

खण्ड—A / SECTION—A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाशिए में नहीं
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- ✓ 1. Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.
2. There is no path to happiness: happiness is the path.
3. Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution.
4. So long as you do not achieve social liberty, whatever freedom is provided by the law is of no avail to you.

1. Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.

Yuval Noah Harari in his book "The Sapiens"

traced one distinct moment in human evolution

200 million years ago. At this moment

human brain grew bigger and led to

emergence of consciousness. He called this

breakthrough moment as cognitive revolution.

Humans are distinct from other species in not only quantitative aspect of brain observable through higher brain to body ratio but also the unique ability of consciousness belonging to mind. The cultivation of mind has brought us where we are today and depending on how we cultivate it hereon would shape our future.

In this essay we would discuss what do we mean by cultivation of mind, in what different dimensions it can be done, and how it relates to aim of human existence.

The question delved into by philosophers of all ages like Plato, Socrates to authors

like Paulo Coelho is what is human existence. one common running thread among their philosophies is that it is not merely determined by the basal instincts but rather to a great extent guided by our ability to think.

This ability to think has brought out value system comprising of love, compassion and governability among other. It is the source of our social system, our economic organization as well as our political identity.

Therefore how we cultivate our mind is intrinsically linked with our past, present and future and our existence.

this cultivation of mind, as seen earlier, is composed of different dimensions.

for example the social mind cultivation would enable us to bring equality and social justice in the society. It will counter the feelings of racism, gender crimes and ethnic antagonism. the shining examples set by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Savitri Bai Phule & in present times Kailash Satyarthi are noteworthy.

Similarly, the cultivation of political mind is equally important for our existence. the efforts of ~~Baba Sa~~ Dr Ambedkar in securing equality of all

citizen, constituent assembly debates
culminating into affirmative actions for
vulnerable sections of society have shaped
our mind. This shaping of mind provided
dignified human existence to previously
oppressed & marginalised sections.

Economic mind cultivation too
is central for human existence. 'Amartya
Sen' in his theory of justice propounded
distributive justice and capability approach.

Similar compassionate approach is enshrined
in Ashoka's pillar & Gandhi's vision of
village based economy. The mind when
such cultivated values others wellbeing

and acts as an antidote to the inequality (Oxfam $\rightarrow$ 1% hold 60% wealth). Thus, it makes us human & should be our ultimate aim.

On the similar note a rational & scientific mind cultivation shall also be aim of human existence. It is ingrained in epics like Lalavati & Aryabhatiya, propagated by leaders such as Vivekananda and forms part of fundamental duties (Article 51A) in our constitution. It promotes on one hand innovation which is central to fight danger such as poverty & hunger (e.g. green revolution), ensures equitable distribution (e.g. DBT) and promotes agency.

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Capabilities (e.g. Digital Education)

there are equally important dimensions of mind that need cultivation such as strategic mind, compassionate mind, progressive mind and constructive mind.

The cultivation of these is equally important aim for human existence for example Sun Tzu in "Art of War" propounds necessity of

strategic mind for preservation of nation,

compassionate mind of Matoka Yoshitaka

was given due recognition through Nobel Award for Peace. Equally important is

progressive & constructive mind to enable

us to recognise faultlines in our existing understanding and take reformative actions.

for example Angulimal identified sin in his violent path, Socrates put forward that Earth is ground despite criticism and Land reforms to break away from the past of Zamindari feudalism.

But the cultivation of mind is not without challenges. The cultivation done so far has also caused social issues such as feeling of individuality, anxiety and loneliness. A report of Ministry of Social Justice highlights neglect of elderly, youth delinquencies and drug abuse are arising due to change in outlook of

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people.

The problem in economic sphere sees as zero sum approach characterised by hoarding, concentration of wealth, capitalistic exploitation and attention based economy (e.g. social media). It directly goes against what Gandhi ji has envisioned when he remarked "there is enough for everyone's need but not for greed."

Similarly, the human existence is negatively affected when political mind is seeded with hate for other communities, pitting one against other and leading to communal violence.

Thus far we have seen how cultivating mind in different arenas such as

Social, political, economic, scientific and strategic among others is central to human existence. We have also seen merely cultivation may not be sufficient as there is uncertainty where it would lead to.

In this view, the cultivation of mind should be guided by the human values and its intent & objective. As said by Aurobindo Ghosh "human mind is like a blank slate - we can make him either of saint or devil". Therefore the input of this cultivation shall have seeds of well being of everyone, fertilizer of truth & honesty, pesticides of compassion &

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tolerance to counter hatred & ill will and ample supply of oxygen of ethics.

It is said "we become what we think" & therefore cultivation of mind is ultimate aim of human existence. It shapes both our qualities such as physical surroundings as well as imagined qualities such as belief and emotions such as joy, happiness. In our case, such cultivation would nurture 1.35 billion plants helping them become strong trees in the beautiful forest of India.

