As per revised syllabus

Compulsory English

for **MPSC** and
other Competitive Examinations

Prof. Johnson Borges

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for MPSC and other Competitive Examinations

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☎ 8600010416

info@dpbooks.in
www.dpbooks.in

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Contents

Preface iv

Part I : Eassy Writing

1. Writing an Essay 3
2. Essay Writing Tips 7
3. Sample Essays 16

Part II : Letter Writing

1. Useful Phrases for Letter Writing 29
2. Useful Tips for Letter Writing 33
3. Text of the Letter 44

Part III : Precis, Comprehension, Paraphrasing

1. Precis Writing 63
2. Comprehension of Passage 76
3. Paraphrasing 97

Part IV : Grammar

1. Transformation of Sentences 109
2. Correction of Sentences 139
3. Tense 151
4. Punctuation 161
5. Formation of Words 170
6. Phrases 187

Part V : Communication Skill

1. Useful Sentences in Communication Skills 205
2. Report 221
3. Appeal 226
4. Speech 232
5. Conversation - Interview, Press Conference, Group Discussion 235

Part VI : MPSC Question Papers. 259

Preface

"Hope lies in dreams and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams a reality."

Jonas Salk
(The creator of the polio vaccine)

No book can have a good preface unless it has a "face" which is also the objective of the book.

This book which is compiled as per the new syllabus of MPSC, has been exclusively designed for those candidates who want to achieve success in the MPSC examination. The book does provide the effective tools that would help in achieving success, utilizing the immense potential one has for the same.

The structure of the book will stimulate, activate and accelerate your learning process. The objective is to present the subject in an organized manner to familarize you with current trends and types of questions. The aim of this book is to help you learn and perform intelligently and, thus to maximize your score. The book will assist you in recognizing your weakness and enable you to improve upon them.

I owe my special gratitude to Mr. Dattatraya Pashte and Mr. Nilesh Pashte of Diamond publications for giving me opportunity to write this book. I would like to express heart felt gratitude to the staff of Diamond publications and Aksharwel as well.

As the need for improvement is never ending, I will look forward to receive valuable and useful suggestions from readers.

Pune **JOHNSON BORGES**

Freedom of mind is not something that spontaneously happens. It is a product of constant unremitting nurture of right habits of observation and reflection.

- John Dewey

Part I

Essay Writing

Writing an Essay

For different reasons many people are intimidated by the task of essay writing. However, such fears are unnecessary and like with any other project, the key to writing good essays lies in organization.

There are many different types of essays and each warrants a different style of writing. Therefore, the first thing to do is to focus on your reason for writing the essay. For example, are you writing scholarship essays or is the essay intended to outline a description of some event? Although the basic essay outline will remain the same irrespective of the tone of the essay, one can work towards making a powerful impact by deciding the tone and mood of the essay beforehand. An index of essays for you to choose from would include argumentative essays, descriptive essays, narrative essays or persuasive essays and each one of these requires its own kind of writing.

It you have a list of essays to choose from, picking good essay topics would also depend on your knowledge of your own writing skills, you may be most proficient at writing in a specific style for one thing. The thing that makes the difference between a well-written essay and a poorly-written one is the manner in which the writer's ideas have been illustrated in his or her words. Initially, you may find it helpful to employ a basic outline to guide you through the writing process but with sufficient practice, such an outline will become unnecessary.

Here is a ten-step process that would help you to write an essay. These steps can be viewed sequentially, as if going through ten sequential steps in an essay writing process or can be explored by individual topic.

1) **Research -** Begin the essay writing process by researching your topic, making yourself an expert. Utilize the internet, the academic databases and the library. Take notes and immerse yourself in the

words of great thinkers.

2) **Analysis -** Now that you have a good knowledge base, start analyzing the arguments of the essays you're reading. Clearly define the claims, write out the reasons, the evidence, look for weaknesses of logic and also strengths. Learning how to write an essay begins by learning how to analyze essays written by others.
3) **Brainstorming -** Your essay will require insight of your own, genuine essay-writing brilliance. Ask yourself a dozen questions and answer them. Meditate with a pen in your hand. Take walks and think and think until you come up with original insights to write about.
4) **Thesis -** Pick your best idea and pin it down in a clear assertion that you can write your entire essay around. Your thesis is your main point, summed up in a concise sentence that lets the reader know where your'e going and why. It's practically impossible to write a good essay without a clear thesis.
5) **Outline -** Sketh out your essay before straightway writing it out. Use one-line sentences to describe paragraphs, and bullet points to describe what each paragraph will contain. Play with the order of the essay. Map out the structure of your argument and make sure each paragraph is unified.
6) **Introduction -** Now, sit down and write the essay. The introduction should grab the reader's attention, set up the issue and lead into your thesis. Your intro is merely a buildup of the issue, a stage of bringing your reader into the argument of the essay.
   (Note - The title and first paragraph are probably the most important elements of your essay. This is an essay-writing point that doesn't always sink in within the context of the classroom. In the first paragraph you either hook the reader's interest or lose it. Of course your teacher, who's getting paid to teach you how to write an essay, will read the essay you've written regardless, but in the real world, readers make up their minds about whether or not to read your essay by glancing at the title alone.)
7) **Paragraphs -** Each individual paragraph should be focused on a single idea that supports your thesis. Begin paragraphs with topic

