

VAJIRAM & RAVI

ESSAY PROGRAMME

Test - 2

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SUBMISSION DATE:

UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 414

Overall Performance

Essay 1

Essay 2

Evaluator Code and Signature:

Essay 1:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Essay 2:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍







HOPE IS A GOOD BREAKFAST, BUT IT IS A BAD SUPPER.

Paris Olympics, 2024 : When India was expecting its first gold, a series of unwanted and unprecedented events shattered the dreams of 140 billion hearts. Vinesh Phogat, had been disqualified for being 100 grams overweight, in her 50 kg category on the last day of the sport finals.

Vinesh had always played in her comfortable ~~sto~~ category (53kgs) however this time she chose to ~~to~~ participate in a lower category. She hoped that she would be able to maintain her weight ~~Despite~~ but on the night before, when she weighed 52 kgs, she panicked. Despite humongous efforts of the team, she couldn't even qualify. Her nutritionist feared that she ~~might~~ ^{night} ~~may~~ die of dehydration but all efforts ^{went} ~~turned~~ into vain.



On the other hand, Neeraj Chopra, had been consistent with his tactics, avoiding major risks and proficiently hardworking for his goal. He managed to secure a silver.

These two stories from the same event have a deep philosophical lesson that we can learn. That is - hope is good to start with, however ~~the~~ one can't solely rely on it especially in the last critical phases of an event.

History provides us with numerous examples ~~to~~ where relying just on hope has not yielded the desired consequences.

In this essay we shall explore ~~so~~ the applicability of this philosophy in various dimensions of human life, the importance of hope in initiation and how

it should be it can be helpful to be hopeful even in the critical phases of life.

India became the 1st country ever to land on lunar southern pole. However, it took us 2 attempts to achieve this victory. Chandrayaan 2 had algorithms that relied on ~~an~~ ^{ideal} ~~4 km x 4 km spot~~ that an ideal 4 km x 4 km spot will be available for its lunar landing. However large craters complicated the circumstances thereby failing the algorithm resulting into a crash land. Chandrayaan 3, on the other hand had a more robust algorithm with much more flexibility and adaptability to uncertain landing locations. It thus relied less on hope ~~is~~ ^{is} specially in its last critical descent phase.

In the political sphere, this thought is reflected in the 1977 election results.

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where Indira Gandhi, who ~~to~~ was quite confident of her popularity in Rae Bareilly and hoped to get reelected to the parliament as their MP, lost ~~to~~ her traditional stronghold

International diplomacy also highlights that being ~~hopeful~~ dependent on hope can push you to fall on your face. When India relied almost completely on PL480 scheme of USA in a hope that it would never be withdrawn, sanctions on India and suspension of PL480 compromised our National food security, pushing millions into famines.

Similarly, when PM Jawahar Lal Nehru taking an idealist stand, rejected the offer of UNSC permanent seat in favour of friendship with China, he hoped that Chinese wouldn't ~~retaliate~~ do anything harmful for India. It was only in 1962 when



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This hope was crushed, Aksai Chin was snatched away and subsequently claims of over other parts of India were strengthened by the Dragon.

Hope is not all bad. "Hope provides lights up the darkness in our mind, it ignites a zeal to push oneself to work even in uncertain or unfavourable circumstances" This quote by Nelson Mandela when he came out of 24 years of imprisonment exemplifies that hope is necessary to initiate anything. It becomes detrimental only when excessively relied upon.

Even in the prison or after being released, Mandela didn't stop his work against the pro anti-apartheid movement, showcasing that hope was the ~~and~~ ignitor and driver for his efforts.

Similarly it was only the hope that we will gain independence one day that

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fuelled our freedom struggle. Interestingly when we look closer, Moderates excessively relied on ^{the} hope that Britishers would grant them what they wanted. and thus were not that successful. Later leaders, especially in the Gandhian phase had hope along with consistent non cooperation or civil disobedience efforts which ultimately proved to be liberating.

