

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Social media is reuniting humanity and we are at the crossroads of its promises and its perils

Ramu is a farmer in interior areas of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

The region faces a water crisis due to irregular monsoon and lack of irrigation facilities. This created a lot of problems for Ramu regarding choice of crops, time of sowing, weather forecast etc.

Ramu and his colleagues recently were added on a whatsapp group with the experts by a local agri startup. They can now avail all the information regarding crops, weather, fertiliser along with expert opinion in a language they can understand. This whatsapp group has

changed their lives in a positive way.

The story of Ramu and his colleagues exemplifies how the social media is impacting the lives of common people and also rewriting certain aspects of life, practice of agriculture in this case. But, does the social media is only full of promises? Does it have any perils? What are the other ways in which it is rewriting humanity and where do we stand vis-a-vis social media. Let's look at these aspects.

SOCIAL MEDIA - THE MEDIA OF NEW AGE

Social media is basically a new and unique form of communication and information dissemination, which is done through using internet, computer or

mobile devices. Though formation of social groups, clubs etc. is not new as such, as human is a social animal. But the interaction gone virtual and online gave rise to "social media".

Social media is the most popular medium of communication in present Age. In India, it has gained huge popularity and acceptance in recent decade or so. Not only common people, but our leaders, Politicians, celebrities also use social media to connect to people. Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Telegram etc. are some commonly used social media Platforms.

Further social media is not being used only for communication, but also as information transmission medium (like social media based news), as a creative space (like youtube) etc. social media has

opened a huge range of opportunities, especially for the millennial youth, who is called the "social media generation".

The acceptance of social media in India is not limited to youth only. After the boost to Digital India & rising internet penetration, social media has reached to people of all age groups. India has overall 7500 million internet users and smartphone users. Such user base makes India one of the largest market for social media platforms.

Thus social media is changing the way people communicate. People prefer texting or calling through these. Leaders communicate through their tweets. Even people air their grievances to the government through tweets. "Whatsapp video calling"

and 'zoom calling' has been the most used platform during pandemic induced lockdowns.

social media is also changing the mode of education. During lockdown, online education was imparted through whatsapp groups. Zoom app was used for business meetings. Even huge conferences were organised online (e-conferences). The leaders of different countries interacted through virtual summit (G-20 virtual summit).

The pandemic only accelerated the adoption of social media platforms. Even without pandemic, the use of social media usage was rising across the board. Social media platform are rewriting humanity in the sense they have changed the way people communicate, interact, gain information, create & publish content. Simultaneously, it has opened floodgates of opportunities.

The Promise of Social Media

Social media has a promise of transforming lives at all levels. For individuals, it is a medium whereby they can express their feeling and thoughts without any hesitation or fear. In a way, it is a medium to enforce the fundamental right to freedom of expression (Article-19). The supreme court also in Anuradha Bhasin (2020) case has ruled that expressing opinion through the medium of internet is constitutionally protected right.

In ensuring freedom of expression, the most celebrated contribution of social media is to provide 'voice to the voiceless'. It is a democratic medium and gives everyone equal opportunity to express themselves. The

'# MeToo' movement has proved to be remarkably, as social media gave all those women voice who could never speak about the sexual harassment they faced. The role of social media in transgender rights movement in India and Black lives matters movements is USA is immense.

Not only for expressing opinion, social media provides a creative space for young people where they can show their talent. The success stories of Youtubers like Yashraj Mukhate or housewife Kalita (who runs cooking channel on Youtube) highlights how social media is helping to showcase talent as well as earn money also.

The role of social media to connect people with each other emotionally is also huge. In a fast and busy world, it gives

respite through opportunity to spend time
with family and friends, albeit virtually.

Economically, it helps people to
connect ^{with} each other to establish businesses,
run it and even marketing. We have
already seen how it can help farmers
to improve farming. It can also be used for
online skills delivery to youth, MSME
workers and make them aware of business
processes etc. Already, online tutorials for
business, tax filing & marketing are used
through social media.

In the field of Politics, it helps
to mobilise people on important issues of
National importance and build opinion.
Politicians use social media platforms for
mobilisation of votes and campaigning.

Platforms are used by election commission for voter awareness creation.

Social media also becomes a tool of protest and campaign for people. The farmers' movement used social media effectively for their cause. Greta Thunberg has become an internationally recognised name due to her activism through social media platforms.