sentences, support assertions with evidence and expound your ideas in the clearest, most sensible way you can. Speak to your reader as if he or she is sitting in front of you. In other words, instead of writing the essay, try talking the essay.

8) **Conclusion -** Gracefully exit your essay by making a quick wrap-up sentence, and then add on some memorable thought, perhaps a quotation, or an interesting twist of logic, or some call to action. Is there something you want the reader to walk away and do? Let him or her know exactly what.

9) **Style -** Format your essay according to the correct guidelines for citation. All borrowed ideas and quotations should be correctly cited in the body of your text, followed up with a works cited (references) page listing the details of your sources.

10) **Language -** You're not done writing your essay until you're polished your language by correcting the grammar, making sentences flow, incoporating rhythm, emphasis, adjusting the formality, giving it a level-headed tone, and making other intuitive edits. Proofread until it reads just how you want it to sound. Writing an essay can be tedious, but you don't want to bungle the hours of conceptual work you've put into writing your essay by leaving a few slippy mispellings and poorly worded phrases.

A mini-dictionary of essay exam words.

Analyze : When you are asked to analyze, you must separate a thing or idea into its parts to explain their relationship to each other.

Comment : When you're asked to comment, you should explore the importance and meaning of something, or write a note of explanation, or write a criticism or example of something written or said. You may also write a remark or make a critical observation or express your opinion.

Compare : Here, you must look for similarities. The term compare is usually stated as compare with, and it means that you are to emphasize similarities, although differences may be mentioned.

Contrast : Show the differences between two or more topics.

Express your opinion with respect to the correctness or merits of the factors under consideration. Give the results of your own analysis

and discuss the limitations and good points or contributions of the plan or work in question.

Define : When asked to define something, your definition must contain concise, clear and authoritative meanings. Details are not required but boundaries of limitations of the definition should be given. Keep in mind the group / class / category to which a thing belongs and whatever differentiates the particular object from all others in the group / class / category.

Diagram : You must draw a chart, a plan or a graphic representation in your answer. You may be expected to label the diagram or add a brief explanation or description.

Examine the topic, analyze it carefully and then present detailed considerations, pro and con regarding the problems of items involved. This type of essay question is common.

Evaluate : Present a careful analysis of the problem and stress both the advantages and limitations. Evaluation means an authoritative and personal appraisal of both contributions and limitations.

Explain : Clarify and interpret the material you present. State the 'how' or 'why'. Explain differences of opinion or experimental results and state any causes if it's possible, in short, tell how it happened!

Justify : To justify your answer, provide factual evidence or logical reasons. In this type of answer, the evidence should be presented in a convincing form. Establish your answer with certainty by evaluating and giving evidence or by logical reasoning.

List, Enumerate : Write an itemized list, series or tabulation. Be concise.

Outline : Give the main points and essential supplementary materials. Leave out the minor detail and present the information in a clear systematic arrangement or classification.

Summarize : Give the main points of facts in condensed form. Brief examples can help make your summary more specific.

Trace : Give a description of the progress, historical sequence or development from the point of origin. This type of essay may require probing or deductions.

Essay Writing Tips

I. Understanding the Essay question:

There are different types of questions. You never know which question you will receive, so you must be prepared to write on ALL the types of questions. It is very important that you completely understand the question.

BEFORE you begin to write take a look at some essay question types.

1. Choose a point of view and support that view. (Sample question)

Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.

This type of question asks you to look at only ONE side of the issue - the side you agree with. DON'T write about both sides. You tell which side you agree with and support your ideas with details and examples.

Sample Essay for this question: Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes while others believe that the classes should be optional. I believe that students should absolutely be required to attend classes and I will explain my reasons as below.

To attain a university degree, it is necessary to prove oneself in many areas. You must read countless books and attend lectures, labs and discussions. If a student only had to read books to attain a degree, I don't think that degree would be worth very much. Of course, we all gain much knowledge from books and articles, but to really have the university

experience, we must also gain valuable knowledge from the professors and instructors that help - guide us through these readings. The professor chooses the readings for his or her course with the intention of discussing and lecturing about the topics in the books. If you only read the books, you are missing half of the education. We can learn how to interpret ideas from the professors who have more education and experience than we do. A professor can stress for us the important educational points in the assigned readings and share his or her knowledge and experience.