Furthermore, Edward Jenner wasn't equipped with advanced scientific labs or funding, still he had hope that one day he will develop a vaccine for the disease that spoiled his facial features. His consistent work ultimately led to the discovery of small pox vaccine and the fundamental principles of vaccine development.



Having justified the

Hope is the initiator, improviser and implementor of our dreams and aspiration. It not only provides us courage to face the adverse challenges but also motivates us to overcome them. However there are certain circumstances where uncertainty is extremely high. These circumstances go beyond the reasoning ability of human mind and give rise to unpredictability. Hope is the only resort to face such situations.

Everyday stockmarkets fluctuate in red and green bars. Millions of dollars are invested by people with limited certainty. Even though people brokers/agents may apply logics to predict it, the consequences remain hazy. It is the hope that drives their success in these risky times.

As Warren Buffet says that "be hopeful, and take risks and be prepared for the worst"

Similarly till date, we do not have the technology to predict earthquakes. and 85% of the total earthquakes happen in the circum-pacific belt, Japan being a country in it. It is only the hope that no major quake will scare down its economy.

Again, when 2 equally competent teams face off in T20 worldcup, it was only the hope that kept us going, holding popcorns and biting nails in that uncertainty.

This hope is an essential emotion for human survival. In his childhood

one hopes for favourable educational / academic outcomes, in his youth he hopes for a favourable life partner and career growth

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and finally so he keeps hoping for a favourable retirement. However constant efforts in the desired direction to convert the odds in your favour. is essential for continued ~~so~~ achievements.

In this era of, where the world is everyday facing ~~the~~ ^{new} challenges, be it climate change or rising terrorism or the possibility of a nuclear war or compromised women safety. The $\&$ hope for a better future will fuel our actions in the right direction to attain a peaceful, sustainable and contented life.

The legacy of our past emphasises on that. ~~to~~ only those who are hopeful but do not completely depend on it, leave a lasting impact, shaping future in profound way.

A HIGHGR PEDESTAL FOR WOMEN IS AS MUCH
A PRISON AS ANY SMALL CONFINED SPACE

As she stepped into her house, tired and exhausted from a hustling day at work, Indira Neerji was asked by her mother-in-law to serve dinner to her husband who was waiting for since evening for her assistance. Rudely, she said that "You would be the chair-person of Pepsico, outside our home, but you are a wife and a mother first at your home".

Today, as we progress in a world where the glitter and gold of feminist voices are aiding in the social mobility of the oppressed women in a male chauvinistic society, the paradox of the chairs, these empowered women are helplessly tied in, raises some

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fundamental questions to the sense of equality, ^{that} ~~have~~ as a society, have provided ~~to~~ them.

Today, a higher pedestal for women is as much a prison as any small confined space. This reality needs to be highlighted so that ~~we as a~~ ^{our} society can introspect into "what is needed and what we are giving", and not just remain self-obsessed by the "on paper" change.

In this essay we shall explore how women empowerment has ultimately created, if not more, but equal challenges in the lives of these women; what factors drive such partial circumstances; how we as a society can acknowledge these issues that subtly reestablish a male hegemonic world and work to provide a better ^{outcome} ~~solution~~ oriented solution to it.

The world aspires to achieve gender equality (SDG-5), ~~it has~~ each country has set targets for itself. We boasts about our 106% gross enrollment ratio at primary level; Improving sex ratio (1020 (NFHS-V)) or ^{the} success of self help group schemes, we tend to ignore the deeper statistical analysis.

If we have 106% GER, why is there a steep fall in women enrolled in higher education? . If we have a favourable sex ratio, why is that women face ~~the~~ ^{more} malnutrition than men (One in two women are anemic). . Similarly when we say that women are economically empowered through SHG schemes, Lakshmi Sidi schemes etc, why do we see just 14% of top managerial position occupied by women?



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It's high time that we acknowledge that these seemingly positive numbers have a hidden aspect that has ~~made~~ made the lives of these empowered women confined like that of prisoners.

