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Subject: ESSAY 2015: MOCK TEST 1 → TEST CODE - 604

Name of Candidate

PRATHANESH KUMAR

Test Code

MOCK TEST-1 → TEST 604

Schedule

Registration No.

13402

Place

DELHI

Time

9:00 AM

Module

432

Classroom

Distance Learning



Classroom & Distance Learning

## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

### INDEX TABLE

| Q.No. | Page No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|-------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.    |          |               |                |
| 2.    |          |               |                |
| 3.    |          |               |                |
| 4.    |          |               |                |
| 5.    |          |               |                |
| 6.    |          |               |                |
| 7.    |          |               |                |
| 8.    |          |               |                |
| 9.    |          |               |                |

Total Marks Obtained

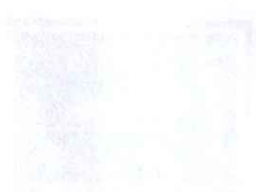
Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code)  
The Candidate should fill the index table, especially for him/her.
2. In the left margin, she/he should write only question number and in the right margin, nothing should be written.
3. The page number should be coded by the candidate himself and the range of page number related to the answer of the question should be used to complete the index table.
4. All Parts of the questions should be written at one place.
5. No Supplementary sheet shall be provided by the management. So the candidate is advised to accommodate required information within the space provided.
6. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
7. The candidate should respect the instructions, given by the invigilator.
8. The Examinee has to submit the answer sheet to the invigilator after completion of examination.
9. However, he/she is allowed to take away the question paper.

25. 12. 1974



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"Poverty is the worst form of violence" - MK Gandhi

When we speak of Poverty, the works of Munshi Premchand, a contemporary of Gandhiji, instantly come to mind. The struggles of 'Hori Melika' (in Godan) against the moneylender, the police and the priest and his final capitulation in the face of ~~the~~ societal pressure illuminates the travails of the poor poignantly.

Simply put, poverty is a situation that gives rise to a ~~situation~~ feeling of discrepancy between what one has and what one should have. It includes a lack of access to resource and livelihood and consequently breeds frustration, insecurity a failure to maintain social relations.

Poverty is not due to a person's innate character or capabilities

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(or a lack thereof). Rather, it is a systematic attack by the society on its weakest individuals.

### APPROACHES TO POVERTY

The primary view seeks to measure poverty as the minimum income required to subsist. A 'poverty line' is drawn considering requirements of hunger, shelter and clothing.

Another view propounded by Amartya Sen and others seeks to define poverty as the <sup>lack of</sup> capability to utilise existing resources for sustenance.

The fault with both these approaches is that they do not recognise that poverty is a form of 'relative deprivation'. People with the lowest income layers perish while the privileged classes enjoy life at the cost of the former. What is this

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extreme and persistent inequality, if not a manifestation of systemic violence perpetrated on the poorest? One does not need to be a Karl Marx to recognize that our current economic systems perpetuate this ~~system~~ situation.

### POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

Some may argue that <sup>'normal'</sup> violence has more grievous ~~effects~~ than poverty. I would seek to demonstrate that the converse is true.

A poor person is victimised not only economically (as shown above) but socially too. Being poor means living in a poor neighbourhood, eating ~~less~~ ~~nutritious~~ insufficient food, having poor health, being unable to send children to school and accepting low paid work. While violence may be directed towards a single.

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individual, poverty is 'continuous violence' against the individual, his family members and even his progeny.

A person who is injured by robbery or is a victim of a fire fight may recover with fortitude. A poor citizen, is instead, caught in a vicious circle indefinitely.

### APATHY AS A FORM OF VIOLENCE

India has the largest population of poor citizens in the world and yet the issue of poverty remains on the backburner both in our public discourse and political campaigns. A high profile murder case will make headlines for weeks but the fact that, even in 2015, more than 30% of our population



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lives on less than a \$1 a day will be sidelined. ~~The~~

This apathy has become a ubiquitous feature of our society. We have not only accepted poverty; we have internalised it. By not agitating about this issue, we are letting down the dreams of our forefathers.

Gandhiji's talisman is written on the inside of every NCERT textbook: "When taking any decision, think whether the lives of the poorest persons will benefit". Where then, is the Talisman, when slums are razed to build shopping centres and villagers displaced to construct dams? The usual answer is "economic development" and this apathy is, in my opinion, the "worst form of violence".





## THE "CULTURE OF POVERTY"

Another conservative concept, propounded by the politicians and elite is that despite economic changes, the poor have remained so because of their "culture". It gives our society a reason for doing little or nothing about the poor and poverty as a social problem. 'Vested interests' gain economic, political and social benefits from having a poverty group in the society and thus hinder changes in social and economic structure.

This is another form of 'violence' against the poor as a whole.

The employers, rich and the govt consider the poor lethargic and often harass and discriminate against them. Whenever, a theft is reported to the police, the first official action is, <sup>usually</sup> to arrest



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the poor in the area.

