

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

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Remains :

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Education is progressive
discovery of our own
ignorance

He could not forget the scary death of his sister-in-law, and made it his lifelong mission to eradicate sati, he searched for the answers in every literature, and finally reached to the conclusion that it is a crime "according to every sutra".

This was the journey of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's of progressive discovery of social evils through education.

Centuries later, the same path was transversed by the likes of Phule and Ambedkar, but for a different Cause — against the curse of untouchability.

The above illustration clearly portrays the significance of "education in the progressive discovery of our ignorance". In this essay we will delve into the relationship between "education" and "ignorance", how they are enemies to each other and their impact in different aspect of human life and much more,

Education and Ignorance

The Dictionary meaning of education is the systematic process of transferring knowledge, skill and values, but it's a very narrow definition. Education cannot be confined to only classroom, it is rather signify all the learnings of an individual, either through formal education or even real life experiences.

There is no definite time to "get educated" and surely no limit, no restriction age.

of caste, class, gender or any other form of discrimination.

Ignorance can be defined as an individual minus education / knowledge. It is a state ~~of~~ where an individual, society or even nation lack awareness about a concerned issue at hand.

for example: India's ignorance to Chinese gameplan and intention before 1962.

PROGRESSIVE DISCOVERY OF IGNORANCE

If we turn the pages of history, the feudal

landscape of 18th century France, was challenged by the new found ideas of "liberty, equality and fraternity" ushering in an era of Democratic Republic in France.

Closer to home, the arrival of Buddha and mahavir transformed the vedic society forever, by their rational and peace endorsing ideology. ex. removed the burden of superstitions and orthodoxy by suggesting practical methods of prayer.

In the social landscape,
the political rights to
the "second sex" or the
recognition of "third
gender" to LGBTQIT is
due to rise in moral
and psychological awaren-
-ess about these groups.
For eg. the idea that
"gender" is a social
construct, thus can be transformed
with change in societies
morality.

legally too, "education
do lead to progressive
discovery of our own ignorance"
as can be seen from

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the charged stance of
court in ADM Jabalpur
case, where right to life
can be infringed to
Puttuswamy Judgement (2018)
where Article 21 was held
to sacrosanct and ADM
Jabalpur Judgement was
oversuled.

In the environmental
domain, from climate
change being ~~an~~ our planets
natural phenomenon to
now being mainly an
anthropological phenomenon,
lot of "education" in terms

Scientific research have been done to change the ~~para~~ perspective. what about the "progressive discoveries" of ignorance in scientific and technological domain?

The Copernicus revelation that "man is not at the centre of universe" was a shock to the 16th century society, but nonetheless it led to the beginning of Scientific Revolution.

fast forward to the contemporary world, the excessive penetration of AI and its related dangers - deep face, data theft etc led

As the formation of ~~the~~ Blatchley Declaration to safeguard against the dangers of AI. Thus, rising knowledge is helping humanity to deal with the emerging challenges.

NEGATIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND IGNORANCE

As we have discussed about impact of education in ~~the~~ progressive discovery of our ignorance in different domain, it is pertinent to ask ~~how~~ why they move in opposite direction?

firstly, education lead to "opening" up of our mind to various streams of thoughts,

It teaches us the philosophy of "Anekatawad" i.e. multiple version of truth.

for instance the absence of this philosophy is the ^{root} cause of Islamic Jihad (Holy war) against "non-believers".

Then, education ensures rationality over meek obedience, it allows us to question the set rules, thereby disturbing the status quo.
ex. Dalit literature reveals the power dynamics in the caste system.

However, ~~we~~ sometimes even education fails to remove one's ignorance, as seen in case of Ravana, highly knowledgeable still

could not distinguish
between right and wrong.

Similarly, extremist and
terrorists are often "educated"
in formal sense, but
fail to overcome their
ignorance.

Hence, what is needed is
ethical and moral
clarity for any sort of
education to become
meaningful, as Theodore
Roosevelt said "To educate
a person in the mind but
not in morals is to educate
a menace to society".

At last, it can be said that
if one Ram Mohan Roy, Pankaj
or Ambedkar can create a
dent in the universe, think

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about the possibilities
available today, if education
is available, accessible and
affordable to all in a
right spirit.

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