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AIR 154 CSE
2023

ESSAY

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ESSAY-①

Life should always be at the top of our agenda ~~not~~
not just success.

As I left my school hostel after 6 years,
tears rolled down my eye and I went on
the road to the memory lanes. That place
was so full of life, where we were just
busy making memories, not one was bothered
about what stands next and we were
always there for each other.

Use of relevant anecdote to open essay
When I reached home I was welcomed by
my 4-yr old niece, dressed up in mud
digging with her broken tooth smile.
She was looking most beautiful not
because of her appearance but her innocence
which she lacked. The kid had no
worries about future and she was just
keen on enjoying her present.

The above two anecdotes underline the
fulfillment and joyous living that is
more important than whether you
succeed in life or not.

Avoid is just
writing
person
tell
necessary
incorporate
an
important
writing
style

What is life? It is merely breathing in
and out or has some other deeper
meaning.

For me life is about the experience we have
and how we cherish them. It is the
values, interactions with the outside
world that makes life meaningful.

Avoid generalisations
Ancient civilisations were so beautifully
surrounded by life with the values of
coexistence, tolerance, peace, harmony.

where everyone was free to develop their
own ideas without having to fear of
going on a pre-determined path of action.

The shamanic traditions that
developed Buddhism, Jainism, the Jain tradition
teachings - all showcase the importance &
centrality to life.

Life is about experimentation with self
and focusing on the journey than the
destination. Buddha evolved middle
path to enlightenment because he couldn't

find a meaningful life on stuit
asutism.

Life teaches us what measure of success is
ethical and un-ethical.

Arni premji foundation maintains
about 25,000 toilets around India under
swachh Bharat Abhiyan; this might have
not promoted the company's growth
numbers, but it certainly made a
meaning out of company's business.

Admissible
examples

Gandhi's talksman captures best the
intention of life. "when i doubt look
at the most vulnerable man and think
whether my action would be of any
benefit to him". centrality to human
well being, mutual co-existence is the
ultimate goal to life.

well we also need to delve deeper into
what does success mean?

Success is not confined to monetary
gain or/academic achievements.

Could try answering how things
are before discussing how they ought
to be.

Success can be personal too as long as others are not harmed.

Success has a broader dimension than these individualistic aspects.

For a doctor success is saving a patient's life
for a teacher success is inculcating right values in their children.

Success has a humanist component in itself

In ultimate ~~success~~ sense, success is defined as when our actions start benefiting the society at large. Thus beautifully precipitating the idea that "life should always be at the top of our agenda and not success".

This
be a
tangent

This approach lies in the doctrine of 'deontology' - that gives more importance to means than the ends. Emmanuel Kant says, "Man must be treated as a ends in themselves and not just means".

Eg: It is justified to achieve profits at the cost of labour exploitation or human rights violation?

India believes in the approach of centrality to life and thus has included art 21 - Right to protection of life and personal liberty as a fundamental right.

with landmark supreme court judgements under it → MC Mehta case - Principle of absolute liability, Nauter Singh Johar - decriminalization of suicide homosexuality

This approach finds greater vocals at environmental level, where today we stand at cross-roads between development and climate change.

The adoption of Paris climate agreement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C , adoption of sustainable development goals have readjusted priority in favour of life.

The scepticism around genetically modified (GM) crops and its unwarranted impact on the environment manifests the agenda for primacy to life.

Admissibility
dimension
but
doesn't
have
success
enough

And also the growing number of forums and institutions for biodiversity conservation. All these environmental steps dictate the consequences of our focussing on material success and neglecting life; and thus reprogramming back to sustainable life systems.

Valid argument
Need to probe

materialism from an individual's point of view as well.

Materialism has crept in so much that Indian dual communities and nations have seen degradation of human values.

The rising geopolitical conflicts; nuclear and bio-warfare threats, industrial disasters manifest man's selfish interests for self-gratification.

Albert Einstein said, "I don't know with what weapons world war III will be fought but I am sure that world war IV will be with sticks and stones."

whereas India as a nation whose ancient civilisations have focused on co-existence; the national movement

Based on the values of non-violence and truth, always inspires values for life. This is well reflected in our Panchsheel policy that advocates -

- mutual respect for territorial sovereignty.

This may be acceptable if the individual experience is also discussed.

- Peaceful co-existence
- mutual non-interference
- Non-aggression
- peaceful resolution of disputes

These values have inspired India and the world to move on path to peace - with centrality to life and not just self-interested success.

