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Essay Test 2

Test Code - 620302

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Section A

3. The pursuit of knowledge leads to the discovery of truth

Let us temporarily transport ourselves to medieval Europe. In this era, process of discovery of truth has been outsourced to clergymen, who pursue politically motivated interpretation of religion. This created many dogmas like earth being centre of universe.

This discovery of truth was not accepted by Galileo. Instead he pursued knowledge based on facts, empirical observation and critical thinking.

His pursuit of knowledge not only led to discovery of actual truth about

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Heliocentrism, but laid the foundation
of truth based on knowledge.

Coming back to 21st Century,
his foundation has become the bedrock
of today's society. Truth based on
Knowledge led to Scientific Revolution,
4th industrial Revolution, and has also
made humans a multi-planetary species.

The above anecdote naturally
raises a question - "why does truth rely
on pursuit of knowledge?" why does Karl
Jung say "Truth is not a dogma rather
it is virtuous meeting of wisdom and
Knowledge".

In this essay, we will answer
the above question. Before that, we will
try and understand meaning of truth and

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Knowledge. Lastly we will explore whether exceptions to above exist, and how knowledge can be used today for finding truth about better future.

To understand truth, we can analyse it through the Jain doctrine of Anekantvada. This doctrine posits truth to be a multi-dimensional phenomena based not only on facts, empirical observation but also certain transcendental values. If truth is so complex, how do we understand it?

Well, the answer is also multi-dimensional. There are many paths through which truth can be pursued. One could rely on religion, ideology on certain values. For example

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Jeremy Bentham's utilitarian School described truth to be Greatest happiness to the Greatest number.

Although above pursuits may be true in certain context, one pursuit leads invariably to the truth. That is the pursuit of knowledge. But first, what is Knowledge.

Knowledge was defined by noble laureate Bertrand Russel as systematic understanding of a phenomena based on rationality, facts and observation. For instance, Knowledge about electrostatics - positive and negative charges help us uncover the truth behind lightning and Thunder.

This pursuit of knowledge, is one of the sure short ways to

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discover the truth. Let us analyse this through various dimensions.

Political truth, is based on our values and beliefs towards the state. We pursue this truth based on majoritarian ~~know~~ thinking, thus making our understanding incomplete. Only when we pursue political truth through knowledge, we can discover actual reality. For instance, before Dada bhai Naoroji knowledge of drain theory, our discovery of truth made us believe that british are bleeding in disguise.

Thus, pursuit of knowledge led us to the discovery of actual truth regarding ills of the British. Similarly, economic truth can also be discovered only through knowledge. Only when we have the knowledge of

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facts, figures, statistics can we get a full picture of economic truth.

Take example of global financial crisis, 2008. Until people relied on market sentiments, the crisis ^{was seen} ~~saw~~ as distant dream. This dream became reality, when economist like Raghuram Rajan, Dani Rodrik pursued knowledge regarding unviable finance thus making world realise actual truth.

Truth is not only witnessed at political and economic level, but also at planetary level. Before organisation like IPCC, UNFCCC came up with the knowledge based AR-6 reports, truth was antithetical to reality. Instead of

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Realising menace of global warming, truth was manipulated and distorted. However, the clarity and hard facts of knowledge dispelled our false notions.

From above, discussion it is evident that pursuit of knowledge leads to truth. The question arise why? what are the reasons.

Firstly, knowledge helps in holistically analysing a problem. This comprehensive analysis is necessary for finding out truth which is multi-dimensional. Take example of fakenews and misinformation spreading today. Olivia Henderson in her book Social detox, highlights that such false news could be differentiated from actual, only when

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we have 360° knowledge about the topic.

Secondly, Knowledge helps us collect facts, figures, theories that support our Hypothesis for finding out reality. For instance, Albert Einstein could discover truth regarding warping of space time, only because he had the knowledge of General Theory of relativity.