People go to a university to learn. The experience of a lecture given by a good professor is absolutely a necessary part of learning. Professors can be role models, mentors, teachers of life and education. To say that their lectures and lessons should be optional seems incredible to me. People have been learning from each other at universities for ages. One cannot have a complete education without professors guiding him or her though the educational process. Valuable learning comes through discussions with instructors and professors. It is my opinion that university students should be required to attend classes and discussions. Professors are valuable resources in a person's educational experience and to miss the opportunity of learning one's knowledge directly from the source would be a missed opportunity indeed.

2. Describe something. (Sample question)

If you could invent something NEW, what product would you develop? Use specific details to explain why this invention is needed?

In answering this type of question, you must use a number of adjectives in order to effectively describe something. The reader should be able to really "see" what you are describing. In this particular question, you must also be creative as they are asking you about something that doesn't even exist.

Sample Essay for this question : If I could invent something new, I would develop a chemical germ detector with an attached protection kit that could be worn on the body. This invention is needed because there is a real danger of chemical terrorism in the world. We are not medically equipped to handle such a disaster. Such a device might help to save thousands of lives. We have seen the use of chemical and biological

warfare in conflicts between nations such as the U.S. and Iraq in the Gulf War. Also, there was a case of social terrorism in the Tokyo subway system in the 1990's when someone released deadly Sarin gas in a passenger train car. An attack of this nature on a much wider scale could happen at any time. It is not a question of whether such a disaster will happen, but when it occurs if there is an invention that could detect the immediate presence of a chemical or biological molecule, then a person could protect himself both in military and civilian life.

It has been reported that if a disaster of this kind occurs, the hospitals will not be prepared to handle the situation. If someone releases a deadly bacteria in New York City, for example, the hospitals would not have enough antibiotics available to treat the thousands or even millions of people that would be coming in for help. My invention would reduce the need for medicines and medical equipment.

It is also possible that medical personnel would not be well trained to deal with such a catastrophic event. If people are able to help themselves with my invention, then the number of casualties would be greatly reduced. In conclusion, it is not a question of if, but when a chemical or biological catastrophe will happen. Our hospitals are not equipped with enough medicines and properly trained personnel to handle a disaster of this type. Therefore, we need to have the option of equipping ourselves with protective devices in order to help ourselves in the event of a catastrophe like the one described above. If I could invent such a device, I would.

3. Compare two points of view and tell which one you agree with. (Sample question)

Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing. Compare these two views. Which view do you agree with? Why? In this type of question, you must write about BOTH sides of this issue and then tell which side you agree with. You may NOT say that you agree with both sides. You MUST make a choice. First, give support, details and examples of both sides of the issue. Then, tell which side you agree with and why.

4. Agree or disagree with something. (Sample question)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: ONLY people who earn a lot of money are successful. Do you agree or disagree with this definition of success? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. In this type of question, you MUST agree or disagree. You cannot be unsure or indecisive. After you have said whether you agree or disagree, you must give convincing reasons and examples for your choice.

5. Explain why something is true. (Sample question)

People remember special gifts or presents that they have received. Why? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In this question, you should use lots of examples. (For this question, you could use examples of gifts one might receive and tell why those gifts are memorable). Do not write in the first person, "I." Write in more general terms.

6. Support an idea or plan. (Sample question)

It has recently been announced that a new restaurant may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. In this question, first tell whether you support or oppose the plan and then tell why. Since this question is somewhat personal, it is okay use personal pronouns such as: "I, me, my" in your answer.

II. The parts of an essay :

In every essay, there should be an introduction, a body and conclusion.

A. The introduction : The introduction restates the question using different vocabulary and/or sentence structure. The introduction also includes your thesis statement...the most important sentence in your essay.

B. The body : The body of your essay is also the "heart" of your essay. It will include your main ideas and details and examples to support those ideas. Each new idea should be a new paragraph. Typically, an essay will have 3-4 body paragraphs.

C. The conclusion : The conclusion will be your final paragraph. It will summarize all the main ideas in your essay and it may also include your opinion.

III. How to write a good introduction:

Let's look at some more essay questions to see how to restate the question and how to write your thesis statement.

Essay Question 1 :

Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. What do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Restatement & Thesis : People have two options when deciding where to eat. They can prepare meals and eat at home or they can go out to stands or restaurants. I prefer to go out to eat because the food is more varied and interesting, it is less work for me and it saves time.

