

Philosophical essay discussion




BY- ANTRIKSH JAIN (AIR-130, CSE'21)

Philosophical essay-

► Important Points to remember-

1. Easier than normal essay as many dimensions can be included.
2. Anecdotal Introduction or poem etc.
3. **Linking paragraph** with various question statements.
4. Main body with various dimensions (MR. SPEECHLIT)
5. Pre conclusion having solutions or best way.
6. Conclusion with poem or anecdotal ending.
7. Flow and coherence (connecting words within lines and within paragraphs)
8. Chronology of examples.



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1) Introduction- Anecdote

(In the late 1980's and early 1990's, scientific community was engaged in the development of a revolutionary drug to control Hypertension and Angina. While implementing their knowledge and doing research, they at last discovered **Sildenafil**. But as it is said that research is a blind date with knowledge, it turned out to be a **sexual stimulator for men** rather than an Antihypertensive. The drug was none other than Viagra.)

2) Linking paragraph-

Moving forward, in this essay we are going to analyse, what is research and knowledge, what are different types of research and also why research is considered to be a blind date with knowledge. **Subsequently** we will try to understand Why India despite having knowledge is not able to translate this into research, and **finally** what could be the possible solutions to ensure knowledge translates into research. Starting with the basic understanding of Research.

▶ 3) Research: a basic understanding-

Research can aptly be put as practise, that includes systematic and calibrated study of data to establish facts and improve the understanding of phenomena associated. It is indeed the reason that human society has evolved so far and will continue to do so. From a Basic wheel to AI, everything is an outcome of a sound research which was infact the outcome of our knowledge base.

For instance, Thomas Alva Edison is no stranger to research. His famous quote, “I didn’t fail thousand times, the light bulb was an invention with thousand steps” is a testimony to the fact that sometimes theoretical knowledge does not directly translate into research, and the outcome is usually different than what is imagined.

In addition to this, research going on for HIV vaccine since 3 decades, have made researchers realise that existing knowledge base may not be able to give breakthrough and newer technologies are required that are often very different from knowledge. Research is also not limited to scientific sphere, its all pervasive.

To illustrate, scientific research includes Therapeutic research, Optical research, Biotechnology and nanotechnology related research or be it research in the domain of AI, IoT etc. But apart from that, it is also involved in sociological research, Anthropological research, Market research and so on.

Sociological research, includes societal understanding and establishing various facts with relevant data points in respect to various social institutions, social groups and others. To show what is meant by this, **Durkheim's** research on religion gives out information that, in a society, worship of god is nothing but the worship of society as a whole and all the world religions emerged in this backdrop.

Similarly, anthropological research, is focused on improving understanding on primitive society i.e Tribals, and many researchers including Radcliffe Brown, MN Srinivas have tried establishing causes and effects for various tribal practises as a part of research.

Moreover, Market research is no different from all these, it involves various tools and methods to understand market sentiments, consumer demand, and eventually pitching of products accordingly. This can be elaborated by the fact that Multiplexes are not a common sight in villages, where consumer base is less and people are not as oriented towards materialism as people in cities. To better understand research, let us try to understand knowledge first.

3) **Knowledge: a facilitator-**

Knowledge can be better understood as theoretical or practical understanding of a subject, a thing or so on. It comes from various sources be it formal literature, books, websites or be it an informal folklores, life experiences and the like.

As a proof, sandbox Technology, recently seen in the architecture of Ramappa temple at Telangana is an example of Knowledge, that makes buildings Earthquake proof.

Also, Ayurveda that is considered to be an ancient Indian knowledge comes from formal literature in the form of Upveda of Rigveda. There have also been mentions of Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and so on.

However, due to lack of research, knowledge in this regard is usually discarded. Recent, attempts by US based companies to get a patent on the efficacy of Haldi is indicative of the fact that research in the domain is increasing but it should come from within, to prove the efficacy and in this way knowledge facilitates research which in turn leads to evolution of human society on the whole. Now let us understand whether research is a blind date with knowledge or not.

Research: a blind date with knowledge?

Research, usually starts with a hypothesis that includes a relationship between a dependent and independent variable. Many a times, the hypothesis generated on the basis of existing knowledge base gets verified and proves to be correct after research.

Although, more often than not, there have been instances that existing knowledge base doesn't match with the outcome of the result and it is this reason research is considered to be a blind date with knowledge. It can further be elaborated by various examples, that includes the invention of 20th century, plastic.

- 1) **Plastic** in 1907, looking for shellac's replacement, accidentally discovered bakelite.
- 2) **Minoxidil**- therapeutic research, for hypertension but vasodilator now used to treat issue of hairfall, and improving growth.
- 3) **Match stick**- 1826- scraping of chemicals from a stirrer leading to a spark.
- 4) **X-Ray**- working on cathode ray tube, unusual light came, tried covering it by hand but instead gave skeletal structure on screen.
- 5) **Sociological research- Suicide**- unknown gets to be known- not only by people who are isolated and not doing good in life but also people more connected to society.
- 6) Market research- **Maruti 800**- monopoly, but didn't innovate, loss of domination, research leading to newer designs , innovation, now again dominating.
- 7) Anthropological- **TKDL, Tribal knowledge**, tribals not primitive and illiterate. Have better knowledge to deal with vagaries of nature not by threatening it.

India's conundrum: high knowledge, less research-

1) **funding issues**- eco survey 2021- 0.8% expenditure in GERD and that too mostly by government, less involvement of private sector. India in Top 10 in terms of governmental expenditure being more than private.

2) **Brain drain**- 15% of all migrants from India to USA are from Andhra, a highly educated segment. Helping NASA, Silicon valley.

3) No research culture but "**Jugaad culture**"- (Give 2 examples)

4) Lack of world class research facilities.

5) Lack of Appreciation.

6) Lack of industry-Academia linkage.

7) So on.

Bridging the gap between knowledge and research:

- 1) Funding increase
- 2) Appreciation, salary
- 3) Research facilities, research ecosystem
- 4) Industry academia linkage
- 5) NEP 2020: a step in right direction- critical learning
- 6) So on.

This will eventually lead to better outcomes, better profitability, reduction of the fear of unknown, increased standard of living, reduction in poverty, achievement of sustainable development goals. That is why India should focus on research to become a real Vishwa guru and achieve its ambition of becoming 3rd largest economy soon and show the world that india can tread everyone on the path of enlightenment.

► For this we have to start working on this,

Poem 1 – start now,

or

Poem 2-

How many slams in a old screen door?

Depends on how loud you shut it.

How many slices in bread?

Depends on how thin you cut it.

How much good inside a day?

Depends on how good you live 'em.

How much love inside a friend?

Depends how much you give 'em.

----- shel Silverstein

Similarly, how much we evolve as a society?

Depends on how much are we able to translate knowledge into research.

Conclusion-

This will eventually be the truer way of celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav this year when we celebrate 75th independence day and creating India's legacy for the times to come and india as well as Indians must not forget that-

“ Nothing is impossible, the word itself says ‘I’m possible’!”



Thankyou