Thus, social media platform has made the world smaller, connected people from all over the world and given the voice to the most marginalised. It has also opened new avenues in the field of education, economy, creative space, polity and other day to day lives. It will not be wrong to say that "social media has become ~~essential~~ essential component of modern life, without which we cannot do".

The Perils of social media

Indeed, the social media has many positive opportunities, but it has also proved to be a "doubled edged sword". It has also posed certain challenges to humanity.

The biggest threat emanating from social media is rise of fake news. The social media platforms are full of content and many of times these are fake, malicious, which misguide people. The misinformation due to social media give rise to problems like Dadri Lynchings (2016).

Another issue is of hate campaigns which is deliberately launched, especially against women, Dalit, minorities etc. It is common for women to get rape threats or death threats on social media, merely for expressing opinions. The hate campaign

run against Ms. Deepika Padukone for her movie Padmaavat is such example.

social media platforms also gives rise to online harassment, to women and children. The problem of fake porn, cyber harassment have become common. Children are specifically sensitive as they are not aware of such crimes and their implication. The Blue whale incident, which caused death of children is instructing.

The social media has also given rise to economic cyber crimes like economic fraud, losing money in name of providing some lottery benefits, theft of identity etc. Many people ^{pretend} ~~perceive~~ to be someone else and ask or steal money using social media platforms. Many fake products, low quality products are advertise through social media platforms and people are deated.

Not only the social media is a threat to individual, it is also posing threat to National unity. Vested interest use these platform to promote communalism, regionalism etc. The use of social media for mobilising people for communal violence, terrorism is also a threat. The christchurch Attack (2019) in Newzealand was fuelled due to social media.

Social media is also posing threat to democracy as voter manipulation is done through these platforms. The Cambridge Analytica case prebided voters in their preferences and influenced their voting patterns.

~~also~~, social media is causing addiction and sense of deprivation among youth which breeds stress. It also makes them closed in their opinions due to reinforcement of their prejudices, creating an "echo chamber".

impact. Thus social media is also posing challenges never seen before. The promise of social media cannot be fulfilled unless its challenges are tackled effectively.

Towards safe, democratic & ethical social media

We are stuck between the promises and perils of social media. At one hand we are benefitting from it, on the other we are also facing challenges. On this crossroad, we have to take strong measures to make social media more inclusive as well as ethical.

To reform the social media platforms, all stakeholders will have to work together. The social media platforms will have to adopt voluntary guidelines and ethical standards to stop their platforms being used

for fake news, hate campaign, fraud etc.

Technological solutions like fact check, AI
(like Alt News), big data analysis can be
used.

The government has come up with
Intermediary guidelines, 2021 to make social
media more responsible - by setting up
Grievance redressal, compulsory removal of
disturbing content etc. Also, the citizens need
to be trained for right behaviour on social
media platforms.

Social media is the new age media
and there is no way of avoiding or rejecting
it. We have to adopt it and try to make
it a better place, where everyone can
speak their mind, and everyone is equally
comfortable - that will be the promise of a
real "social media Revolution", for people like "Ram".

Dissent is the safety valve of a democracy

Narendra Modi, the Prime minister of India decided on 19th November, 2021 to withdraw the three farm bills enacted a year ago. The three bills intended to promote private sector investment in the Agriculture. But, the farmers were not satisfied with the bill as their opinion and views were not given due consideration in the formulation and enactment of the bill. They had major difference of opinion on the bills and they registered their dissent through a year long peaceful protest.

The merits of the bill, notwithstanding, this event highlights the importance of dissent in a democracy. The withdrawal of

the act can be seen as a victory to the democracy. A democracy has to run by taking the opinion of all the people however different or dissenting in nature.

The expression of dissent by farmers not only protected their interests but also stopped a hasty reform in the Agriculture sector. It also strengthened India's credential as a 'matured democracy' when even the PM does not hesitate in accepting his own mistakes.

At this juncture, it is important to ask, what is dissent? How is dissent expressed and how has it shaped societies, particularly democracies? Are democracies open to dissent or does dissent always help democracies? We will try to understand these.

