

# UPSC

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Name - Pawan Kumar Goyal

Roll no - 1910026966

Test - Essay test 3 [ # 613301 ]



Institutions Reflect the cultural values of the societies in which they are established

While Inaugurating the new Parliament building Saana Shaana Prayer was conducted and Hon'ble

PM installed Sengol, a traditional Tamil

Sceptre near to the Speaker's chair in the

new Lok Sabha. Thus the new building

not only had cultural elements such as

designed based on peacock feathers etc

but also honoured the culture and traditions

of India.

This example, shows how institutions are rooted in the cultural values of the society. In this essay, we will further explore this ~~propo~~ proposition along with



why does this phenomenon occur and are there instances where institutions buck the trend of following the culture.

Culture soil in which plant called Institution grows

We saw ~~has~~ earlier how does the new Parliament building is based on culture. Now, let us discuss about the people who sit in the building i.e. our very own Parliamentarians

They are elected by contesting elections.

However, politics as an Institution is deeply rooted in the cultural reality. Caste and

religion play a pivotal role in Indian

Politics. After all it is said "that Indians don't cast their vote, they vote their caste".



Thus since caste has been a deep rooted social reality of India, so the same gets reflected in the Indian society.

This phenomenon is not only limited to India but also to other countries, such as USA where race becomes an important political factor.

This happens because politics does not happen in a ~~vacuo~~ vacuum and culture impacts the voting pattern and the thinking of the people.

This can also be seen in the system of political system globally. For example

Saudi Arabia is a Theocratic monarchy.

Whereas ~~Be~~ UK is a Constitutional Monarchy

and USA is a Constitutional Democracy.

Thus culture of a society determines its Institution of political system.



Not only political system, but other ~~Insts~~ Instrumentality of the state along reflect cultural values. For example, a Ahmediyya can't become Resident or Army Army chief in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Whereas, India being a secular country, there are no such restrictions.

Even the very concept of secularism varies of state to state. In India secularism is defined as "Sarva Dharma Sambhava" i.e. equal respect for all the religions, whereas in France it means "Laicite" i.e. complete separation of state and the church.

Since we are on the nature of state, even





economic system of state is dependent on the culture of the society. china has an economic system what it calls as "Socialism with chinese characteristics", whereas

USA has market driven Capitalism and Scandinavian countries have a mix model of "capitalism with welfaristic policies".

Even in India, our big business houses are run by the families such as Birlas, Ambaris etc. whereas in USA it

is not the case. For example) The CEO of Microsoft is not Bill Gates daughter

but rather an Indian-American Satya

Nadella. This difference is so because,

India has a strong culture





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of collectivism and ~~for~~ high importance is given to the family, which is not the case with in USA, where Individualism is given more importance.

Since, we are on topic of family. Let us see the institution of family and marriage itself. In India, marriages are arranged by the family often along the lines of caste and religion. As in India, marriage is considered as a "union of 2 families and not 2 individuals".

However, In USA and west marriages are based on love and based on Individual choice rather than choice of an Individual. They are marked by higher divorce rates leading to ~~see~~ what Anthony Giddens,



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the sociologist called as "serial monogamy".  
However, in India marriage is still considered as a "sacred Institution". Whereas in Latin America, Australia and New Zealand Live-Ins and percentage of unmarried population is on a rise.

Even the laws regarding marriages are based on culture, such as Hindu Marriage Act and not only ~~the~~ laws related to marriages but laws in general are based on culture. For Be it Supreme Court upholding the legality of Jallikattu in Animal Welfare Board v/s UOI case or Ban on Cow slaughter in many states or Tax benefits being extended to Hindu





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Undivided Family (HUF) . This happens as law in general defines "what is moral for a society" and morality or collective conscience of the public inturn depends on the culture of the society -

This influence of culture on institutions was best described by Swami Vivekananda when he called "East spiritual" and "West Material". This difference in culture can be very well illustrated in form of Institutional outlook towards Environment.

