

खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना पना है।
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- Q1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।
- Q2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।
- Q3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।
- Q4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

Reason has always existed,
but not always in a
reasonable form

It was the era of 1900s. People
with black skin colour were thought to
be at the lower rung of evolution. They
were thought to have lower intelligence
quotient, thus they were only allowed
menial job.

Even interracial marriage
was forbidden as it was presumed
that the offspring born out of it
would be of lower quality. There was
open discrimination against black
people in public places.

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Was reason completely non-existent during that time? No, racial discrimination was justified based on scientific evidence. Based on skull shape and size, it was proved that negro people had lower intelligence.

Was this reason reasonable? No, later researches found out the argument to be completely baseless. The recent Human Genome project upholds 99.99% of the human genes across the world to be similar, thus completely refuting the earlier claims.

This shows how reasons although unreasonable has always existed, however most of the time these unreasonable reasons are countered with proper scientific evidence, data, rational arguments, thus leading to natural death of unreasonable reasons.

Let us explore more on why unreasonable reasons persists and what can be done to remove them.

DECONSTRUCTING REASON

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The only thing that distinguishes man from animal is the man's ability to reason. Being gifted with the most sophisticated tool of brain, man is able to produce reason for most of his action. But what exactly is reason?

Reason refers to the ability to provide justification for every action with proper arguments. For instance, to discriminate against Jews Hitler gave the argument that they were antinationalists and they collaborated with the British government against the German empire during world war I.

Are these reasons always reasonable? Though arguments are provided to justify reasons, many times these arguments are baseless and based on preconceived notions, prejudices and stereotypes of man. These arguments are mostly based on subjective perception of reality, thus prone to error.

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EXISTENCE OF UNREASONABLE REASON ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

Since the birth of man, to understand the world better, man started reasoning, no matter how unreasonable they are.

For instance it was widely believed that the sun revolves around the earth and the earth is flat. Even though Galileo gave the heliocentric model, his theory was rejected and he was punished for trying to impinge upon the authority of church.

Coming fast forward to modern times we can also see existence of certain unreasonable reasons. To illustrate, till now caste consciousness prevails in India. The doctrine of Karma is given as reason to justify it. It is argued that those who did bad Karma are born in so called lower caste despite being completely

baseless, caste has become a part and parcel of everyday life of Indians.

Similarly, till now women are considered to be the second sex, who should ^{remain} subordinate to man and do nothing, but obey their command.

To justify this, it is argued nature has biologically created woman to nurture child and do domestic work.

Despite being completely unreasonable, these reasons have penetrated deep into the subconscious mind of man and account for the current ongoing discrimination against woman. What

is the reason for existence of such unreasonable reason across time and space?

To begin with, reasons are given to justify the existing stratification and maintain status quo in society.

The rich and powerful give unreasonable reasons to justify their exploitation against the poor and the vulnerable.

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To substantiate, Britishers gave the reason that it was white man's burden to civilize the barbaric in order to justify their colonization in India.

Similarly, to rule over people, the monarchs gave the reason that it was Gods' will. This made the subject obedient and subservient to them.

Secondly, in this cosmological world, when man fall short of logical explanation, ~~He~~ ^{we} resorts to unreasonable explanation and reasons to justify the day to day events.

To illustrate, if suddenly one falls ~~was~~ ill for no reason, it is widely believed, ^{that} it could be due to black magic, sorcery or witchcraft. This leads to the persistence of existing superstitions and taboos in society.

Thirdly, man gives that reason which suits his interest best no matter how unreasonable the reasons may be.

For instance, to suit the growing demands of economy, few nations reputed the ongoing climate change giving the reason that ^{it} is unscientific.

Similarly, to satisfy the greed, the capitalist gives the reason ^{that} the market functions best when there is no government interventions. They completely ignore the need of the vulnerable sections and the requirement of a welfare state to provide for these populations.

Fourthly, man simply follows the herd and does not question the reason given by society and elite. This leads to persistence of unreasonable reason for long.

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To exemplify sati prevailed for long as no one dared to question and challenge it. However later when Raja ^{Ram} Mohan Roy questioned its unreasonability, it was removed.

Similarly in modern times, people become prone to take news and misinformation because of the lack of the ability to question and verify it.

CONSEQUENCE OF EXISTENCE OF UNREASONABLE REASON

unreasonable reason leads to discrimination like sex based discrimination, caste discrimination.

It also hinders the progress of society and man kind as a whole.

However unreasonable reasons do not last for long. Few audacious man dare to question and

challenge it, for instance Raja Ram Mohan Roy challenged Sati.

Moreover scientific data and research also rebutes many unreasonable claims. For instance, witchcraft accusation was countered in Europe by showing how illness is a result of poor biomedical health conditions. Thus the unreasonable reasons sees a natural death as the society progresses. But how to ~~stop~~ counter the existence of these unreasonable reason.

LET THE REASONABLE REASON PREVAIL
OVER UNREASONABLE REASON

At an individual level, we should not accept any reason at the base of it. We should question and only accept it if we find it rational and logical. For instance Nelson Mandela dared to question apartheid system.