खण्ड—B / SECTION—B

- ✓ 5. Technology as an enduring solution for distress of rural India.
6. Need of the hour is to act against climate change.
7. An economy driven by markets can not bring an inclusive growth.
8. Indian culture as a guide for aspirations of New India.

Charles Metcalfe called Indian villages as "village republics" due to their perceived isolation and self sufficiency. Colonial administrator subscribed this view & left the villages aside in distributing the resources and as a consequence of that rural economy collapsed in between 18th and 19th century. Later, this view was debunked with emergence of "Rural Cosmopolitan" analogy.

which meant villages are equally connected with other villages and urban centres. The above narration of colonial administration was the beginning of distress in rural India which despite number of programmes still exists.

Rural India is home to 70% of population (Census 2011) that contributes ~ 20% to GDP (Economic Survey 2018). Despite being recognised as engine of Indian growth story it is facing distress such as low productivity in agriculture, unemployment and disguised unemployment, Rural-urban divide in income, gender divide, socioeconomic backwardness among others.

In this essay we would discuss

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how technology could be enduring solution for the distress of rural India.

Rural India is characterised by economy based in Agriculture along with animal husbandry and small scale industries. The first wave of rural India transformation started in 1960s through Green Revolution which employed technological interventions such as high yield varieties seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. The result was rural India not only became self sufficient in food but became food bowl for world within two decades.

Intervention on the similar lines such as operation flood utilising Artificial

insemination & sex sorted semen use allowed
increase in rural income & making India
largest producer of milk (Agri Survey 2016).

Blue revolution too was shaped by the
technological innovation such as technology of
controlled breeding, ~~temperature control~~ and
medicines for disease control.

through these primary steps the
distress in rural India was reduced but at the
same time the per capita incomes of rural India
were far behind compared to urban India. the

LPG reforms were ~~not~~ double whammies

for it as along with reduced government
spending on agriculture it now also had to
face global competition. As a consequence
of which, on one hand India overcame Hindu
rate of growth as a whole due to emergence

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of strong service sector but Rural India stayed stuck where it was.

The above factors compelled the start of rejuvenated efforts to counter rural distress. Dalwai Committee for this suggested doubling farmer's income by 2022 by employing technological innovations.

At present in agriculture at input stage soil testing for gauging the need of required nutrients, Hybrid & Genetically modified seeds and improved quality of fertilisers and pesticides are used. During cultivation, micro irrigation, solar pumps, drone based fertilizer sprinkling is used. At harvest stage combine harvester, transportation vehicles

are employed. these measures have reduced
need of labour, increased resilience of
crops and raised rural incomes.

Similarly the financial inclusion
initiatives such as Jan Dhan, Aadhar &
mobile (JAM) triplets was employed to
directly transfer the wages, subsidy and
income support to rural economy which
stopped diversion of fund (According to Economic
Survey 1.7 lakh crore rupee reached their intended
beneficiary due to JAM which would have
been diverted by middlemen).

the transparency and efficiency
through technological efficiency further increased
rural incomes. for example MGNREGS assets
were geotagged from 2017 to ensure the

work is undertaken & wages are paid. Satellite observation used to settle claims under Fasal Bima Yojna.

Similarly equitable and inclusive social development technology has proved very effective. The persistent deficit in education & skill is filled through use of online education (Pragya guidelines) and skilling through online vocational learning programmes (MOOC courses). For health the Aadhar linked tokenisation of currency which would be person specific and purpose specific would be rolled out next year further, increased banking growth through use of mobile banking, online banking, Rupay

* UPI has allowed rural population to get free from falling into trap of institutional lenders.

Further, technology has facilitated filling up of gender divide through education, & awareness programmes, incentives such as Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna & girl scholarships. It has also filled grew-urban divide by market connectivity through internet (e. NAM) and food processing industries in rural areas.

Therefore, so far we have seen that due to technological interventions rural distress was solved to a great extent and provides promise for future.

But technology in itself is neutral. It is like a double edged sword therefore it has also caused stagnation of rural economy as more jobs are created in the service sector and for that rural India do not have adequate skills & education. It led to mass migration of rural folk to urban centres where they work in low wage works and live in substandard conditions. As a consequence of this feminization of agriculture was observed (Economic Survey 2018) and women suffered under dual burden (both house & field). The sex selective technologies caused rural sex ratio to fall.

In addition to this, technology

alone can not be an enduring solution until the structural problems are addressed holistically.

According to Budget 2020, the general expenditure

component of fiscal spending is around 70%

leaving little room to create assets such as schools, hospitals and irrigation infrastructure.

Further, the vote based approach is only a

temporary solution which follows election to

election cycle (e.g. loan waiver) but the

final solution would be capabilities and

agency building (Amantra Sen). for this

technology would be like a boon. the new

breakthrough technologies such as big data,

neural networks, block chain along with

improved water harvesting techniques are

highly relevant for alleviating their desperate
distress.

India has enormous technological capabilities
(largest export revenue through this) and it
has several areas where it can offer robust
lasting solutions. If the two gets married,
India would become the shining golden bird
again it has been historically.