

Test - 2

Section - A

Q) The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows

Start writing from the below line:

During late 1900's there was a growing fear among people about the chronic illness caused by AIDS. People had their own pre-judices assumptions about AIDS patients. It was during the same time the world witnessed a mirror breaking incident. Princess Diana met with AIDS patients and shook her hands with them.

It was her knowledge about the disease she gained through scientific and medical

education helped her to turn the mirrors of misconceptions about the disease and opened the windows of new perspectives in promoting compassion, good respect and equality towards AIDS patients.

Therefore, knowledge through education should turn the mirrors of one's own prejudices, wrong perceptions based on ethnocentric views and should broaden up one's perspectives by opening up the windows to accept and assimilate various diverse rational view points. In doing so one should ^{also} not become Xenocentric by forgetting one's own roots, values and traditions. → Good core argument

Before we proceed into the essay let us try to understand what is education and what mirrors and windows represent in our lives.

Often, Education is equated to mere bookish knowledge. In reality education is much more than that. Education is the art of rational enquiry. This can be imparted

↳ This not needed

through punishments for our wrong doings and reinforcement of our good deeds. This ~~can~~ also be imparted from the experiences of others. Education doesn't really stop with graduation rather the process continues till our last breath.

Now let us understand what mirrors and windows represent in our lives. When we look at a mirror we see ourselves. This represents our own beliefs, values, ^{self} reflections, assumptions, prejudices, selfish wants, and ethnocentric views such as racism, misogyny, homophobia etc. → make it more balanced.

Where as windows represents diverse view points, new perspectives, new knowledge.

Windows ^{will} broaden our wisdom. It is

through ~~these~~ windows we can meet new people and exchange ideas.

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Reject the reflections of mirror

Now let us try to understand why the purpose of education is to turn mirrors and what will happen if we don't turn our mirrors.

Education is one such powerful means to introspect oneself. It is through the education we learn what is right and what is wrong. Education will help us to understand our flaws and wrong perspectives. This can be ^{write} _{Concisely} seen in 19th and 20th century social changes that happened in our country. Our assumptions, prejudices and support to various social evils such as sati, female foeticide, Devadasi system etc are opposed by the newly educated intelligentsia such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Eshwar Chandra Vidya Sagar. This helped us to turn our mirrors and break our age old practices.

But, what happens if we don't turn our mirrors? This can lead to large scale

negative impacts on society. It was during the same 19th and 20th century, world also witnessed inhuman events. The Britisher's own assumption of "White Man's Burden" led to large scale exploitation through colonisation. Also the illogical self centric theory of "Aryan supremacy" by Adolf Hitler led to the systemic destruction of Jews and the World War-II. One substitution should be better!

Open the windows of wisdom

Education, along with closing the mirrors, it should also open the windows of wisdom. Now let us understand why we should open the windows and what will happen if we fail to turn our mirrors into windows.

Windows of wisdom will provide us new perspectives about life. These also can act as agents of change for a better tomorrow. This can be seen in the paradigm

Shift of India's Economic growth model. In the early days after Independence, we were inward looking and self centric. This led to promotion of Socialism. With time and experience we realised that we should open the windows of Capitalism for achieving greater economic growth.

Now let's see, what will happen if we fail to turn our mirrors into windows. If we can't turn our mirrors to windows we can't ~~except~~ expect positive change in our society.

The inward looking attitude will lead to "Cultural lag" where in our social values will not promote to accept and assimilate new scientific knowledge. This can be seen in the case of "Savita Halappanarar" an Indian origin person living in Ireland. She was denied of abortion even in the critical stage due to Ireland's inward looking and conservative laws. This led to death of Savitha and Ireland opened its windows by reforming its abortion laws.

is not linked better to the topic

Flaws of Education

The purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows but what if there are flaws in education itself?

Imagine the radicalisation that is happening in countries like Iraq and Syria through ISIS. The purpose of these kind of education will turn even windows into mirrors. This wrong education is leading to many global disasters such as Twin Tower attacks in U.S.A and 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, India.

Even today we can see many highly educated individuals involving in terrorist activities, financial frauds for their own self centric interests with out opening the windows and not realising its impact on larger society.

Teachers/Mentors: Guiding Light

Whenever there is dilemma on the purpose of education all one need is a right teacher or mentor to turn mirrors into windows. Teachers are like candles, They impart the light of knowledge by melting and they also show the right path in the darkness.

This can be clearly understood by the role of lord shri Krishna in the battle field of Kurukshetra. Lord Krishna's knowledge through BhagavadGita helped Arjuna to turn his ^{Expres} mirrors of love for kins and larger family ^{best} to the windows of protecting and promoting Dharma for the larger good.

On contrary, wrong teachers can shut our windows and pushes us into the illusion of mirror houses. The role of Shakuni in guiding Kauravas and destroying them is a case in point.

New Mirrors of 21st Century

With change in time there emerged the new mirrors of Self Centricism, regionalism, Sons of soil Theory, persecution of minorities due to ideological differences.

Today we can see persecution of Uyghur ethnic minorities in Communist China and Rohingyas in Buddhist dominated Myanmar. Even in India we can see the growing insider versus outsider conflict due to inward looking ideologies, promotion of Self-Centric needs and cultural hegemony.

Clean the mirrors and shut the windows

on a contrary line of thought, one could also argue, unlike the previous scenarios, sometimes education should help individuals to clean and ~~the~~ protect the mirrors and shut the windows to avoid wrong knowledge.

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Not always our own perspectives, way of living, thought process, values and traditions should be changed by accepting new knowledge through windows. We need to stick to our roots and values irrespective of our new knowledge.

Indian values such as "Sarva Dharma Samabhara" (Indian secularism), "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The world is one family), "Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu" (May all people be happy)

should not be replaced with western ^{Express} model of secularism, Trade wars for selfish ^{of} gains, growing individualism ^{better}.

It is our duty to shut the windows to the wrong knowledge which will further divide and destroy humanity on the basis of class, Creed, sex, race and nationality.

To summarise, the true wisdom of education should help us to correct our flaws in knowledge, thought process, understanding

and beliefs through imparting rational knowledge. Education should help to humanity to be more liberal and considerate to listen, accept and assimilate new perspectives into their lives.

To restate, "Education should not teach what to think rather it should teach how to think". This will empower individuals to ~~decide~~ and turn mirrors into windows.

The purpose of education is like chasing butterflies. If you spend your ^{Not very} ~~own~~ time chasing them in your mirror, you can never reach them. All you need is to turn your mirrors into windows to attract ~~butterflies~~ from the surrounding beautiful gardens of wisdom.

"Education should turn mirrors to windows"

Opening our minds to endless meadows"

Thus, we can find our purpose of life " and come out of self inflicted shadows