



**An Institute for Civil Services**

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**IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

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**AIR - 306**  
**(CSE 2022)**

**ESSAY**

CHARACTER CAN NOT BE DEVELOPED IN

Trial Version



Wondershare  
PDFelement

QUIET; ONLY THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF TRIAL &

SUFFERING CAN THE SOUL BE STRENGTHENED.

ESSAY 1 → 54

ESSAY 2 → 56

"शीलं परमं भूषणम्"

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you have  
decent  
articulation  
skills.

'Character is the utmost virtue.' This statement

However  
try to

defines the importance of character as the most

include  
diversity  
in  
arguments

important jewel of a human's soul. Character

is manifestation of the beliefs, ideologies, thoughts,

also  
avoid  
inclusion  
of  
too  
common ideas

attitude etc. of an individual. It is the

reflection of the inner core of an individual.

Character may be good or bad; innate or  
acquired; it all depends upon the virtues

or qualities that makes up one's character.

which is  
written by all

Developing character requires experience  
of trial and suffering, never giving up attitude.

It is not easy to develop a character that is  
based on crowning virtues of tolerance, openness,

Explain why is it difficult to develop virtuous character. Discuss what hinders in the development of such a character.





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integrity, honesty, empathy & so on. Only the individual capable of toiling, ~~and~~ develop a character revered by all. 'How a piece of coal undergoes <sup>under</sup> immense pressure and heat to become a diamond which is desired by all; similarly a character is developed under sacrifice, desire to change and learn. No character can be developed in ease or quiet.

What is the role of pressure in developing one's character. Discuss in light of the given analogy of coal and pressure.

Now, let us talk about some examples about how people fought with the ills of life to develop a character based on good virtues. How they strengthened their soul through experience of trial and suffering. King Ashoka or Dhamma Ashoka after having seen bloodshed and loss of lives in Kalinga war resorted to non-violence policy. This transformation from Chander Ashoka to Dhamma Ashoka, was not an easy one but came at the cost of losing lives of people, wealth etc.

While discussing about Ashoka and Reformation in his character, please explain what aspect of trial and suffering did he undergo. It's unclear what struggles did he have to face in order to form his character.

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No character is developed without a strong will to change and grow. Like Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of our nation who led our nation to the path of freedom had to take the blows of Britishers for that. His character was defined by virtue of truth, non-violence, nation before self. Despite innumerable times he had to go to jails, take the blows of Britishers, fasts unto death; he did not change his character and that is why he is called 'Father of our Nation'.

Thomas Alva Edison, who failed 1000 times while developing a bulb is respected for his never giving up character. He said, 'I did not fail, I developed 1000 ways that won't work'. His character & his never giving up attitude were the experiences of his trial & sufferings which strengthened the desire of inventing the bulb, which he finally did.

Present some personal episodes of struggles and suffering from the life of Gandhiji and then showcase how did those episode helped in shaping his character. Specific details are needed.





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In the present era of climate change, global warming; every nation is concerned about its own development even if it is at the cost of others i.e. Pareto optimality. We still have examples of people who rise above this narrow mindedness and developed a character of responsibility towards environment. like Greta Thunberg, who is leading 'Friday's for future movement'; Sundulal Bahuguna, who Amrita Devi Bishnoi & so on.

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We have many examples of people who rose from and against ills of society like poverty, racism etc. Nelson Mandela is a very fine example of how a strong character can fight against an established order of society, if it is unjust. He fought against Apartheid in South Africa only to become the first black president of South Africa.

You have mentioned many personalities but their trials and sufferings needs greater detailing. Specific details about their troubles needs mention



But not all characters that  
through trials, through experience are good. Like  
Hitler who was responsible for holocaust in  
Germany which killed thousands of innocent  
peoples. Despite being the leader of the nation, whose  
character demanded protection of lives, he chose the  
other path to showcase his authority. This led to  
Hitler despite being a strong ~~personality~~, taken  
in negative light.

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Only developing a good character is  
not sufficient. Essential is to sustain the  
goodness in the character. Osama bin Laden;  
an engineer & Abul-fakr Al-Baghdadi (ISIS chief)  
who was a teacher despite being such learned  
personalities, they could not sustain the positives  
that education taught them. And, hence became  
characters that we know today i.e. terrorists  
who claimed lives of ~~lots of~~ innocent people  
or ruined the social fabric and democratic  
functioning of the countries worldwide.

~~But I don't know about it~~







The sufferings of people is enhanced by evils of dishonesty & corruption that is eating up the integral character of our society. Corruption is mining the social & just equilibrium of ~~the~~ our society. Xenophobic sentiments among people leading to refugee crisis shows the increasing suffering of the refugees and declining character virtue of Varudhira Kutumbkam.

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Character can not be developed in ease and quiet. It needs a lot of patience, suffering, hard work, will power and ability to resist evils & ills of human character. No character that is respected developed in an easy way. It took toils of suffering, years of experience, innumerable trials and the will to fight the bad to become ~~a~~ <sup>towards others</sup> soul that is pure, selfless, honest, tolerant, and compassionate towards suffering of others.