Analysis : The restatement mentions the two types of options people have for eating and tells which one the author prefers. In addition, it gives three reasons for that preference. These three reasons will make up the three main idea paragraphs in the body of the essay.

Essay Question 2 :

Is it better for children to participate in team sports or individual sports? Why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Restatement & Thesis : It is better for children to participate in team sports rather than individual sports. In team sports, children learn to cooperate. They learn good sportsmanship and also to rely on their teammates. These are important lessons that will benefit children throughout their lives.

Analysis : The first sentence clearly states the author's opinion. This is followed by three reasons for the opinion. Finally, the author mentions life lessons. In the essay, the three reasons will make up the three main idea paragraphs in the body of the essay. In addition, the author will mention how each main idea is useful throughout life.

Essay Question 3 :

Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Restatement & Thesis : There are many good reasons to live in a big city and an equal number of good reasons to live in a small town. I, myself, prefer to live in a small town because it is more personal and pleasant, it is easier to get around in and it is safer than a big city.

Analysis : The first statement says that both a city and town have positive aspects. The next sentence tells the author's preference and reasons for that preference. These reasons will make up the body of the essay.

IV. How to write good body paragraphs :

Each paragraph in your essay introduces a new idea. It should include a thesis statement followed by support and examples. Be sure to use LOTS of examples. Within and between paragraphs be sure to use transition words like: on the other hand, however, though, for example, in contrast, likewise, in addition, first, finally. The paragraph should end with a concluding sentence which briefly summarizes the ideas in the paragraph.

V. The elements of a good concluding paragraph:

A good concluding paragraph should include a summary of your main points. It may also include the author's opinion. It should NOT introduce any new ideas. A good concluding paragraph often leaves an impression on the reader. It may make the reader think more deeply about the topic.

VI. Preparing to write and writing your answer :

a. Read and understand the essay question. (2 minutes).
b. Organize your ideas on paper by writing a short outline of the introduction, body and conclusion. (8 minutes).
c. Write your essay. Remember to restate the question in your introduction. Use clear details and LOTS of examples in the body

of your essay. Finally, summarize the main ideas in the concluding paragraph of your essay. (15 minutes).

d. Reread your essay and make any changes in spelling, verb tense, word choice or sentence structure. (5 minutes).

VII. A sample outline :

Question : In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.

1. It is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they can learn about responsibility; they can learn the value of money and they can learn how to work as a member of a team.
2. Students can learn responsibility
   a. They have to come to work on time every day
   b. They must serve customers in a friendly manner
   c. They have to maintain the store shelves with inventory
3. Students can learn the value of money
   a. Students will learn that it takes a lot of time and effort to make money
   b. Students will make wiser choices when buying things with their own money
4. Students will learn how to work as a member of a team
   a. Students will learn how to compromise with other employees (helping out when someone is sick, etc.)
   b. Students will learn about the friendship that comes from teamwork (feeling like you can trust others)
5. Conclusion

   It is a valuable experience for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they will learn to be responsible adults. They will have an appreciation for money and they will learn about working with others. All of these traits will benefit them throughout their lives.

VIII. A sample essay based on the outline above :

It is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they can learn about responsibility; they can learn the value of money and they can learn how to work as a member of a team. When teenagers have jobs while they are students, they can learn how to be responsible. As an employee, you must follow a weekly schedule. This means, you have to come to work on time. If you are scheduled to begin work at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning, you have to be there at 8 a.m. It doesn't matter if you went to a party the night before and do not want to get up. You have to get up. Your boss is relying on you to do your job. As an employee, you also learn that you must serve the customer in a friendly manner. If you are not friendly, the store may lose business and you may lose your job. Finally, an employee is responsible for maintaining the store shelves with inventory. If you work in a department store, you have to keep the shelves filled with merchandise. The products have to be priced and placed on the shelves. If the shelves look empty, customers may get a bad impression of the store and may not continue to shop there. It is good for students to learn responsibility when they are young because it will benefit them as they get older.

Another benefit to teenagers working is that they will learn the value of money. Often students get money from their parents, but they do not realize how hard their parents work for that money. When students work, they begin to appreciate how difficult it can be to make money. They also realize that "money doesn't grow on trees" as some students seem to believe when asking their parents for money. Another reason it is good for students to work is that they will make wiser choices when they use their own money to buy things. For example, if students work 20 hours per week at Rs. 100 per hour, they will make Rs.2000 per week. In one month, that is about Rs. 8000. Perhaps a student will think twice about spending Rs. 1500 for a pair of tennis shoes or Rs. 3000 for a stereo system when s/he has had to work very hard for that money. On the other hand, when students do spend money for personal objects, they will appreciate them more than if they had gotten the money from their parents.