This 'violent' and hostile attitude of society lowers the self-image of the poor, cultivates a feeling of inferiority and curbs their efforts to help themselves.

### WHAT IS NEEDED?

If we have to reach the illustrious goal of 'Ramrajya' poverty has to be eradicated. High GDP growth and international stature are inconsequential if we can't feed our poor.

The paradigm of poverty alleviation has to shift to a situation where the State is not a 'provider' but an 'enabler'.

As the popular adage goes

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime".

The focus has to be on

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skill development, easier access to credit, alternative forms of employment, formation of cooperatives to enhance collective bargaining power, good quality education and agricultural development.

Besides, social values and norms have to be changed. Today, an entire generation is oblivious of the problems of the poor. Social Awareness will be the key. The need of the hour is not to treat the poor as a burden but to treat them as an unused human resource.

Perhaps, we are the first generation in history who can claim that removal of global poverty may be achieved in our lifetime. Both Gandhiji and Premchand were extraordinary individuals who realised the evils of poverty and it is now upto us to fulfill their dreams.

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ROUGH

Hori Melita - Godan - money lender - priest -

Poverty is violence by the society on its individuals.

BODY① Approaches to understanding poverty

↳ end with how deprivation and relative deprivation causes

Income + Definitions.  
+ end with capabilities

② Poverty compared to violence?

How poverty has a more deleterious effect than other violence.

Poverty is continuous violence

Poverty is multidimensional

Effect of poverty on behaviour

## ③ Examples of apathy.

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## ⑤ What have we done? What needs to be done?

First generation for whom the removal of poverty is a reality.

(i) Forced child labour  $\Rightarrow$  violence against children

- in a bad way
- fast
- very slowly

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(ii) Robbing the poor of opportunities

deprived of security

↓

(iii) Informed sector  $\rightarrow$  low security work

Emotional violence  $\rightarrow$  |

$$200 \rightarrow \begin{array}{r} 100 \\ 80 \\ \hline 20 \end{array}$$

$$10 \times 20 =$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 90 \\ 10 \\ \hline 80 \end{array}$$

$$180 \rightarrow 80$$

"Disabled: the 'invisible minority' in India's policy making realm"

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, firmly believed that the measure of a nation's greatness ~~lies~~ <sup>lay</sup> in its treatment of its weakest members. If we assess India's treatment of its differently abled population by this yardstick, we certainly have failed in our quest to achieve 'greatness'.

About 27 million, i.e., 2.2% of India's population is physically or mentally challenged. This figure is an underestimation considering the low reporting of mental disorders.

To achieve inclusive growth in its truest sense and to realise social equality, as our founding fathers aimed for, it

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is fundamental to include the needs and aspirations of the 'differently abled' in our policies.

### STATE OF THE DISABLED IN INDIA

A majority of the differently abled population lives below the poverty line. Their situation is compounded by the fact that their handicaps deny them the possibility of economic mobility.

Beggary, perhaps the greatest travesty in modern India, is rampant amongst the disabled. Unable to perform in 'normal' jobs, they are <sup>often</sup> not able to earn enough <sup>even</sup> for subsistence.

They face not only economic but social ostracization also. They are often treated as 'outcasts' and a burden by

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family members. In the Indian society, especially, being disabled is seen as a result of the law of karma and the sins of a past life. The person's disability becomes his entire identity and all his social relationships are characterized by his handicap.

Faced by social and economic exclusion, when the disabled person turns to the State for help, he finds only indifference. The policies of the government ignore him, the bureaucracy is apathetic and laze, legislations and regulations exist only on paper.

While other socially and economically disadvantaged groups have their respective national leaders and pressure groups, few such organisations exist for the

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disabled. Nor are their concerns ever a part of electoral promises. Thus, the differently abled stay neglected and remain the "invisible minority".

### FEEBLE ATTEMPTS

While a strong international framework exists for securing the rights of the disabled, a statute for affirmative action wrt to the disabled was enacted in India as late as 1995. The 1975 UN Declaration on the Rights of the Disabled and the 2007 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities hold that the respect for dignity, individual autonomy and non-discrimination are essential guiding principles underlying all efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the disabled.

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The Indian statute, Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights) Act, 1995 does conform with these 'guiding principles' but the implementation is improper.

The Government has also launched several schemes to provide financial aid, entrepreneurial skills, assistive aids, develop sign languages. However, the results and performance has not been commensurate with ~~to~~ expectations.

### SERIOUS LACUNAE

Perhaps, the greatest example of the neglect of the disabled in policy formulation is their inaccessibility to public services at low cost. In any developed country, measures to facilitate Persons with Disabilities (PWD) are ubiquitous: ramps for wheelchairs, provisions in public transport, dedicated

1. The first thing I noticed when  
I stepped out of the plane was  
the fresh air. It felt like a  
weight had been lifted off my chest.  
The sun was shining brightly, and the  
birds were singing in the trees.