Discuss the various downsides of ease and comfort.. Why does it hinder in the character development.





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Our family, teachers, & society play a critical role in development of our character.

Family is the first agent of socialisation that helps in building of our character through lessons & experience. Our teachers show us the right path, become our guiding light to help us differentiate between right or wrong, good or bad. The experiences of elders of our family, our teachers can make it easy for us to learn and <sup>become</sup> develop a soul of good character.

Religion, among others plays a very important role in defining the virtues of our character. Like Jainism teaches us about virtue of Anekantvada i.e. there can be more than one way of looking at a thing or a problem. It makes people more acceptable of others' views.

While discussing the role of various factors in shaping characters. Also discuss how there determinants of characters are equally responsible in shaping bad character too..

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Meditation, Yoga, vipassana can be other ways of developing a good character.

Vipassana helps us introspect into our inner beings. the experiences of suffering of being alone helps us in determining our true self. It can help us to improve and strengthen the goodness in our souls.

As per a Buddhist Monk Thin chit lee if there is no mud, there will be no lotus. i.e. we have to experience the suffering of pain, and loss to experience beautiful i.e. lotus of love, honesty and a selfless soul.

Character building is not just learning good things or good virtues, rather it is implementation and sustenance of these virtues in the soul / character of a person. despite any suffering that come in our way.



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Inculcating moral and ethical values  
among individuals is very important to  
bridge the gap between good and bad characters.

Ethical Code of Conduct in an organisation  
can ensure the virtues of organisation are  
not lost.

In the international arena, for maintaining  
world order, reducing inequalities, there is  
a need for nations to move from protectionism  
to Vasudhiva Kutumbakam i.e. world is one.

It can truly be achieved by Good leaders  
with Good characters, with impartiality &  
selflessness in their functioning. A Government

that is functioning on the ideals of  
democracy & principles of liberty, equality,  
fraternity & justice can ensure full & maximum  
development of its citizens' with Good characters.

1. Engaged  
2. Wasteful  
3. Good approximation  
4. Read your again,  
5. its repetition  
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Deshbhakti curriculum, happiness  
curriculum of Delhi Government in school  
education has major emphasis on development  
of souls and character of children to become  
good human beings. This is done to instill virtues  
of patriotism, happiness, ~~selflessness~~ & so on.

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Developing characters begins from the  
time a child is born, then through experiences  
of his/her life, he becomes a person of a  
defined character. We should make sure that  
those experiences do not get converted into  
pain & sufferings. There should be enough  
opportunities for everyone to grow in the way  
they want. There can be no light without  
darkness. ~~So there is no~~ no right without wrong.  
So we have to ensure that we move from-

"Asto ma Sadgamaya  
(wrong to right)  
Tamo ma Tyotirgamaya"  
(darkness to light)



In the prism of faith, every crisis looks shallow

Mahabharata war was fought with Kauravas and their large army on one side and just five Pandavas and Krishna on the other. Despite the odds, the faith that justice will prevail and Good will always triumph over the evil led to the victory of Pandavas in this decisive war of history.

What is FAITH? A belief so strong, complete trust that whatever we hope for will eventually happen. Faith is assurance that no matter how tough the situation is we will get what we desire and need. It is faith that makes us win or lose in a situation. Faith helps us tide over crisis. It is rightly remarked as -

- "Mann Ke haare haar, Mann Ke jeete jeet"; meaning you lose, if you lose faith.

#### Remarks

In the given intro of Mahabharata reference you can also add the Krishna Arjuna dialogue where u show how Krishna instills faith in Arjuna whenever he loses his faith.

Adding the given reference would make the intro creative



Now, let us talk about what actually crisis is? A crisis is a difficult situation, a problem which demands solution. It is a situation where problems or things change either ~~to get~~ good or worse. A crisis if not solved can develop into incomprehensible struggle. However, faith can make even an unimaginable problem look smaller.

Discuss the various kinds of crisis and human responses to it. How faith would make a difference, also discuss that aspect

In this essay we shall talk about how ~~can we develop~~ has faith led to solving big problems and challenges of life. We shall try to analyse it from both historical & contemporary perspectives. Then we shall talk about how not just faith but action is also required to solve a crisis. How can crisis of faith can make even smaller problems bigger and in the end we shall see how faith can be cultivated.

Remarks



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Faith develops right from the childhood. A child cries when he is hungry or wants something. He cries in faith that ~~wherever~~ listening to it, his mother will fulfill his wish. This leap of faith on his mother, helps him solve the crisis of life. Likewise, as adults we have faith that no matter how bad the situation is, our family will stand by us. This faith we get from trust, love and support of our family.

Bhagavad Gita talks about NishKarma  
Karma i.e. doing your part without thinking of the results. The faith that if your efforts are true and you are doing the ~~right~~ thing, the almighty is there for you. When one thinks about the results, his faith begins to wobble which leads to him getting trapped into never ending spiral of problems.

Remarks





Freedom for India was a distant dream until our leaders situated their faith in the Capacity of the masses and ideals of truth and non-violence. This faith laid ~~the~~ path of freedom for India, where Indians stood against the atrocious Britishers to finally constitute India into independent, sovereign and democratic republic.