Finally, working teenagers learn from being members of a team. As

employees, students learn to work with others and help one another. For example, if someone is sick, you may be asked to help out. In addition, other employees will depend on you to do your share of the work. If one person does not do his/her job, other employees may have to do extra work to compensate. Students will learn very quickly that it is not good teamwork to expect others to do your work. Finally, students will develop friendships with other employees because they have learned to count on each ther. Working as a member of a team will build strong character in students.

To conclude, it is a valuable experience for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they will learn to be responsible adults. They will have an appreciation for money and they will learn about working with others. These experiences will help them grow into adulthood and benefit them.

Sample Essays

Corruption Unbound

"Anger against the bitter pandemic of corruption is legitimate, as is the protest against this plague that is eroding the capability and potential of our nation."

- President Pranab Mukherjee in his address to the nation on August 14, 2012

By describing corruption as a pandemic, which has spread itself like a deadly disease, the first citizen was echoing the sentiments felt by every section of the citizenry of the Indian Republic.

Corruption is a pest, a contagious disease which affects all those who come in its contact. And today nobody seems immune. Corruption in India is all-pervasive and rampant. It has acquired new dimensions and become like an epidemic. It is no more endemic. There is hardly any department or segment of life where corruption is not found. In each and every walk of life it has its boundless sway. It has increased spectacularly and astronomically in direct relation and proportion to our demoralization, erosion of values, greed, materialism, lust for self and power and moral degradation. It has dehumanized the whole society and character casualty.

Today all our relations are based on calculations of gain and loss. . We think of everything in terms of money and price and not in terms of value, aesthetic appeal, moral satisfaction etc. Making a quick buck has become the sole aim of life and consequently cheating, bribery, loot, corruption, hypocrisy, scams, scandals, adulteration, murders, rapes, terrorism, militancy, violence, drug-trafficking, frauds etc. have become very common. Corruption in all forms and subtle shades can be seen, Corruption is now well established in all walks and departments of life—political life, business, administration, educational institutions, judicial

system, public distribution system, police, security, grant of licenses, globalization efforts, hospitals, local institutions and so on and so forth. There is no exception. The corruption habits and skills have become so internalized that they have resulted in complete demoralization, frustration, degradation, desperation and immoralization of the society.

There is parallel economy in operation in the country and the black -money is ever on increase because of political patronage and connivance. They fund election expenses of the political parties, foot the bill of huge rallies. The underworld dons, mafias, racketeers, drug-traffickers and smugglers etc. are the real masters and rulers. They are the real powers to be. The honest officials are few and far between. They are harassed, pressurised, blackmailed and threatened by their corrupt counterparts and their politica! gurus to follow their dictates. They cannot resist long these pressures, temptations and threats and so ultimately give in and swell the ranks of corrupt ones.

A Central Vigilance Commissioner says about some factors as the root of corruption in India: Scarcity of goods and services; red tape and delays which give rise to the phenomenon of spend money, lack of transparency in decision making, cushions of safety built into our legal and administrative systems/procedures and a very healthy principle that every man is innocent till proved guilty promoting the corrupt to use their ill-gotten wealth to engage the best legal brains and escape the clutches of law; tribalism or a sense of "biradani".

Transparency International publishes the "Corruption perceptions Index' (CPI) annually ranking countries. The CPI, generally, defines corruption as "The misuse of public power for private benefit." India's image on tackling graft seems to have gone from bad to worse as its rank slipped to a lowly 95 among 183 countries. Big corruption scandals, such as common wealth Games and 2G telecom scam, cash for vote, together with coal scam and irrigation scam in Maharashtra contributed to India's 95th rank.

Elimination of corruption is not impossible but it is certainly very difficult. It cannot be checked and curtailed unless there is strong desire and will to stem the rot on the part of the leaders and the public in general. It should be dealt with iron hand. There should be transparency in

dealings; red-tapism should be done away with and more teeth should be given to courts and law-enforcement agencies. The pay and allowances of the employees should be adequate and commensurate with the cost of living. There should be deterrent punishment for people indulging in corrupt practices. It is high time that corruption is check-mated with combined efforts of all concerned. It is an evil that boomerangs; nobody can escape the vicious circle. If someone is receiving the bribe, the very next day he/she will be required to grease the palm of somebody else. We are wasting our power in receiving and giving. Ill-gotten wealth is bound to have evil results. Such money can never give satisfaction, contentment, happiness or solace. According to Mahatma Gandhi "The very essence of civilization is that we give a paramount place to morality in all our affairs, public or private." Human values like honesty, compassion, righteousness, morality etc. are the very elements that go into making life worth living. It has come to our notice that life without human values is like a house built on sand.