The meaning and implication of dissent

Dissent basically means showing disagreement to something. This disagreement can be with opinion of others, some tradition, practices, rituals, commonly held beliefs or some policy, programme, laws etc. Dissent is an important as well as common phenomenon observed in our social life.

Dissent generally occurs because no two individuals are alike. Human beings are born with consciousness. Their personalities, way of thinking, world views are shaped by the socialisation process. It is moulded by their educational background, peer influence, religious leaning, position in class and caste hierarchy etc. Since these things differ from person to person, opinions also differ.

Dissent is common because it is seen regularly in our day to day life. No two siblings agree on what to watch on television. This is the simplest kind of dissent, seen in our families. The young people dissent from their parents in choice of fashion, hairstyle, choice of career etc.

Dissent is also important because lack of dissent will suffocate individual creativity. If no child is permitted to dissent from his parents, he would never be able to choose a career of his choice or marry a partner of his choice. Dissent also testifies to one's developed personality as one has the ability to decide for himself, even against the wishes of others.

In the social context, dissent is the beginning of many social reforms,

revolution. It is dissent which has shaped the lives of many great people and made them what they are.

Gautam Buddha was nothing but dissenter, as he refused to accept the social order marked by Brahminical supremacy and irrational rituals. He chose to dissent and created a path for himself.

Mahatma Gandhi dissented to the ways of British and waged movement against their arrogant racial supremacy and exploitative ways. It was this dissent which led India towards freedom and democracy.

Thus, the establishment of democracy in India itself is achieved through an act of dissent of millions of freedom fighters. The sustainability and stability of this democracy also to great extent relies on dissent.

Safety value of democracy

Democracy is defined by Abraham Lincoln as the Rule of the people, by the People and for the people. Not all people can agree on all the matters. Therefore, to protect the rule of the people, the opinion of people - conforming, conflicting, dissenting will have to be taken into account.

The right to dissent is a constitutionally recognised right under Article 19. It gives right to all the citizens to fully express their opinion. This opinion could be dissenting to the established government's policies, but even such dissent is protected and celebrated in democracy.

The expression of dissent strengthens the foundation of democracy and prevents

it from becoming Authoritarian. If there is no dissent against the government in a democracy, there will be no democracy. The method and medium of regular elections, which is the most defining feature of democracy, gives the citizens power to remove a government if they dissent from it.

Further, democracies give a lot of importance to 'opposition'. This opposition could be in form of Political Party, critical media, or in form of social activists, pressure groups etc. The dissent that opposition shows helps in taking into consideration the opinions of diverse sections, because democracy is for everyone. This kind of dissent also helps democracy from becoming a 'majority Rule' or 'minority'.

The institution of parliament in our democracy is the most incredible example.

of importance of dissent. The parliament is a place to deliberate and discuss matters of national importance. It also presents an opportunity to dissent and bring on board opinions of ignored sections. Such dissent and deliberation makes the governance more inclusive and welfaristic.

The Parliamentary committees also provide the Parliamentarians an opportunity to record their dissent, provide constructive criticism and bring reforms in governance. Thus, dissent helps in better functioning of democratic government.

The role of media in dissent is also significant. As it provides critique of government, air grievances of public and provides an opportunity to government to course correct.

If such grievances are considered by government, it enhances stability of governance, as people do not need to take undemocratic ways to register their dissent.

The dissent by social activists and pressure groups helps in protecting the rights of the most marginalised in the society. The dissent shown by 'Majdoor Kisan Samta Sangathan' against corruption gave rise to unique democratic tool to empower people - 'The Right to Information Act, 2005'. The social movements for rights of Dalits, women, tribals all are rooted in dissent.

The dissent by Songra Khonds of Orissa helped them protect their mountain & forests from exploitative mining. Thus, dissent acts as a safety valve, strengthening democracy, making it inclusive and sustaining it.

The Problems with dissent

Dissent lies in the heart of democratic principles and values. However, sometimes, the dissent can pose serious challenges to the democracy. This happens when the expression of dissent is not democratic.

One can argue that problems like Naxalism and terrorism also arise from dissent. Naxalism do not agree with the present democratic setup and aim to demolish it using violent means. This is an extreme form of dissent which threatens democracy.

In democracy, expression of dissent in undemocratic ways threatens national unity, public order and security of state. The separatist groups like NSCN (National socialist council of Nagaland) in the north.

east are also dissenters. But they express their dissent through violent means and threaten the process of National integration.