Our <sup>former</sup> Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, ~~No matter how~~ during cold war crisis, stood by the faith in principles of Non-alignment. No matter how worse the situation got, our foreign policy has always been about principles of peaceful coexistence and non-interference in other's internal matter. This faith in ideals of panchshel helped us tide over difficult situations in world order and made India a strong nation in the global world.

Remarks



In his book Man's Search for meaning, Viktor Frankl talks about his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi Germany's concentration camps. He tells about how horrific and terrible was the life in those camps and how he survived that. He imagined positive outcomes and that immense faith on his imagination helped him survive even those disastrous times.

In 1999, Kargil war was fought. The situations were grave; shortage of arms and soldiers, food shortages among citizens, inflation. But the faith in the capacity of our army, our Government, India got through with the war. Even in the crisis where nothing felt right, we emerged victorious. Our faith in the democratic ideals helped us tide over Constitutional crisis that emerged just after independence or even in 1970's. It is faith that can help to look crisis in a different manner.

Along with the mentioned instances of faith. Explain how the faith was kindled, and how did it help create a difference.

Why others didn't possess the same faith and only few showcase this ability. Also discuss how having faith helps in dealing with crisis situations

Remarks





An economic crisis, popularly 'known by' 2008  
Global financial crisis shook the economic systems  
of the world to the core. All economies went into  
depression but India was the least affected. The  
RBI's policies and actions prevented India from  
getting trapped in the crisis. Faith in the capacity  
of our economists, resistance and resilience of our  
economy helped.

The whole world is facing a health  
crisis in the form of COVID-19 pandemic. This  
crisis situation could not have been controlled, had  
the world not united against it. People showed  
faith in doctors, our frontline workers, our administration  
that together they can get through this. We  
could win this war because we fought united, we  
fought collectively against the deadly disease.  
Again, "faith wins above all".

Discuss the various manifestations of faith.. How was faith showcased should be discussed.  
Also discuss whether having faith has always yielded results or there were no positive  
outcomes despite having high faith and beliefs

Remarks



However, faith is not only in thoughts but also in actions. A crisis situation can't be solved just by having faith. Faith can look it smaller and shallow but without actions we can not come out of a crisis. No situation can be solved just by thinking that it will be solved. Rather actions are needed to come out of a crisis which is the actual reality.

The world today is under the grips of climate crisis - global warnings, extinction of biodiversity, drying up water bodies. We can't just have faith that things will get better and keep on going our old ways of using fossil fuels, deforestation, creating wastelands.

Actions are needed to control this emergency. Efforts to stop land degradation, temperatures to rise further, flora and fauna to ~~extinct~~ extinct further. Forums like UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNEP are helping us to keep faith that things will get better along with actions to curb it.

*I take your argument to heart. Thank you!*



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Another manifestation of how actions are must to solve an emergency crisis is Ukraine-Russian Conflict. The countries across the world are worried about the repercussions that this conflict has caused, rising fuel prices, energy shortages etc. Countries are situating their faith in diplomacy to solve the crisis. But without actively persuading and looking for solutions, things might not work out and yield desired results.

China's debt trap diplomacy in Indo-Pacific region through One Belt-One Road initiative has caused worries for India and other Indo-Pacific countries. This has put maritime security of Indo-Pacific in danger. But the governments of Indo-Pacific region are taking steps to counter growing influence of China in the region. Initiatives like QUAD Summit, defence exercises like MILAN, Neighbourhood first policy along with faith in the principles of our foreign policy & Vasudhiva Kutumbham.

Emergence of domestic could have been better



Positive outlook & positive imagination are the keys to develop faith. Faith helps us in increasing will power to solve a crisis or problem. Unity and Collectivism can help in building faith in difficult situations. Efforts should be taken to develop confidence and optimism in an individual. Because optimism is must to find faith.

We should make sure that crisis of faith does not develop into crisis of faith. It can lead to make even smaller issues look bigger. This crisis of faith in difficult times can lead to losing of individuals' <sup>values</sup>. Crisis of Conscience can lead to person doing wrong acts like committing crimes, corruption. Faith in one's values, one's beliefs should not be deterred. Because it is our values and beliefs that makes us and our faith stems from them.

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do  
people  
lose  
faith  
what  
leads to  
its  
crises.

Remarks





Faith stands on having belief on one's potential, hardwork & will power. It can be cultivated by accepting one's feelings, emotions, lessons & experiences. Faith on self helps in finding oneself and not lose one's character even in worse situations.

Faith on our family, our teachers has been central to the solving of any crisis. Like how Arjun had immense faith on Krishna, on his intentions; that he was ready to fight against his own relatives. It was this faith that Good will always triumph over evil, that he was able to win the war and established a just order in society. The following quote is relevant here from the poem 'Ode to the west wind' -

"O wind, if winter comes,  
Can Spring be far behind."

Meaning - with every problem comes a solution, we should have faith in our capacity, that we will find it.

### Remarks

Also discuss a counter perspective where downside of excessive faith is shown.  
Also discuss the harms of blind faith.  
Also discuss the faith on oneself vs other external agents.