

Philosophical essay discussion- 2

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Enlight IAS

Changing the way of learning

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.



Words are sharper than
double edged sword.

Introduction-

Mahabharata- Draupadi, “kya Andhe ki Aulad bhi Andhi hoti h ?”, led to disastrous battle between family members itself. Highlighting the fact that not using right words can have disastrous consequences for not just an individual, family, but whole society.

Linking paragraph- Moving forward, in this essay, firstly we are going to understand more about words, its importance and how it has shaped our world so far. Subsequently, we will understand how words prove to be a double edged sword by highlighting various instances of using positive and negative words and their impact and finally we will analyse, how right words can lead to a better tomorrow. Starting with the broader connotation of words.

Words: the base of human evolution-

Words can better be understood as a way of expression, not only verbally, but in writing, as well as in the form of symbols. These are considered to be the building blocks of language, which is pre-requisite for human evolution and growth.

Words have their importance not only in evolution of human race but, understanding the ancient culture (i.e ancient literature), preservation of knowledge, and also transfer of knowledge (i.e As done by Ashoka, using Pillars). The impact of words is such that it can lead to a widespread change in society and can shape our world.

How words have shaped our world so far?

- 1) **socially -religious sermons-** Gita, Jain Philosophy, Buddhist philosophy and its embrace by wider population, also showcased in food habits and culture. Here religious scriptures have an important role in value transmission.
- 2) **Cultural transmission** due to ancient texts like **Manusmriti** has led to the **Patriarchal mindset** in society, which have also been considered as **source of misery** by many.
- 3) **Social Movements- civil right movement, Arab spring** (usage of social media)- **Martin Luther King's speech**, inciting the feeling of liberty, equality among Blacks. Leading to political rights being awarded to blacks. Also, usage of **press** have an important role in **India's freedom struggle**. **Gandhi ji, Tilak** all used it to evoke feeling of nationalism and brotherhood.

4) Politically- written **constitution** in India has become the source of morality for individuals, source of policy making for Government (DPSP) and a source of judicial **creativity for judiciary**, leading to expansion of freedoms and a good standard of living.

5) Economically, Words to ideas- Laissez faire economy, stateless society. Not just that whole **advertisement** industry and governmental **IEC** campaigns works on same. (**Isko Laga Dala to life Jinga Lala, TB Haarega Bharat Jeetega** and so on).

Indicative of the fact that words have a lot of potential to disrupt society positively as well as negatively.

Words: sharper than double edged sword-

Words if used wisely and selectively can have a positive impact on people, society, countries and so on. For instance- 1) **Jambvant Hanuman samvad** , making lord Hanuman conscious about his strengths and power, leading to the win of Truth over evil.

2) **Dhanananda's propaganda** before Alexander's invasion by spreading the news of bigger army, horses, elephants ,skills – demoralisation of Alexander's army. And averting a big battle and bloodshed.

3) **Vivekananda's speech** at world religious conference leading to propagation of India's inclusive traditions- "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam" and Hinduism becoming known worldwide as an important oriental religion.

4) **SC Bose-** during freedom movement- "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom" resonates in the ears of every Indian till date, and actually shifted the course of freedom movement.

5) **Dalit- self acceptable term**, better than Achchut, harijan and is reflective of true state of untouchables and now have also led to their upliftment and empowerment by making them more conscious of reality.

6) **Social movements- #metoo-** a symbol of women getting voice to challenge sexual harassment at workplace. Phrases like “**shakti**”.

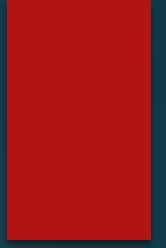
7) **GoI- using** words more cautiously with a positive connotation giving marginal segments the much required confidence which has also led to their economic empowerment. (transgender to **Third gender**), (person with disability to **specially abled**)

However, words if not used wisely and properly can have disastrous consequences, as was evident in the case of Draupadi.

Similarly,

- 1) **Hitler-** terming **Jews as Termites**, leading to their persecution, holocaust and a negative wave of antipathy towards jews among a common German mind.
- 2) **Racism** by way of taunting **North east Indians** as “**chini**”, “**Corona**” has led to their marginalisation and it may also fuel the feeling of separatism.
- 3) **Hate speech-** Riots etc.
- 4) Literal interpretation of **religious texts** leading to fundamentalism, rise of ISIS, Taliban.
- 5) **Movies, TV series leading** to negative socialisation- increase in delinquency, Thefts, murders. Crime patrol , CID.
- 6) **Familial discord-** lack of EI- bad words- divorces, future of children jeopardised, detrimental to society.

Thus, words need to be selected very cautiously, keeping in mind not just individual impact but the multifaceted impact it has on various institutions i.e. social, political, economic and the like. Thus, one must be mindful of the fact that right words and symbols are to be embraced in entirety.




Right words: A key to better tomorrow-

- 1) Buddha's right speech as a part of 8 fold path for better life and a better peaceful society.
- 2) Constitutional morality in its letter and spirit- FD- denounce words derogatory to women. Also FR are not absolute they are qualitative, thus needs to be kept in mind.
- 3) Gandhi ji- "means is as important as ends" and in this (words- means), use right words.

"As words become your actions, your action becomes your habits, your habits becomes your values, your values become your destiny"

- 4) Focusing on value based education- NEP 2020, sensitisation (gender, race, religion) – respect and tolerance- peace
- 5) APJ Abdul Kalam- righteousness in the heart leads to harmony in the home, order in the society and peace in the world and here righteousness leads to the usage of right words.
- 6) Jain philosophy- Do unto others, what you want others to do to you. (right words – respect and a virtuous cycle)



**“Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like a flu,
When somebody smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I thought about that smile,
Then I realised its worth,
A single smile just like mine,
Could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin,
Don’t leave it undetected.
Lets start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected.**

And in this way, as we know the world is round and hence the words which one uses will circulate and will come back at you someday or sometime. Hence, we must be mindful of what we say, write or express and just like a double edged sword, usage of right words will kick on a chain of it and it will bring positivity to not only the listener but also the speaker and we must follow this Indian saying-

**“Aisi Baani Boliye, Mann ka aapa khoy,
Auron ko sheetal kare, Aaphu sheetal Hoye”**

-(We must use words in a way that it brings peace to both us and others.)



Thankyou