Also, dissent only for the sake of dissent or due to vested interest harms the development process. For example, protests against the Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu hindered India's transition towards sustainable production of renewable nuclear energy.

The extreme form of dissent is seen in form of parliamentary disruption, which prevents effective functioning of lawmaking or debate or discussions. It is loss ^{not} only of tax payers' money, but also weakens democracy.

Thus, even as democracy has to respect, celebrate and accommodate dissent, it has also to be wary of undemocratic expression of dissent.

Promoting dissent for democracy, not Anarchy

A democracy, to survive and thrive has to preserve as well as promote dissent, so that it can self correct, be all inclusive and be democracy in real terms.

Today, our democracy is facing multiple threats to dissent. The authoritarian tendencies are on the rise all over world and dissent is losing the space and attention it deserves.

Activities

The laws like Unlawful ^{Prevention} Act, 1967 or Sedition (IPC 124 A) are meant to put reasonable restrictions on dissent, in the spirit of Article 19(2) which puts restrictions on free speech. However, the misuse of these laws against the dissenters has a chilling effect on the fundamental right to freedom and expression.

The dissenting space in Parliament has reduced due to Anti defection law, 1985, which has reduced Parliamentarians as mere agents of their Political Parties. It harms the quality of debates in Parliament & inner party democracy which is threat to democracy as a whole.

The hate campaigns run on social media platforms against individuals reduce the space for dissent in society. People are being targeted, calling names like 'anti national' just for showing dissent. All of these are dangerous signs for democracy.

We must remember that Progress of any society and growth of democracy is rooted in democratic dissent. The undemocratic expression of dissent must be tackled with strong fist e.g. application of UAPA, sedition. But, some strength and determination has to be seen in promoting democratic dissent.

For this, the beginning should be made from Parliament itself - the epitome of debate and dissent. The anti defection law should be amended, to give parliamentarians freedom to express and register dissent.

The laws like VAPA should be applied reasonably. As supreme court has ruled in Kedarnath case, that "Any speech unless gives rise to ~~sedition~~ violence is not sedition". The rights of dissenters must be protected by government, Judiciary and the society as whole.

Thus, ~~democrat~~ democratic dissent is lifebreath of democracy. It must be preserved & promoted. As Voltaire famously said " I may disagree with what you say, but I will protect full birth your right to say it".

Section B

Dissent

- Buddha
- Gandhi
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- Reading from some book

I may not agree
with you, but I

will protect to

death your

right to cast

Introduction

↳ Farmers'
protest

- All discoveries through dissent
Galileo

AFSPA

- what is dissent

- How dissent leads to change

- Role of dissent in democracy

dissent
open of roads

& parliament

→ democracy, alive committee
(voting)

→ pressure groups

→ social movements

→ tribal movements

(Odisha, Dargachand)

- Thakurdi

dissent & citizens

Policy - Anna movement

International

→ India in UNSC

↳ Parliament

↳ committee

↳ Freedom of expression

↳ critical media

↳ Emergency

↳ Judicial

Reforms in democracy

↳ Judicial dissent

↳ Parliamentary dissent

challenges to dissent - UAPA, Sedition

Naxalite

- dissent for the sake
of dissent

- Anti defection law

- social media challenges

problem due to dissent

- communal

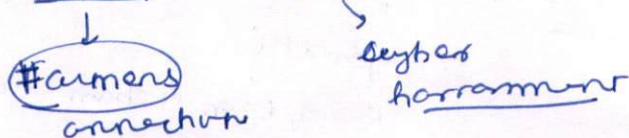
- Nationalism, Regionalism

Way Forward

Section A

Agriculture Social media

Introduction - Promise & Peril



Body

- Data - 660 mn 500 mn
- 2nd Largest
- whatsapp facebook

Promises - Political PESTLE
Economic L Education
Social
Environmental International

- Individual - Rights
- Society - groupism
- Community

#MeToo

Education

Perils

- Individual { Relative stress Added
- Social { children
women - #1
transgender
- Politics - Cambridge Analytica
- Economic - Frauds
- cyber crimes

AFSPA

Solution

- self Regulation
- intermediary guidelines
- global collaboration
- individual training

Some Quote ?? PM Modi = ??