structured, and written in a fluent language.

- * Need to mention the reason for the gap.
- * Also suggest concrete steps for bridging the gap.
- * Highlight also how India & Bharat can learn from each other.

→ Rank
①

--

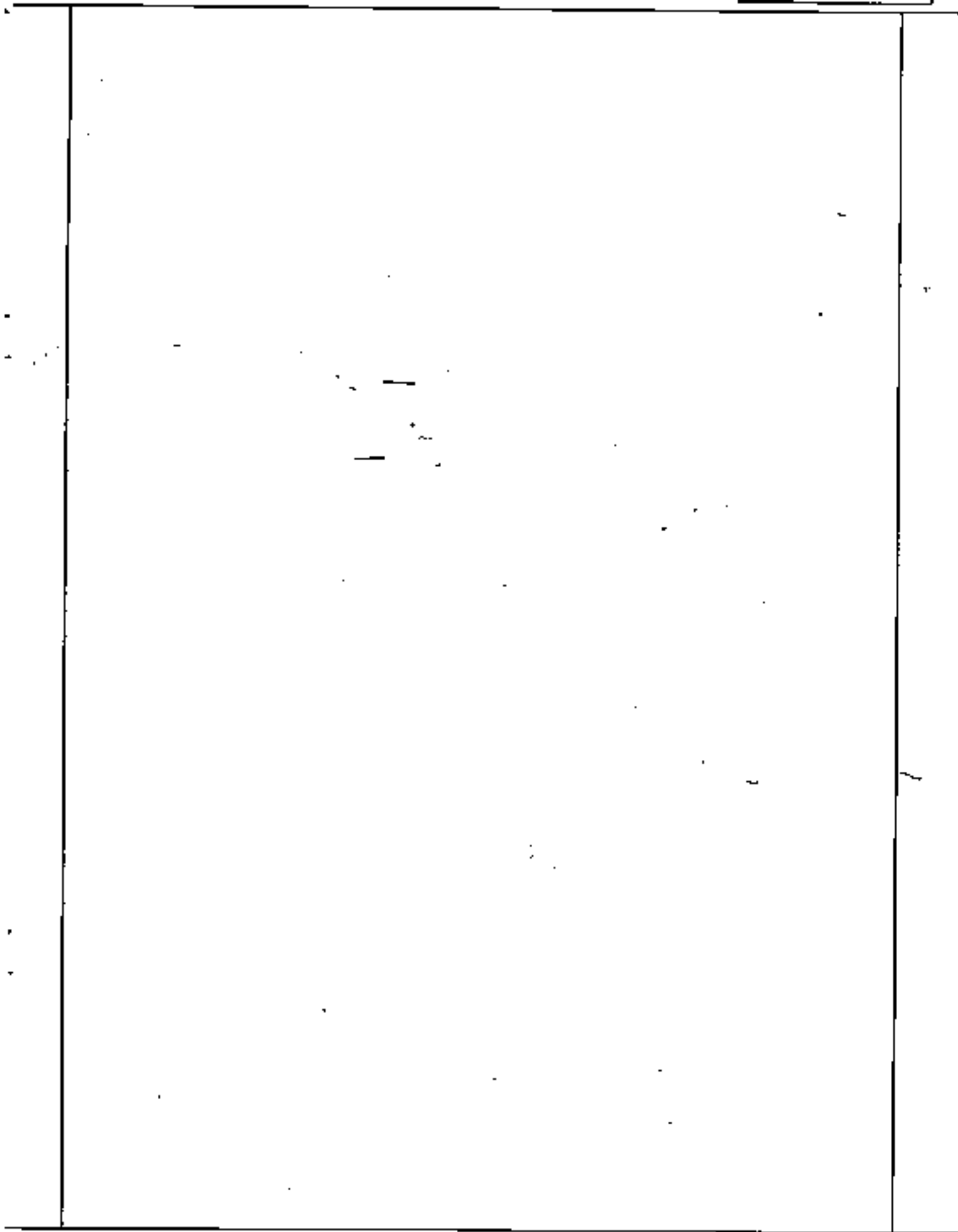
Remarks

7

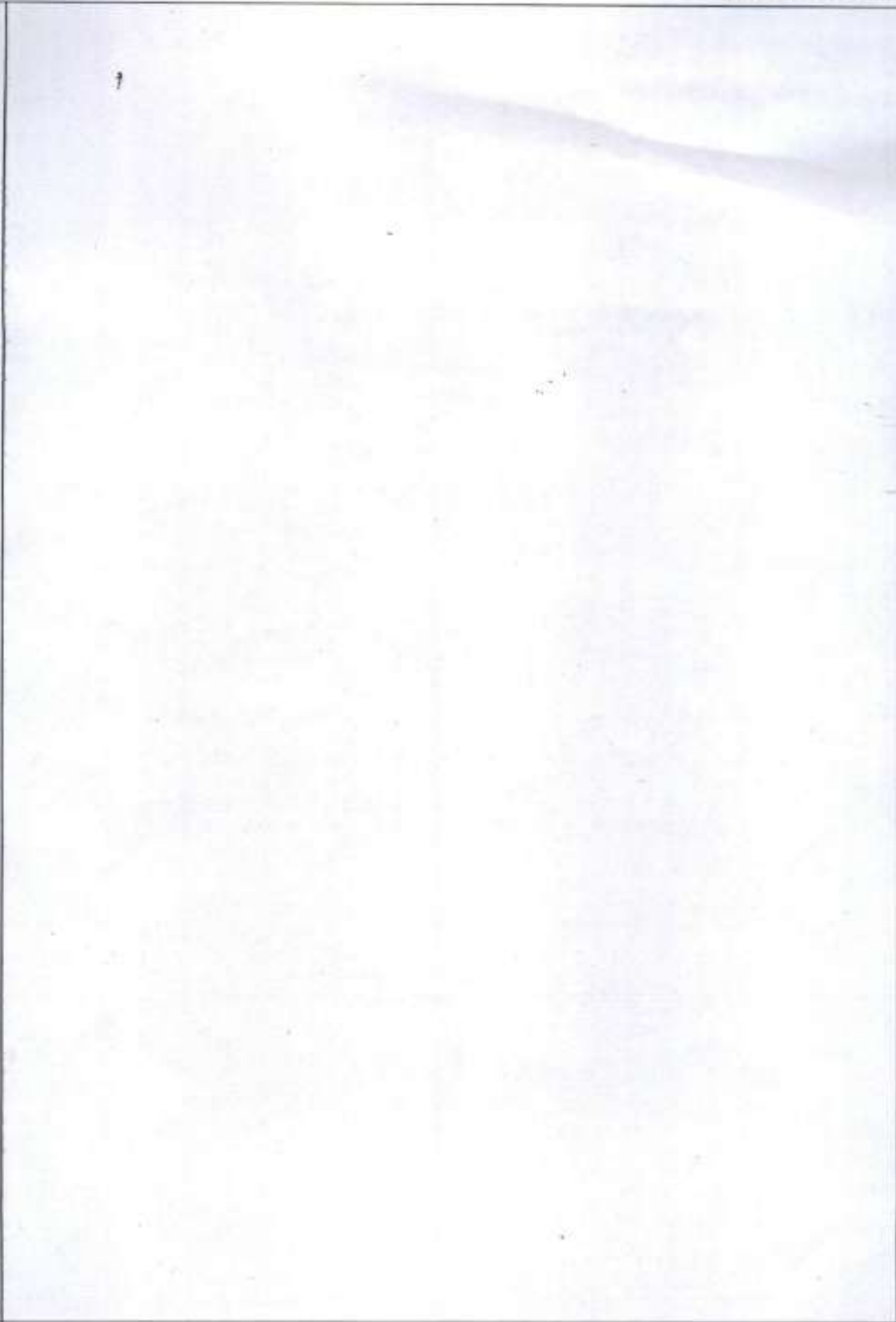
1

--	--

Remarks



Remarks



Essay

2

64

125

* Have properly written the essay → with clear line of argumentation

* However need to include the following -

- Distinction b/w sex & Gender should be mentioned for highlighting ^{the role of society}
- Provide suggestions for improving women condition.