Positive Use of Internet

Life is about a mix of good and evil. So is the Internet. For all the good it does us, cyberspace has its dark sides too. Unlike conventional communities though, there are no policemen patrolling the information superhighway, leaving it open to everything from Trojan horses and viruses to cyber stalking, trademark counterfeiting and cyber terrorism.

Computer has brought about revolutionary transformations of knowledge, the way it is being acquired and the means by which it is being inculcated. It all began with World Wide Web which acts as a networking system connected to the server and which helps provide ready-made and fast portal of information. Internet is its practical means for providing information and messages. .

Started as an important source of information storage machinery, computer has the wider usability in defense institutions and for its various purposes, but slowly it gained access to other domains of human activities. However, the rapid growth of Internet gave rise to the establishment of Cyber Cafes all over the world.

Internet is the speedy means of communication whereby information

can be made available easily, messages can be exchanged and wide and varied spectrum of valuable information can be gathered in a very short span of time. In fact, Internet has become the prime source of information encompassing almost all subjects, entities, nations, establishments, field of inquiries, institutions, industries, domains, persons and places.

In this hi-tech era, Internet has acquired an urgent necessity for people of all walks of life as more and more Cyber Cafes gave way to young and old reaching out for easy access for vital information. As a user friendly means, Internet gained tremendous response from the educated professionals, students and business tycoons. Now it has become possible for an individual to send instant message to anyone living in any part of the world in a jiffy and he can get back the reply within minutes. While sitting in his bed room, a person can have all the incidents, news reports, messages. Internet is useful for all; for academicians, researchers, professionals and students - as study materials, vital statistics, readymade information are easily accessible. Students could study, make notes, fill up the forms which are available on-line or download them, go through the examination results which are placed on-line before they get published.

Academicians and researchers need not visit libraries as Internet has become a vast ocean of library on any subject, topic and field of studies. Although some of the websites are payee most of them are accessible for making research papers done in a very short span of time.

For IT professionals, Internet has become all the more relevant as the latest technology is available on line except for new patents. Sending and receiving mails is a part of one's life. And from scientists to the layman, information of all genre of life can be accessed through Internet. Railway information like schedule, ticket availability and departure time, to the information on agriculture, economy, including the budget details of every year is displayed on-line.

For writers and authors, Internet is a must particularly for patent document writers who can access all the inventions that have been established. Internet is user-friendly, less expensive and speedy in transferring messages, information & relevant data. In this fast paced world, Internet has become the very part and parcel of human activities.

Female Foeticide : Unabated in Modern India

Amartya Sen, a nobel laureate has stated that with the present one billion population of India, the country has to account for some 25 million missing women.

The term missing women implies the death of women in more than one way. The commonest of killing women is the destruction of the female foetus.

The sex determination tests are nothing but slaughter-houses for female foetuses. It is a pity that in spite of the so called draconian laws with the government, the diagnostic labs and scanning centres are indulging in this heinous crime with impunity. In the perpetration of this crime, many parents are at the forefront.

Thus millions of girls are killed even before they are born. Our hollow talk regarding Indian culture and respect for women is nothing but a hypocritical utterance.

Our scriptures say that God lives where women live. We must bear in mind that we have highly venerated and worshipped women goddesses. Even the goddess of learning, Sarswati, is a woman. Laksmi the goddess of wealth, is also a woman.

The girls are not killed just in the foetus. If born, a number of them are abandoned by the heartless parents.

Why the parents do not want a female child in India is a crucial question. It actually relates to the whole of society.

The mother who indulges in the pastime of killing her own daughter or causing her death .by whatever means often has had an unpleasant experience, or she has seen and observed a number of happenings around her such as bride burning, bride desertion etc. Obviously, she does not want that her daughter as she grows up, should lead a subhuman life which is to be no more than life in death.

In a number of cases, it is noted that dowry system is a big problem. Many poor parents cannot afford to give dowry to their daughters, which is often demanded.

In certain cases, even when the parents are quite well-to-do, the dughters, at least if they have a number of them, are regarded as a hindrance in their progress. It is because a major part of their earnings

and savings has to be siphoned off to pay dowry to their daughter.

It will normally be states like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan where literacy rate is not as high as in Delhi, the people are traditional. They prefer boys and hence, resort to the destruction of the female foeticide or the girl herself if born. This has led to the diminishing number of girls. That is why the ratio between the number of boys and girls in these states is decreasing. The situation, however, is the same all over the country.