Thirdly, Knowledge regarding innovative technology help us virtuously use it for discovering truth regarding certain problems. For example Government of India virtuously use knowledge of digital platforms like COWIN to know the truth about vaccination progress and

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thus make its strategy agile for
tackling problem of COVID.

Lastly, pursuit of Knowledge
can be also regarding certain absolute
ideas - that help us uncover truth of
life. Take instance of Lord Buddhas
four fold truths of life. The knowledge
about them helps us achieving
Eudaimonia (self-content) thus adding
meaning to our life.

From above discussion, it is
evident that pursuit of knowledge leads
to truth? However, is it an iron law?
Are there exceptions? well yes there are!

If the process of knowledge
gathering is flawed and prejudiced,
the truth it uncovers is also false.

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This is one of the problems associated with Chat Gpt. Having been trained on algorithms that are biased, truth is also biased. Study by Juval Harari highlight how Chat Gpt responses are racial, xenophobic and conservative.

Even if the process is flawed, there are certain truths which are not comprehensible by knowledge.

This is because certain truths are irrational and thus out of scope for knowledge. Take instance of familial relations based on love - mother-child. No knowledge could explain the truth behind selfless love of mother for her child.

However above are just exception. In general knowledge acts as

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potent force ~~against~~ for discovery of truth. However, today it seems that we have lost our track.

Increasing reliance of political ideology, social medias echo chamber effect - listening to only what you like, increasing irrationality evidenced through terrorism, mindless destruction of planet highlight the increasingly declining role of knowledge in uncovering truths. How do we rectify above?

First step could be improving the School Education system where knowledge becomes indispensable part of making sense of reality. However, this knowledge should be value-based. Gandhi's Talisman, Kantian Human dignity and

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Scientific temper could be some such value.

This knowledge should than be used for critical analysis based on Socrates maxim "Unexamined life not worth living". Only when individuals indulge in dialectics, could complete truth be discovered. One way of promoting such questioning is ideal speech situation through democracy.

To conclude, Knowledge pursuit is one of the integral ways to discover truth. However, this knowledge should be broad based tempered with wisdom and ethics to realise the multi-dimensional truth. Lastly, we should remember that like Galileo we should always be ready to use knowledge against all form of dogmas, no matter how true they seem.

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Section - B

1. Investment in Human Resource Development can ensure security of future society

"Two roads diverged in yellow wood,
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could,
- Robert Frost

The above poem represents the ethical and policy dilemma that two nations faced immediately after Independence. The dilemma was regarding investment that could secure wellbeing of its citizens.

First country being North Korea decided to invest heavily on military and research for nuclear weapons. While the second country, South Korea took just the opposite road.

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It decided to invest on Human Resources of the citizens thus betting on Human Capital over military capital.

Fast-forwarding to today, South Korea has emerged as a global economic power having GDP among top 10 countries. Its borders are also relatively more secure than North Korea because of advanced technology that its citizens could invest. But more importantly, it is South Korea's vibrant democracy, social capital that allows it to trump North Korea's totalitarian regime in security of society.

The above anecdote exemplifies the importance of Human Resources development in securing future of society. Winston

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Churchill rightly said "It is character of citizens and ~~not~~ strength of Bomb that decides greatness of country"

In this essay, we will discuss the interconnection between Human Resource and security of Society. Further, after discussing certain limitation to above, we would enquire how we can develop such Human Resources for a better world for our future and a better future for our world.

First things first - What is Security? Barry Buzan in his book People-state, Fear defines Security of Society as speech Act. In simple words, Security represents freedom from all types of fear. It is not just safety from

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physical harm but a state where humans speech, action, expression is not constrained by fear of external forces. For instance, when you look at a small child in the arms of mother, the child feels completely secured.

Many countries, societies, communities have equated this security with arms, ammunitions. But if we turn the pages of time such security calculus has only brought us world wars. Even today the Russia-Ukraine war highlight that weapons only proliferate war.

For this reason, instead of weapons we must target the use of weapons. If the user of weapons - Humans are virtuous, knowledgeable ethical having sound

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Knowledge than weapons would cease to be useful.