The political domain is popular for its fierce battles between the ruled party and opposition. But in 1997 when BJP was in opposition, Congress PM - PV Narasimha Rao sent opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee to UN as Indian representative to reply back at Pakistan's allegations. This is the level of faith in a leader.

even when he is from opposition.

The political rivalry was set aside to give opportunity to the able member.

Coming to the contemporary times, we find greater acceptance of the concept when our estimation of poverty moved from poverty line basket based on Income to multi dimensional poverty Index giving centrality to standards of living.

Relevant
but
over-
simplified
argument

To inculcate these values and reposition our belief in humanity, there is a growing support towards value based education. In times where education has become materialistic and students Teacher Relationship turning as service provider and customer, Value Based education brings hope. Children as future of society need to learn to enjoy and value life than merely running after success.

But despite all these arguments, are there any circumstances where success matters more than life?

Yes well there are some. The 26/11 Mumbai attacks were horrifying. The trial of terrorists and their hanging was important to deter other such activities; his journey was quite to success than the terrorists life, in view of larger public interest.

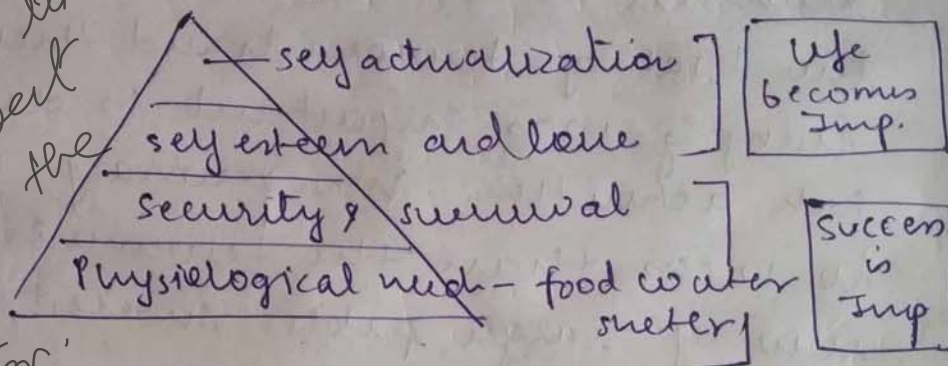
A soldier who stands day and night at border, sacrificing the comforts of life, doesn't even hesitate to lay down his life for security of nation. For him success matters more than life.

Not just limited to actual loss of life, success is important when a person is not able to even meet the basic standards of life.

Will anyone expect a poor dueller to think about enjoyment, fulfillment or want him to theme to earn more to be able to feed his family.

According to Maslow's social needs hierarchy, a person first focusses on self-fulfilment and then can think about the society

Could have spent more time on this aspect for this central question.



Maslow's hierarchy

But can't success and life be correlated?

well that's the whole idea of 21st century where we are promoting sustainable development. we need to re-caliberate our notions around what success means and how to lead our lives.

India's model of economy with mixed approach - warrants "compassionate capitalism" - capitalism at mind but socialism at heart where no one is left behind - with initiatives such

as corporate social responsibility, we aim to promote harmony between the two.

Going back to sustainable living. PM Modi in 2021 launched - "Life" movement - lifestyle for environment. which aims to promote responsible consumption rather than reduced consumption & ease the notion of contradiction between sustainable living and comfortable living.

The best manifestation of success & life co-existence is captured in

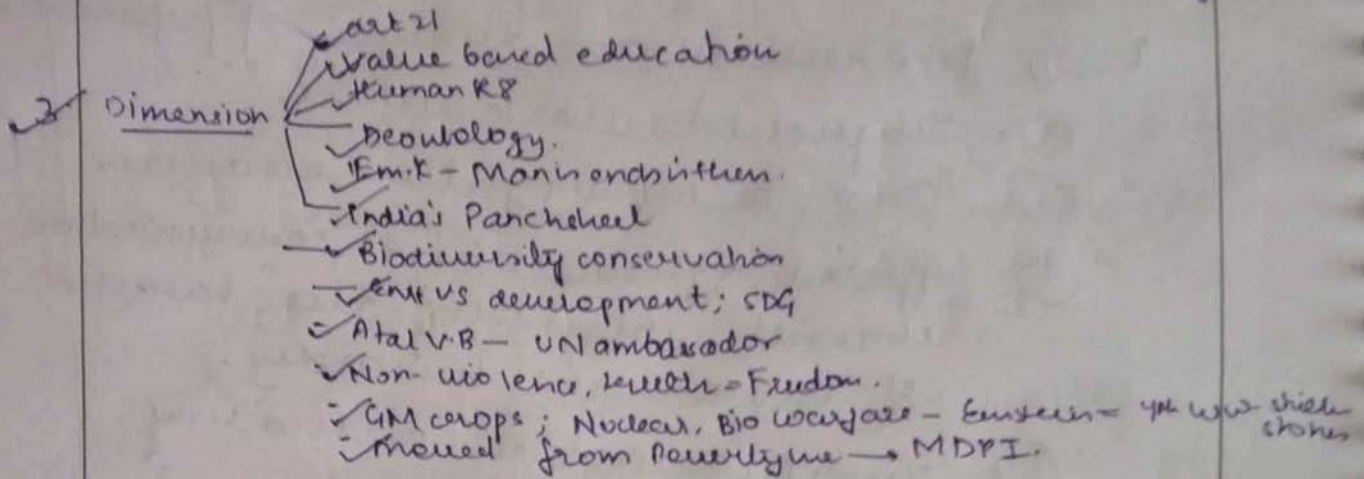
This is thought of Sayanand Saraswati.
 valid but personal → One's success should always be measured in their contribution to the happiness of others."