According to figures released by the Census Commissioner and the Union Ministry of Health; the ratios for women to men in the 0-6 year age group in India is the lowest. In 1999, there were 945 women per 1,000 men, in year 2001, this number has come down to 927 women per 1,000 men. In South Delhi child sex ratio(CSR)is as low as 845 girls per 1,000 boys. In Punjab, probably the number of girls per l000 boys is 800 or less.

As far as legislation is concerned, we have powerful Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act of 1994.

It has, however, been seen that the problem has not been rooted out in spite of a draconian act. Of course, sometimes we read in newspapers about action taken against the erring diagnostic centres here and there. But unless the mindset of people is changed, nothing tangible may be expected. For preventing the destruction of female foetus, we need a sort of social revolution.

Certain persons and bodies such as Sabu George (a social activist) CEHAT (Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes) and MASUM (Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal) have filed writ petitions in the Supreme Court on the issue of sex determination tests.

The main plank of these persons and bodies is that there is a diabolic between sex selection technologies, female foeticide and India's falling sex ratio.

The petitioners want that not only the existing legislation in this regard, be implemented forcefully but the law should be amended to include newer sex selection techniques.

The ultimate remedy perhaps lies in speeding up the practical

provision for education at some high level to all.

In rural areas, some doctors carry out diagnostic tests to find out whether a foetus is a male or female. The government must therefore, take strict actions against such doctors (in the rural areas).

Girls must be provided a status equal to boys in society in the matters of education, wealth, employment, legal rights etc. to make the people aware of the importance of girls and women in society.

A particularly distressing aspect of female foeticide is the general apathy of the people towards this immoral act, which is responsible for the scourge of a skewed sex ratio. Taking undue advantage of the people's indifference and a mad race for having a boy, the ultrasound scanning doctors are minting money.

Certainly introspection and action on war-footing are needed. NGO. and several social and religious groups should be roped in for the purpose. There should be a daily pledge as a part of "ardas" (prayer) at religious places in this connection. The youth should be made to participate in large numbers at educational institutes who should enlighten the vulnerable people through persuasion, seminars, debates, dramas, skits etc.

Sex ratio in India is getting more and more disproportionate over the years. Unfortunately the educated and the elite still seem to consider their male child a status symbol, and thereby partake in creating an imbalance in the male-female sex ratio.

Female infanticide is one of the issues that is gaining much prominence from all quarters these days.

Case histories like these should make us think a hundred times before we call ourselves citizens of a developed progressive nation of the 21st century trying to live with the illusion that we are at par with the developed giants of the world.

We have developed technologically, no doubt, but are we putting these technological developments in proper use?

Portable machines are taken to remote villages by motorcycle. As a consequence, infanticide has given way to foeticide.

Reasons for selective abortions are many, from carrying the family name forward, lighting the funeral pyre to hoping for a male breadwinner

in the family. But the reason, which tops the list, is dowry - a price paid by the parents to marry off their daughters.

"The laws are not being followed, I will say the agencies, the NGOs and the people are not at all aware on the issue. The root cause needs to be eliminated and that is the dowry system has to be done away with. Though Dowry Laws prevail, they are not being implemented properly," said Manju S Hembrom, Member, National Commission for Women.

Dowry though illegal in India, but the law is almost universally ignored. For poor and middle class families it is a burden, which they are forced to bear.

Many people believe, and that perhaps rightly, that the demand for dowry is also greatly responsible for the falling ratio of girls in our country particularly in the northern states. Thus, a reader wrote to the Editor of a newspaper:-

"Is it a sin to be the father of a girl? Perhaps this is the reason behind the blind desire to have a sony One hopes to get a hefty dowry at the time of a son's marriage. A girl child becomes unwanted at birth. This has led to skewed birth ratio.

In our region, this falling ratio has assumed alarming proportions. In fact these dowry seekers are responsible for this sorry state of affairs."

At a number of places in our country such as Noida, Ludhiana etc. some girls have shown exemplary courage and refused to marry grooms demanding dowry. That is a healthy trend and it should be encouraged. Such girls should be provided with all kinds of assistance in the matter of education, health, service, etc. by the government, NGO and philanthropists,

We frequently read news such as the one given, below in newspapers:

Girls are becoming pilots, doctors, engineers, and even astronauts. The CEO of the HSBC (Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai) is a woman. Kalpana Chawla did India proud. Indira, Gandhi was the most powerful Indian Women. PT Usha, Aishwarya Rai, Shabana Azmi, Smita Patil, Medha Patkar, Najma Hepatullah, Sushma Swaraj, Anju Bobby George, Shiny Wilson, Sania Mirza and many other women have done India proud. They proved their supremacy in their respective fields.