In India, forests are considered as sacred by the tribals such as sacred groves of Chamoli, in Uttarakhand. Thus government





has protected sacred groves as "community reserves" under Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act. Whereas in west, forests have traditionally being seen as a resource for exploitation. Be it British deforesting India during colonial period or neoliberalism leading to deforestation of Amazon forest in Brazil.  
On one hand, Americans killed Native Americans and Australian killed Aboriginals of Australia.  
India has come out with policies to protect the tribal and the traditional culture of India. Be it Instituting 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> schedule areas and launching PM PVTG scheme for tribal protection, or setting up Ministry of AYUSH for promoting





Traditional medicines -

Having seen so many instances let us now look into, instances where Institutions don't follow culture and what are its implications.

Institutions: Hydroponic Plant i.e. growing without the soil called culture

Institutions can sometimes even buck the trend and not follow the culture. Such as

Article 17 ban of Indian Constitution banning

Untouchability of Indian Constitution or

Regulation XVII banning Sati due to efforts

of Raja Ram Mohan Ray.

Thus above examples, show how law  
an an institution, rather than

following cultural reality can impact





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challenge culture itself and act as an  
agent of social change.

Sometimes, institutions in a multicultural  
society can be created in such a way that  
it doesn't form any one culture. For example

demand of Uniform Civil Code, part of  
Article 44 [DPSP] to formulate a uniform  
law for personal matters of every Indian.

Further, sometimes ~~not~~ institutions are  
made to follow dictums of its top leaders.

Such as <sup>religious</sup> police in Iran enforcing hijab

on Iranian women. Leading to protest

by Iranian women, as ~~this has never~~  
~~been part of traditional Iranian culture~~

This shows that sometimes institutions  
can act as an agent of social change





and sometimes even Institution following culture as ~~is~~ in case of Iran can lead to backlash. This brings us to the concluding part of the Essay.

Conclusion: Institution & Culture: Smart Agriculture  
(plant) (soil) [feedback]

Institutions take feedback from culture and culture take feedback from Institutions

Thus both influence each other. Hence,

we need Institutions that take into account culture of the society, however at the same

time act as an ~~is~~ agent of social change

for changing of Immoral aspects of culture and

at the same time, change themselves with

the changing culture. So that there is

no cultural lag as described by Ogburn.

After all Importance of Institutions can't be understated - "Society Succeed when Institution Succeed"

CJI Chandrachud said -

"Society fail when Institution fail"





## One health Approach: A call for Ecological Equity

Dinosaurs once ruled the Planet. These animals in size, ferocity and strength would put the present fauna especially humans to shame.

Then the question arises, how did these magnificent creatures go extinct? Certainly no creature could have hunted to Tyrannosaurus Rex [T-Rex] to extinct.

What most scientist believe is that it was due to climate change driven by either Impact of asteroid or multiple volcanic Eruption.

Thus this clearly shows how much survival of any organism depends on the Ecology



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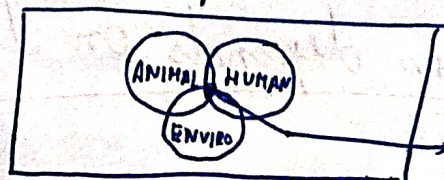
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and if mighty dinosaurs could go extinct due to ecological imbalance then so can humans.

In this essay we will look into what is one health? why is it important and how ecological equity should be maintained.

Now let us start with the definition of "one health approach".

One Health approach ~~near~~ refers to the approach that the health of humans, animals and environment is interconnected and we need an integrated "one single approach" to look at health from a comprehensive perspective.



one health Approach



Having looked at the definition of one health. Let us look into the importance of maintaining ecological equity for the same.

Why<sup>is</sup> Ecological equity important for "one health approach"?

Firstly, because most of the diseases especially contagious diseases are zoonotic in nature such as Nipha virus, Ebola virus, MERS, SARS.

Secondly, ~~in~~ one need to look no further than the COVID-19 pandemic to understand its importance. Due to increased proximity with bats and dietary habits ~~involving~~ consisting of exotic species such as bats. A global



pandemic engulfed the entire history whose impact still haunts the world.