fulfillment, as long as other Idea of swami Vivekananda's humanism. where success comes along with a value based life. leads a ethical and is fine too.

Insufficient
 conclusion

ESSAY - (BLUEPRINT)

[Intro] Nobel laureate → Reminiscing golden times - free say.
 ↓ reached home - nerve was depressed in mind.
 - children are most happy - stress free - life > success. ^{bigged at me.}
 Imagined



2. (Q) what is success - money, soldier - saving life
 (capitalism → compassionate)

That is why doc, soldier - highly respected - life centrality
 Multitasking; say achievement

5. (Q) Can success and life be correlated.

→ compassionate capitalism, sustainable; Life.

✓ Jayanand Saraswati: Your success is measured by metrics of others' happiness.

4. where success matters but not life

→ Border protection, terrorist killing; Maslow's need hierarchy;

(1) what is life: humanity
 ↓ co-existence] ancient] - stream and trad.
 Inclusive dev] culture] upanishads.

Life is about experiment with self - focusing on Journey than destination.

- life teaches us what's ethical & unethical success.

eg: Ratan Tata . CSR

- Gandhi's Talisman.

(con) swami Vivekananda's humanism

Need to uplift people to that level success & life.

②

The biggest accident of life—death of love, hope and critical thinking.

While reading Khushwant Singh's novel - Train to Pakistan - themed around the horrors of partition, I was terrified by the amount of violence, communal riots, molestation of women, child abuse and all the vandalism that followed.

That moment felt like the death of love, hope and critical thinking.

Use of relevant anecdote to open the essay

What Gandhiji presumed for 25 years (the idea of non-violence) precipitated within a flash in the name of communal identity.

On a lighter note, my mom often instills confidence in me saying if 2 children have to cross a river with crocodiles, on a overhanging rope, the child whose parents are there cheering and motivating him will have more chances to cross safely than the child

who has no one to cheer up.

That's the power of hope. The 1st child had hope that my parents will be there to save me ^{even if} they couldn't ideally.

Humans are inherently social beings and function on the power of love, hope and critical thinking.

Socrates defined critical thinking as when an individual questions the assumptions and dogmas to arrive at their own understanding of reality.

Philosophy is what human examines within the depth of his own mind.

According to him, critical thinking promotes right knowledge which leads to the path of ultimate happiness.

However, in modern times there has been death of love, hope and

Valid
implication
of
philosophy

critical thinking with undue influence
of globalisation and materialism,
where individuals have become
self-interested narcissists. This causes
degradation of societal morals and
erosion of faith from humanity.

These 3 values are the one which distinguish
humans from animals and make
us the superior species.

They teach co-existence, mutual development,
peace and endless growth.

Why the death of these 3 ideals is
referred as "greatest death"

It is because then the individual
loses their wisdom, rationality and
compassion. They become self-centred
which causes them to move towards
things such as drugs, intoxicants leading
them into a vicious cycle of destruction.
Individual thus reaches a permanent

You're
reaching
here.

vegetative stage. This is an extreme. Could say hopelessness is not the sign of a healthy society.
These ills when exaggerated lead to increasing cases of suicides, crimes as seen nowadays. This causes societal degradation and then the society isn't bothered by corruption. Criminalization of politics, gender discrimination.

A condition where voices of the world suppress the voice of conscience.

There have been instances of rise in global terrorism with groups such as Al-Qaeda led by highly educated people. Aafia Siddique - she is a neuro-scientist who is declared as a terrorist by UN; Osama bin Laden was engineer by qualification. Why did these personalities succumb to the lower level of self. This happens when youth are radicalized, brainwashed and they lose the power of love.

hope and critical thinking and
let the humanity in them die for
some religious fundamentalist ideology.