Thus, Human Resource development is one of the ways to ensure security of future society. But what is human Resource development?

Human Resource development, is the investment in expanding the ability and capability of humans. It includes multi dimensional character development that improves the security of future society. Let us explore how?

Education is one form of Human Resources development. A well educated mind is a well formed mind. The knowledge one gains through Education could be utilised for countries physical resources creation. Take example of Scientists at ISRO using their

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education regarding Aerospace, they have been able to deploy various satellites ranging from communication to military. This has provided necessary infrastructure to our armed forces to secure our borders.

In addition, Health is also an important determinant of Human Resource. Only when citizens are healthy, can the society be wealthy. For instance, India undertakes the largest immunization programme - Indradhanush to secure its children who are the torchbearers of security of future society.

Health of not only children, but also adults is important for security of future society. Only when adults are healthy, can they contribute in GDP growth. In recent history, we witnessed COVID-19

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which compromised health of adults resulting in GNP contraction of 9.5%. This made our society insecure due to job losses, migrant crisis and rising inflation.

Human Resources are also concerned with character development of individual. CS Lewis after said Education divorced from values makes man cleverer devil. Thus, good character serves as a foundation for good society. Let me illustrate this.

Sunderlal Bahuguna applied his intellect, education and knowledge to start the chipko Andolan, 1973 to safeguard environment for our future. It was his virtuous character and love for Environment that resulted in legislation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which continues

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to secure our society from deforestation.

Another way for Human Resource development is via infusing scientific temper which breeds innovation. It was the scientific temper of Wrought brothers that has given wings to humans.

This innovation is not only restricted to field of science but extends into social movements as well. It was the human resource of Gandhiji's Satyagraha that helped India break shackles of Slavery and gain independence from British.

From above analysis, it is evident that human resource is essential for securing future of our society just like Gandhiji did for India. However, there are other elements as well that are essential for

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Securing society.

One is the fundamental law of land that allows for disparate interest to collaborate and gives a vision for future. In case of India, it is the revolutionary constitution that forms the cornerstone of our nation security. Values like Right to life (Art-21), Equality before law (14), provision of welfare state (DPS P) allow for mutual bonhomie and constitutional patriotism that binds our society together to fight for our collective security.

Another necessary investment is in protection of our Environment. Although Human Resources development can protect environment in long term, but for the short-term, dedicated financing is required to meet the Paris Pact. unless

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we do so, Elizabeth Kolbert opines that sixth mass extinction is imminent and there would be no society left to be secured.

Nevertheless, investment in Human resources remains the architectonic phenomena for security of future. But how do we do this?

Firstly, Robust Health Care System must be created because they lay the foundation of virtuous cycle. We as Indians not only need to achieve 2.5% GDP investment as mandated by National Health Policy, 2017 but need to adopt global best practices like UK national Health Service which ensures compulsory coverage from cradle to grave.

Secondly, Health should be complemented by Robust education that informs all

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levels of society. The National Education Policy, 2020 must be incorporated in the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for children Education. At same time Robust teacher Education in the form of NISHTHA scheme must also be looked at.

Thirdly, the Civil Society must be roped in to bridge the delivery gap faced by government. They can act as force multipliers, just like AKshay Patra foundation for food or SEWA for woman empowerment. Moreover, Civil Society must be adequately empowered through innovative financing like Social Stock Exchange.

Lastly, all above would be futile if there is no ethical leadership. For Securing future of society, leadership must

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convey inclusive messages like Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. only when various Human Resources act in unison under the common guidance of a leader who thinks without barriers can we achieve dream of society free from fear.

In nutshell, Human Resource development acts as a necessary catalyst for people working together, leveraging each other strength and bridging others shortcomings.

For a secure society based on sustainability, fairness, equality, Human resources of above kind becomes singular and only competent, ethical, educated skillful Human resources can create secured society

"where mind is without fear
where a word appears from depth of truth
where world is not divided"
Rabindranath Tagore