2. The second thing I noticed was  
the smell of the earth. It was a  
rich, fertile smell that made me  
want to dig my fingers into the soil.  
The grass was green and the flowers  
were in full bloom. It was a beautiful  
sight.

3. The third thing I noticed was  
the sound of the water. It was a  
soft, gentle sound that made me  
want to sit on the bank and watch  
the fish jump. The water was clear  
and the fish were colorful. It was a  
peaceful scene.



medical staff, provision of social security etc. This technique of making all public services 'barrier-free' for PwDs is missing in Indian policies.

Another policy area which has received great thrust in recent times is local self-governance. However, the involvements of Municipalities/Panchayats/Voluntary organisations in the case of PwDs is minimal. This further illustrates that policy framers often neglect the needs of PwD ~~states~~.

The PwD Act and various Supreme Court judgements have mandated the government to reserve 3% of all government-jobs for PwDs. This provision is usually neglected during recruitment processes.

The lack of synergy between governmental policies and PwD priorities is explicit in the government's advertisement policy. Achievements of a new government



are extolled in virtually every newspaper but few govt ads focus on sensitizing the public regarding the needs of the disabled. The government can play a role of behaviour change facilitator, given its enormous resources, but, sadly, this function, too, has been neglected.

The prime developmental scheme to combat ~~the~~ poverty and unemployment is MGNREGA. However, by its very labour intensive nature, the 'disabled' are deprived of the possible benefits of the programme.

All these examples are the just the tip of the iceberg. The Indian state has severely neglected its constitutional obligation to take care of the disabled.

### LACK OF FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The mentally challenged are severely neglected, <sup>even</sup> amongst the PwD and therefore,



deserve special mention. Institutional capacity to take care of them is limited and outdated.

### NEED OF A PARADIGM SHIFT

It is, thus amply clear that a fundamental shift is required in the State's approach towards the differently abled.

A synergistic approach, crosscutting all sectors is the need of the hour. Perhaps, a special mechanism on the lines of the 'gender budget' needs to be evolved to ensure that all departments consider the priorities of PwD. Such a 'PwD Budget' should be subject to intense scrutiny and audit.

At the same time, the State must focus on increasing the capacity and capability of the differently abled. We should move away from a framework.

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where PwDs are considered only as beneficiaries of welfare programmes and instead aim to integrate them in our ~~welfare~~<sup>growth</sup> strategy.

Public awareness is also essential. Communicating Behaviour change through intensive Information and Education programmes should be the prerogative of each department. Line functionaries should be sensitized regarding the special needs of the disabled.

Above all, the requirement is to ensure that priorities of the disabled are at the forefront of all govt policies.

As an example, while focussing on higher education and skill development, efforts must be made to develop capacity building programmes for caregivers of PwDs. Similarly, last mile service delivery to PwDs may be entrusted to local self govt.



Mental Health must be an immediate priority for the government. Increased govt ~~an~~ intervention with special focus on Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Mental Retardation is essential.

### CONCLUSION

The Persons with Disabilities, are perhaps the most courageous people to live on this planet. ~~Not~~ Not only do they live with their handicaps <sup>but</sup> they face <sup>severe</sup> social and economic challenges <sup>also</sup>. All they require is the helping hand of the state and they shall thrive and propel our country toward 'greatness'.

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and in the morning I went to the  
beach and saw many people  
swimming and sunbathing. The  
water was very clear and the  
sand was very soft. I went  
for a walk on the beach and  
saw many beautiful shells.

Continued

I went to the beach and saw  
many people swimming and  
sunbathing. The water was  
very clear and the sand was  
very soft. I went for a walk  
on the beach and saw many  
beautiful shells. I also saw  
many people playing in the  
sand. The children were  
very happy and were playing  
for hours. I saw many  
people playing in the sand  
and many people were  
swimming in the water. I  
saw many people playing in  
the sand and many people  
were swimming in the water.

~~Intro~~ Disabled: the invisible minority in India's policy making

realms

INTRO

Hook

Fact:

There's

→ M.C. Gandhi once said a nation's greatness measured by weakest treasure. We have failed.

27 million  
8.2% of popn.

→ ① STATE OF DISABLED IN INDIA

SOCIAL

ECON

PSYCHO

} Link with Poverty

→ ② POLICY MAKING

→ Intl. Conventions

Acts

National Rules

Schemes

→ Judgement

③ LAEVNA

→ ~~all~~ access to public services.

Student ppt ↓

disproportionate poverty

role of municipalities

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How policies do not take into account?

social change

{ family care

Mental health

implementing capacity (?)

public awareness

Examples

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SUGGESTIONS

→ Paradigm shift from rights to capabilities



*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text appears to be organized into several paragraphs or sections.]*