People following cult leadership of
Babas and gurus, sees them as gods-
who actually are rapists and criminals.
These babas attract young minds, fill
them with poisonous thoughts and
degrade the society's morals.

When individuals fail to undertake
critical thinking they adopt a status-
quo approach. They feel happy the
way they are - no matter how ill their
conditions may be and don't make
any efforts for their betterment.
India thus suffers from "culture of
poverty" where despite the govt efforts
to provide homes and grants to poor
they rent it out or hand it off to get
money and continue with their
meagre lives.

Questionable argument

Failure of critical thinking is witnessed in
the acceptance of corruption in
bureaucracy, ~~no one questions~~, no one
tries to hold the officials accountable;
all just simply slide in the bribe to
get their work done taking corruption
as a norm.

ethics at one level start influencing
ethics at other level. when law breakers
become law makers, there prevails a

general sense of lawlessness in the society.

Despite knowing the corrupt and
criminal nature of ~~some~~ politicians, yet
they are re-elected back by the people -

this is the erosion of critical thinking
when for some feeble they trade off
their sense of peace.

Use
coming to the values of love and hope.

India is a country of diversity, which
couldn't have sustained without
the culture of love, we would today

The
ones
not
just
individuals
but
institutions
as well
better
examples

stand divided as European nations
which are based on linguistic
homogeneity - France, Spain, Germany.

Our ancient civilisation has been
able to sustain numerous centuries
because of faith in love and hope.
Generations were tolerant and accepting
of each others differences and hoped to
co-exist.

But death occurs when one community
asserts its dominance and superiority
over the other. Hate speech arises
which supreme court defined as attempt
to marginalise a individual based on
their membership to a community.

When there are reoriented attacks on
love religion, this violates the
overall peace in the system, because
an individual is not like a product
which has the properties only that of
their manufacturer. Rather humans

Relevant
could also
divides
how love
makes life
meaningful
Not all
questions
are
policy centric

evolve in their surroundings and
adopt various practices from various
communities.

The sherwani in Indian wedding is
inspired from Islamic traditions, fusion
of food culture.

so when a community is triggered, it
also raises questions on individual's say
and practices they promote. It is not
easy in country like India to separate
diversity from within an individual
and this realization requires critical
thinking to put back the notion
of love and hope.

Ashoka before Kaliga war was a
brutal expansionist who believed in
'perignosa' (conquers via war), seeing the
massacre of Kaliga war he rediscovered
the love, hope and critical thinking
to arrive to the path of cessation of
violence and movement to path of

Don't
drag
one
example

Dhammaghosha (wicked with power).
That what made him 'Ashoka the great' whose ideas of state policy are today adopted in our governance.

Realising the debilitating impact of death of love, hope and critical thinking, how does one promote these values?

Our contribution: fundamental duties, personal respect for brotherhood, abjuring violence, development of scientific temper and rationality and developing spirit of humanism.

Acceptable
Dimension

Gandhiji captured the idea of duties as -
"when you fulfill all your duties -
your rights are automatically guaranteed".

Schools promote uniforms to enable children to accept each other irrespective of differences of caste, religion & rich or poor. This promoting values of love

and respect. Critical thinking is motivated when children are appreciated for being curious, questioning the facts and developing their own understandings rather than rote learnings.

All religions promote the idea of love, tolerance, harmony, but it's our faulty interpretation that we use religion as a weapon against humanity. Proper teaching of religious ideals and values that promote secular outlook are needed.

Life is not a movie that can be rewinded, life is about moving on, accepting challenges, questioning the wrong things and promoting the good of the society and self.

I wonder if Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, MA Ranade wouldn't have noticed

Good argument

Good use
of quote
to
end the
essay.

their critical thinking on unjust
practices against women. Today I
would ^{have} been setting in a house with my
husband arranging dowry for the
marriage of our 12 year old daughter.

It is the faith in love, hope, humanity
that accelerates the civilisations
away from injustices towards a
more humane and just society.

When the power of love overcomes
the power of love of power,
the world knows peace".

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Section A

- Philosophical questions should be answered from an individual's perspective. Policy/ state/ society may be discussed after that.
- Started off well but needed to spend time on important arguments.

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↳ how success is usually seen, why life is more than quantifiable metrics, realising potential, and then how how this attitude causes harm worldwide.

Section B

- Discussed some important aspects. Could have delineated the three aspects for clarity.
- Discussed the question from the point of view of politics. Discuss personal relationships, society as well.

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