The hand that moves the cradle rules the world. Many great women were responsible for the unprecedented growth of kingdoms, empires and democracies, of the world. We should never underestimate the power of the female gender simply because she is lean and feeble. She has lots of energy and courage, sometimes more than those possessed by males who try to dominate her most of the times.

A renowned surgeon and an award winning gynaecologist express their opinion in this matter in the following words:-

"Paradoxically, in today's materialistic society, women are seen neither as a source of wealth nor as that of wisdom. With the development of all-pervasive patriarchy, women became commodities. 'In the most perverted and cruelest form of patriarchy, society generated a twin process to get rid of our future mothers, i.e. elimination of unborn daughters through sex selection abortions and killing of female infants through sheer neglect and discrimination. If this, negative trend is continued, (it has already transcended all caste, culture and community barriers), it is sure to precipitate a demographic catastrophe. The issues at stake are numerous - social, demographic, cultural and political. The most urgent are the fundamental right to life, right of equality and survival of mearly one-half of the humankind.

Let's stop child labour

India can boast about being one of the big powers of the world and rapidly developing country. India has more charactristics i.e. having unity in diversity as well as the second in the world in population. Poverty is also one of the characteristics of india.

One of the serious cause is rapidly growing population which has swelled up to thrice in the last five decades and this is the prime cause that leads to poverty. Millions of people are surviving below poverty level. They struggle for their daily bread and butter. Everybody in the family has to struggle for their living and here begins the problem of child labour.

Though government has made laws against child labour in 1986. We often find children working on construction sites, tobacco factories, pearl-dying industries, fireworks.

Stopping the child labour is not possible only by inacting the laws but is also necessary to make people aware about these worst practices. The causes behind employing the child need to be studied. Poverty, ignorance and availability of cheap labour, less restrictions of laws, lack in follow up and enforcement of implementation are the serious causes that make the innocent children deprived of their godlike childhood.

Poverty and ignorance make the parents allow their child work at very low wage rate.

Even the parents are not aware of the importance of education and eventhough they wish their child be given education. Their struggle for daily bread and butter makes them send their children to labour.

The employers never have the moral or kindness to consider their problems and not to employ the child. They only think about the availability of cheap labour. Moreover, the industries where most of the children are employed are very hazardous to their health. For example the industries of match-sticks, fire crackers, slate pencil and toxic chemicals used there cause coughing and breathlessness. Children are employed on daily wages of Rs. 20 to 40 only. Yes, this is the shocking but is harsh reality of the situation. Whom should we blame? Whom should we expect the least humanity from? Where is the justice? How can we welcome the revolution of science and the most advanced information technology on seeing the little futures of India, the little Gods at the doorstep of death.

I remember the Gazal sung by Jagjitsingh in which the poet begs to take way all his wealth, fame, youth and everything and in return he expects to restore his childhood with all it's sweet memories.

Milton says, 'The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day ' and only childhood has the enchanted moments. Yes, it is the most sweet dream of life. So let's make a concious pledge to allow children to enjoy their childhood and their ever memorable moments...

Problems of Unemployments.

India is the seventh largest country in area and the 2nd in population. Moreover, she is an agriculture oriented country. These facts show that the country must be facing the problem of unemployment. It is ever

increasing and alarming situation. This problem leads to a fearful pitch and harm the balance of society, peace and every ethics we keep. This critical problem has become acute for government though our country is a fast developing one.

Many factors are responsible for this problem. The most serious among them is over population. In 1951, the population of India was about 35 crores. It has now swelled up to more than 100 crores. It is clear that since thousands years ago up to 1957, it could reach up to 35 crores till 1957 and in just last five decades, it increased near about thrice. It is increasing at the rate of more than 16 millions per anum. Moreover, India is an agriculture orientation nation. The area of the country remains as it is but the dependants increased up to thrice. As a result per capital land decreased hence survival of so many members on a little agriculture became impossible and the farmers had to go to the cities to find job and unemployment from agriculture sector increased.

The second most crucial cause is automation. Most of the work in factories is done by the automatic machines controlled by computers. The work of many workers can be done by automatic machines. The industrialists prefer them instead of employing workers. They give perfection as well as quality of production with no tensions of problems and thus the numbers of unemployment increased.

The third burning problem is our educational policy. Lack of job oriented education is responsible for unemployment. Actually many industries have vacancies but only a few could surpass the qualification or the eligibilities they require. There is lack in technical and vocational guidance according to the needs of the various industries. Sole business or enterprises are little encouraged in our country. Policies are declared by the government but the critical implementation make the seekers deprived of such facilities.

Strict family planning. Enforcement of compulsory education as well as various opportinities of funds and techniques along with the guidance for small scale, sole business, enterprises should be offered.

Afterall no one can be happy in his life if someone in our vicinity is starved and deprived.