Thirdly, boom in human population, clearing of forests for agriculture has brought humans in co-existence with wild animals.

Now coming to the how ecological inequity is leading to adverse impact of human health and animal health.

Firstly, environmental degradation is leading to climate change, which in turn is leading to more frequent extreme climatic conditions such as floods in Delhi, cloud burst & and



landslides in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand leading to lose of lives and property

Also, disasters such as wildfires leads to death of both humans and animals.

Such as massive fire in Australia 2-3 years ago which led to death of a billion species or the present day wildfires in Greece and Mau Island in Hawaii

Further, soil degradation will lead to decline in soil fertility and threaten food security of humans, thereby adversely impacting the health. However, despite knowing its importance,





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humans have been undiscriminately exploiting  
both environment and animals. Such  
as killing whales illegally for exotic  
dishes or burning fossil fuels to  
generate electricity and power economic  
growth. As per International Institute of  
Sustainable Development (IISD), G-20  
Nations have given subsidy worth \$1.4 trillion  
in 2022 ~~for consumption~~ to fossil fuels.

Further, <sup>from</sup> Indiscriminate killing  
of animals to meet requirement of human  
diet to undiscriminate use of pesticides  
and mining of the earth and cutting  
down of the forests. Humans have  
not followed the principle of





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ecological equity which has adversely impacted their health.

Thus the question now arises, how to ~~ensure~~ ~~ecolo~~ maintain ecological equity to ensure a healthy environment.

Firstly, we should start with changing our own behaviour. We need to stop wasting resources. ~~at our end~~. For example closing tap after use to prevent water wastage or reusing waste water of RO for ~~sweep~~ mopping the floor.

We need to become an environmentally conscious consumer by avoiding fast fashion as textile and fashion industry is a major polluter. Not buying



animal leather products will help to reduce poaching of animals.

Secondly, at societal level we need to start doing afforestation such as Great Green Wall in Sahel Region of Africa to prevent desertification and land degradation.

Further, we need to follow the guidelines laid down in CITES to prevent trade in exotic animals such as pangolin etc.

Also, a framework under Convention for Biological Diversity is needed to prevent introduction of Invasive species into the ecosystem.





Following Implementing the INDC commitment  
made by each Nation during the Paris  
climate deal.

Now coming to global level, we need  
to have more frameworks such as  
Global Tiger forum, International Solar  
Alliance and approach of "One World  
and One health" as propounded by  
UNICEF and UNESCO and the world  
Bank.

Further, developed Nations need to  
fund and provide technology to the  
developing world for adopting a one  
health policy based on the principle of





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Ecological equity.

Now, coming to the steps taken by government of India to promote one health approach.

Government has launched PM Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission which aims to setup a National Centre for one health in Nagpur. Further National Virology labs and Biosafety level III labs will be setup under this scheme.

Also, the government has will setup Integrated Disease monitoring system to ~~prevent~~ pre-empt and prevent any outbreak of epidemic



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like that of COVID-19.

Further, a pilot project has also been started for implementing 'one health Approach' in the state of Uttarakhand.

Further, in 6-20 health ministers meeting recently in Gandhinagar, all the nations committed themselves to the use of "one health Approach" for tackling anti-microbial resistance.

Thus, having looked at the definition, importance and ways to achieve one health through ecological equity. On is the time for last few parting words.





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As Mahatma Gandhi said - There is enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed ". We need to use the principle of reuse, reduce and recycle to ensure ecological equity.

We humans, should learn from the past experience of dinosaurs and if we need to <sup>not only</sup> survive but thrive, we need to take animals and environment

today together. Then only we will be able to live a healthy life ourselves.

Thus the clarion call of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas should extend to also animals and environment. ~~through~~ which can be achieved ~~through~~ by the means of Ecological Equity. प्रकृति: रक्षति रक्षित्वा | [Nature Protects if, she is Protected]