Right from birth, if we are educating them, we see it as their privilege & not a right. They are encouraged to drop out in the early years, or opt for the subtler household friendly careers. Thereby, the women getting admitted in the STEM sector are disproportionately skewed. ~~This~~ ^{This}.

This gives rise to the phenomenon of "Pink Collared Jobs", - A woman is expected to be a nurse and not a surgeon; a receptionist and not a manager; an airhostess & not a pilot. and we label

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them as the pink collared jobs.

Doesn't the high demand for a woman teacher, nanny, caregiver highlight ~~the~~ a peculiar trend? Economists term it as "Care economy", which has a overwhelmingly high female demand.

Even if they manage to climb up the ladder to reach good managerial positions, the effect called "Glass ceiling" or "sticky floor" prevents their further growth. They are avoided in positions of responsibility, decision making and innovation.

Till very recently, even our army didn't allow women in combative roles.

This questions the nature of empowerment they are getting; a ~~poor~~ half hearted one.



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Despite a better acumen, women are employed less as they are entitled to paid maternity leaves, companies often have to establish internal complaints committees, creche facilities. This adds up to what they call "unnecessary costs".

Even if they manage to secure a high paying job, the responsibility of childcare, household and elders is seldom shared by their counter parts. ~~creating~~ $\frac{1}{4}$ th of their time is hence unpaid. (DUAL BURDEN)

For whatever they get paid, there is 20% pay disparity with their counter parts across the world as per ILO.

with sheer discrimination, our brave daughters when dare to match with the male colleagues, cases of sexual

violence, physical and mental abuse push them back again. It is she who gets raped, faces the social stigma, struggles with the mental health and yet she is blamed for her circumstances.

Our heart aches when on one hand we see cases such as R.G. Kar Medical College & Nishchaya and ^{on the other hand} celebration on the bail of convicts of Bilkis Bano ~~on the~~ ~~other~~ hand.

All such disadvantages that today's ~~women~~ ^{women} ~~empowered~~, who are thought to be on a better pedestal, face, should ^{make us} question the cause of this inequality in a supposedly equal world.

The answer to this is everlooming, everperpetuating, everready PATRIARCHY that



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despite 75 years of independence is still jamming the wheels of our nation's growth.

Gendered stereotypes like Pink for girls, blue for boys; depiction of women as caregivers and men as strong, bold and aggressive; treating girls as "parayadhan" and boys as the "next heir" are taught right from our basic familial acculturation schools cement this mentality further by discouraging girls in science and sports. Haven't you wondered that why do our school textbooks stories start with "ek budhi bechari maa"? (a poor, old, pitiful mother). It is again the patriarchal authors of the

It is this fundamental upbringing that is further strengthened by our religion and governmental policies which further reflects in the corporates, sports, science and almost all other walks of life.

As Virginia Woolf in her book -
"A room for one's own" highlights, women
however empowered they may become, are
pushed in a corner. Hence it becomes
all the more relevant of bridging this socially
constructed gap.

A robust policy framework, speedy
access to justice, mandatory gender sensitisation
training in all sectors, highlighting the
respect women had in our vedic age and
gathering religious support, are some urgent
steps that need action.

Not only government ~~or~~ actions women
should also lead by example ~~by~~ upholding
the principle that "women are not born, they
are made", ^{Inspiring journey of} ~~should~~ ~~words of~~ entrepreneurs
like Sudha Murty, sports persons like Mary Kom
actresses like Priyanka Chopra should be
~~be~~ a moral compass for the women

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to rise up the pedestal.

"Even if they tread you down with the very dirt,
but like all dust, you shall rise".

These lines reflect back on us that despite
the gloomy present, we need to ease up
to fight and earn the rightfully deserved
~~to~~ status.

Right from her birth, even after ~~some~~ ^{walking up}
the pedestal, problems of pink collared jobs
to pay parity to the dual burden at homes,
the lives of the women today is no less than
a prison.

Hence we must push to break open the
golden ~~to~~ prison in which we have
captured the bird of our very existence.
Our mothers, daughters should rise to a higher
pedestal in true spirit and not be confined.

