

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.

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6.

All the Best

Section - A

②

If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will go right.

From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal, one can witness diverse shades of agriculture in India. From the transhumance of Bakarwal to the lush green fields of Punjab; from the cotton farms of Maharashtra to the tea of Nilgiris and from Bajra of Gujarat to Kiwis of Arunachal, agriculture is beautifully inter-twined to the life of locals.

Agriculture covers around forty-six percent of total land of India yet employs more than fifty percent of its population. Ranging from small landholding farmers to large agribusiness, agriculture connects all.

Agriculture is not just an economic activity but has multiple dimensions attached to it. It is a social process, a political gamechanger, an environmental balancer and an element of global significance.

Though agriculture has been the lifeline of our country, it can go wrong in a number ways. The decline in production, employment saturation, intensive practices, limited diversification and crop failures due to environmental hazards are some of those ways.

No matter what the reason be, a downfall of agriculture will have a ripple effect across sectors and sections of society. Let us have a look at these interlinkages of agriculture.

Historically, agriculture has been a cause for the rise and fall of empires. It is said that - the wars of world are fought to change map but wars of hunger are fought to map change. The defeat of Germany in the World War II was attributed partly to the plague of 1920s witnessed during Hitler's reign.

In India also, the famines caused under the British rule added fuel to the fire of nationalism. Where on one side Lord Curzon was organizing the grand Delhi Durbar, lakhs of poor were dying out of agriculture distress. The outcome was evident - the collapse of colonialism!

Such disastrous impacts can only be seen because agriculture forms the backbone of our economy. It contributes of more than fourteen percent of our GDP and

more than eighty percent of rural GDP. The recent decade has witnessed very low agriculture growth and this is one of the reasons for the rise of poverty. According to the PLFS-2020 survey, for the first time since 1970s, poverty has increased between 2011-19.

The Covid-19 is a classic example of how agriculture can be a saviour. As the Economic Survey states, when all the sectors experienced a negative growth rate, it was only agriculture growing at a 3% rate. It thus helped in the V-shaped recovery of India.

Apart from increasing the GDP, agriculture in India is social driver. It is not just about grain availability but also affordability and accessibility. Decline of agriculture has led to increase in hunger.

and malnutrition. Around 195 million people go to bed on an empty stomach. Gandhiji had rightly said - 'some people are so poor that God cannot appear to them except in form of bread'.

Societies develop culture and so agriculture is also a cultural element in India. The vibrant Sankranti, Bihu and Pongal are some of the harvest festivals. Agriculture is the way of life of tribal pockets of India. However, rapid conversion of fields to factories has perished some tribes like the 'Bo' tribe.

More so, the decline of agricultural quality has also led to environmental deterioration. The unsustainable agriculture in Green Revolution belts has led to dry pockets in Punjab. Also, agricultural degradation today adds around 20-24% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Another effect of agriculture going wrong

can be seen in the political turmoils the
vote bank politics are often played in
the name of poor farmers. Often the
downfall of agriculture is attributed to
irrigation and these manifests in the
form of inter-state river disputes.

Agriculture has also been a
key agenda of shaping international affairs.
The humiliation which India faced due
to borrowing food from US under PL 480
is unforgettable. Today, the surplus agri-
culture of India has also become a
bone of contention at the WTO.

Having seen how wrong agriculture
can set everything wrong, let us
see how this agriculture can be set
right so that everything falls into its
place.

One of key measures is diversification of agriculture towards non-crop and allied sectors. This will not only increase the economic contribution of agriculture but will also solve the social crisis. It is the key to address the micro-nutrient deficiencies which form the hidden hunger.

Secondly, a shift towards environmentally sustainable practices like organic farming, zero budget natural farming, sustainable aquaculture and many others can help.

Thirdly, using agriculture as the basis of balanced regional development is needed. The launch of 'Aroma Mission - Lavender Cultivation' in Uri and Udhampur will not only bring economic prosperity but also tackle insurgency in the area.

Fourthly, development of self sustaining rural agri-clusters can help to achieve the dream of Gram Swaraj of Gandhi. This can be done by integrating the farms to the food processing units and urban markets.

~~Fifthly~~,
Lastly, technology can be a game changer. The development of transgenic crops, modern irrigation techniques, research on crop yield predictions, geo-spatial mapping of agricultural plains can be some steps. They will not only help to set the agriculture right but also create a virtuous cycle of agri-tech industry.

Though these are some of the ways to set agriculture right a question might arise - If ^{only} agriculture is right, can everything be right? It is often

said that the chain is as strong as its weakest link. But it is equally important to strengthen other links of the chain to make the whole chain sturdy.

To set everything else right, not just agriculture growth but agriculture led growth should be the goal. This is because if only agriculture is right; it still has limited potential. The nature sets its limit.

It is therefore necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy which combines agriculture with industry, trade, exports, research and services. Not only this, it is equally essential to develop the channels of growth.

Policy making should be not just efficient but also effective. The benefits

of agricultural growth should reach to all. A revamped minimum support policy and public distribution system should be the core focus. At the same infrastructural bottlenecks which break the link of agriculture must be rectified.