If we find any reason as unreasonable, we should not

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think of the consequence of opposing it, rather oppose it and stand for the right reason. For example Malala Yousafzai had the audacity to question the rationale of Taliban of forbidding girls' education.

ii At institutional level, we need to encourage creativity, innovation and open thinking. At school as mentioned by Margaret Mead - "students should be taught how to think and not what to think"

At national level, there should be proper social audit, regular feedback and evidence based policy making to make sure every schemes are reasonable and just.

Thus unreasonable reasons have always existed. Though time

and again they are being challenged by proper rational reasons.

To conclude

~ We need more individuals like Rosa Park, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai who could challenge the current existence of unreasonable reasons leading to economic exploitation, sex based discrimination, caste based discrimination etc. This would result in the creation of a world -

" where no one are discriminated based on gender, caste, sex, colour where everyone's rights are equally respected and everyone's dignity is held high".

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Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।

Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।

Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।

Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

What

There is more ^{to} life than
simply increasing its speed

"What is life's ^{life} ~~but~~, full of care
no time to watch and stare
No time to stare at nature's beauty
No time to wonder at nature's awe"

The above stanza reflects the
current modern rat race where
everyone has become extremely
busy with their life, leaving them
with no leisure time to wonder
at god's creation.

Is this what life is of?
Or? Is life all about a race and
completing the race as quickly as

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possible? or there is something more to life? lets' explore.

Life is ^{much} more than just increasing the pace; rather it is about enjoying each and every moment; finding ones' true passion and striving for it.

very just increasing speed is not life

Increasing lifes' speed means wanting quick result and output. This leads one to think just about the end result without being concerned about the mean.

As a consequence of this, there is more anxiety, stress and tension level. Also to get quick result one may adopt unfair and unscrupulous means.

To illustrate, we all know the story of Hare and

Mehta, who in order to make quick bucks manipulated the stock market. He might have increased his speed of making money, but he completely missed on what life is all about.

Also when we are focused on just increasing life's speed, we forget to self introspect and look within ourselves. This makes us follow the crowd, averse us from taking any risk. We forget to bind and attain our true potential. To illustrate -

"Two paths diverged in a wood
And sorry I could not travel both
I took the one that was less travelled by
and that has made all the
difference"

In the above stanza of Read Not
Taken by Robert Frost, could he

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make
~~make~~ all the difference if he
would have just focused on
increasing life's speed. If he
would have just ~~followed~~
focused on increasing life's speed,
he would have chosen the path
that was more travelled by - thus
ailing to make the difference.

Moreover, focusing on
increasing life's speed makes us
forget ~~and~~ about the present moment.
As a result we miss out on the
present moment and fail to
enjoy it.

For instance, if a student
is just focused on increasing
life's pace and clearing the exams,
he fails to enjoy the present
moment of gaining knowledge.

Applying these principles to a nation, when a nation is just focused on increasing economic growth (economic side), it misses out on sustainable and inclusive development

To substantiate, the recent Oxfam report highlights in India's Bottom 50% own just 6% of the national property. Similarly, in a race to boost GDP, we have relentlessly exploited our environment; which has led to extinction of many species.

likewise increasing the pace of passing any bill, may prevent its acceptance among masses and some important issues might be missed. In the similar manner;

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if a country just focuses on increasing its hard power, it may be unsustainable in the long run.

For example China's debt trap diplomacy is unsustainable in the long run; just as Russia's focus on hardpower and war is.

likewise, if scientific discoveries processes are quicker, we might not get the desired result. After all patience is the biggest virtue.

Could Thomas Alva Edison discover the bulb had he just focused on increasing his pace of discovery? Obviously, No. He focused on learning from each failure and persevered in

He's 1000th key he's covered the light bulb.

Having seen that life is not all about increasing speed, let us see what life is then all about.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT

To begin ~~it~~ with, life is about the transformation from a normal biological human being to a virtuous human being. This is indeed a long journey that requires patience, virtue, self-determination.

For instance, we ^{can} take lesson from Nelson Mandela's life who raised his voice against apartheid. He was not frightened by 27 years of prison. Did this ^{truly} slow his life? No, he bought for the cause that he believed in.

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Life is all about living in the present and being happy and contented. One should always laugh and be merry as life's length is short, as short as span of a thread.

Also as mentioned by Nelson Mandela life is not about how long we live, rather it is about the difference that we have made to the life of others.

For instance, Nauroti Devi fought for the rights of the woman workers and made difference in their life. Similarly Abraham Lincoln fought against slavery and brought difference in the life of slaves. They had understood what life is

really about.

Moreover, life is about binding your passion and striving to achieve it. A fast paced life may miss out on binding the real passion. For example, Dhoni found his passion in cricket and strived for excellence in this life.

Having understood what life is all about, the most important question is how to live such a life.

Living such a life requires inner self awareness and introspection to bind ones' real potential and passion.

Also to live a meaningful life one should take lessons from life of great leaders like Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and learn from their life virtues of patience, courage, service to mankind, determination.

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Finally we can say that life is not just about quickly winning the race, rather it's living at the present, serving others, enjoying God's creation, upholding right values etc.

To conclude, we all should take a pause from the current rat race we are in and wonder Are we really happy? Is my life making any difference to others? From our inner conscience we will find our answer, which will enable us to really understand what life; "the most precious gift of God" is all about.