The motto should not be just from farm to plate but from farm to all, across globe. This will make India's agriculture the premier of all sectors.

Section-B

① human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights

If the life of Rajmata Gayatri Devi could be summed in a few words, it would be called an unquestionably extraordinary life. The daughter of Maharaja of Kooch Bihar despite being a symbol of India's feudal past, broke the tradition of 'Purdah'. Her victory in 1962 elections paved way for many such women like her.

In words of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 'The progress of a community can be measured by the progress of its women'. A woman plays different roles through various stages of her life. It is essentially that she is empowered by the human rights across these stages.

Human rights are the rights that we are entitled to by virtue of being a human. They need not be explicit in the constitutions but are implicit in the larger sense. The Universal Declaration of human rights lists multiple rights like Right to life, to equal wages, to equality, to employment, to food, to education, Right against exploitation etc.

Women rights not only include the basic human rights but also some specific rights specially curated to the needs of women. In addition to the above mentioned rights, some other women rights include - reproductive rights, rights against sexual harassment, rights to equal opportunities and many others.

Historically and even till today women have been treated as a subordinate gender

and have been denied basic human rights. The women's rights have been infringed across all walks of life. Let us have a look at what are areas where women need the basic human rights.

Socially, women have been the victims of patriarchal thoughts. Their roles have been stereotyped. A widow is expected to live a life of seclusion. Early marriages have also perpetuated the social ills. It was against these social evils that Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyaasagar had raised their voices.

In the field of education also women have been denied the basic rights to learn. This has been evident in high illiteracy rates in women (around thirty-five percent) as compared to men (around eighteen percent). The Right to Education (Article 21A) has to some extent helped to bridge the gap.

Another dimension where women face absence of basic human rights is the health sector. This is evident in the high anaemia rates at around sixty percent in the women. Also low level of institutional deliveries have led to high maternal mortality rates (Thirtythree per one lakh) in India.

Economically also, women have been denied the opportunities to earn a livelihood. The low level of female labour force participation rate (around thirty three percent) compared to men (around forty eight percent) is an evidence.

It is not just the availability of avenues of livelihood but also the wage gaps. One can easily imagine the apathy of an ordinary working women in an office when great stars like Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone have also spoken about wage gaps in the film industry.

Women are also the worst victims of crime and sexual abuse. According to the NCRB data, cases of sexual abuse have increased by 120% over the last 5 years. Is it not a basic human right to live a dignified life, free from any fear or harassment?

At the political front also, the women's rights present a dismal picture. Though the 17th Lok Sabha has around 17% of the women representatives, it is lower than the global average of 23%. Not just at the centre, even at the level of Panchayats women are dismissed as proxies of their husband.

Another dimension of women's rights as humans is the environmental rights. Globally, women are the worst victims of disasters. They not only bear the brunt of calamity but also get engulfed in the network of trafficking.

Internationally also, there have been numerous instances where women have been denied basic rights. The incident of Rosa Parks, a black woman, being sexually harassed in a public bus, has been cited as the Montgomery bus attack.

Having seen the denial of human rights to women, let us see how women have been given rights and how these women rights have a multiplier effect on human rights.

At the level of society, granting the right to minimum marriageable age and rights to succession have been good measures. They have the potential to reduce the stigma associated with a woman across generations.

Next, education rights through RTE Act, missions like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,

Selfie with daughter campaign are some steps. In words of Brigham Young,
You educate a man ; you educate a man.
You educate a woman ; you education a generation.

Women's education has been closely linked with the child health. According to NFHS data, 32% of children of educated mothers have access to diverse healthy foods compared to just 1% of children with illiterate mothers.

Women's health is another area which ripples its impact on human rights. The schemes like Matru Vandana Yojana, ICDS - Anganwadi have been a step in this direction. This will intern reduce the 'double burden' of women health - for herself and her family in one go.

The next area of guaranteeing women rights is political empowerment. Women led Panchayats have been the champions of some of the anti liquor campaigns - example the story of Ahmadnagar district in Maharashtra.

Also empowering women through social media initiatives like #MeToo has given a fillip to human rights of many other women. They could raise their voice against historical abuses and biases on Twitter, Facebook etc.

Not only these area, economic empowerment of women by labour codes reform, maternity benefits act have so increased women participation. It is expected that if female labour force become equal to that of male, the GDP of India can increase by 2.4%.

Another unique aspect of women rights can be seen in the environmental conservation. The theory of Gaia - which treats Earth as Mother is a concept that can save the entire humanity from the perils of degradation.

Internationally, some strong women like Malala Yousafzai, Angela Merkel, Kalpana Chawla etc have paved way not just for other women but for every common citizen.

Having seen the relation between women's rights and human rights - would be right to say that only women's rights can be a panacea for all the humans.

The approach for human rights has to be an inclusive one. It should also

include others like the Transgenders, Persons with disabilities, geriatrics and children. However these development can begin by starting with the women rights and gradually including all others.

Let this 'new-India' be a women led India. This will also fulfill the

historical wisdom of - Yatra Narayastu Pujyante, Ramante Patra Devta.