

Thinking is like a game, it does not begin unless there is an opposite team.

From prehistoric period till now, from the ages of dark caves to the era of smart cities the only chariot that led to humanity is the power to think - the power to brainstorm.

Thinking is an art and Homo sapiens is the only creature in the food chain who very effectively uses the art of thinking to tackle the obstacles.

Man is curious and rationale by nature and curiosity and rationality is the pre-requisite for a healthy thinking.

Thinking is very vital to achieve a definite goal and objective in life. The habit of choosing, making choices and the way to make constructive work all depends on thinking.

Thinking is just like a game and it requires a strong opposition to begin. As the old phrase suggests -

"Necessity is the mother of invention."

The above lines clearly justifies that only challenges and adversity tends us to think. Just like in any sport the teams or players are eager to grab the opportunity likewise thinking is also a game amidst endless opposition.

As we know opposition is the mother of thinking. ~~So, if~~
But I think "every driver wants a smooth road for his car"

So as per human psychology we generally have a tendency to escape or attitude of procrastination to our problems. But "life is not bed of roses" and without challenges, struggles; we will generally have a valueless and directionless life.

For example in Ancient India when Indian society was experiencing brahmanical supremacy in Hindu religion. So against the counter two new religion as Jainism and Buddhism came into existence which was a result of rational thinking.

We find instance of such thinking as a diplomacy in medieval India when King Akbar established matrimonial alliance with the rajput in order to secure and expand his empire and very efficiently tackled the regional powers.

This game of hide and seek between thinking and challenges are seen in freedom struggle of India - Post Swadeshi movement. Still India was not able to generate a brand mass leader against colonial masters then, M.K. Gandhi who very efficiently used his emotional intelligence to gain mass support.

Socio-religious reforms like - abolition of Sati, widow remarriage act all came under huge criticism by then masses but that constructive reform only happened when the society was suffering with challenges and obstacles.

From the voice of think-tank of India's missile programme - Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam who used to say -

“
Learning gives creativity
Creativity leads to thinking
Thinking provides knowledge
Knowledge makes you great”

The man behind India's nuclear programme came when we were put into sanctions by the USA for nuclear weapons. Had China and Pakistan were not nuclear nations, India would not think to build nukes.

Further when we see Election Commissioner like - T.N. Seshan who is known as reformer in Indian electoral system by adopting an identity card for voters, limit on election expenditures etc. just to stop the high malpractice in election

during late 1990's.

The teachings of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in the west who fought with the unjust and immoral socio-political system and made their youngsters to think and question the authority ultimately brought a socio-cultural revolution.

The French revolution which gave the concept of justice, liberty and equality to most of modern constitutions across the globe was the counter against the widespread corruption, inequalities and economic hardship in French society.

The Industrial revolution in Britain was a masterstroke for today's modern and industrial civilisation.

Formation of UNITED NATIONS, ~~OR~~ WORLD BANK and multi-national institutions in international relations came into being due to two world wars and its negative effect on humanity.

Formation of International Monetary Fund, UNESCO, WHO, UNDP all have their genesis when any opposition met with critical and rational thinking.

Today India wouldn't have been able to host the G20 summit and showcase her supremacy by leading the Global South if the 1997 Asian economic crisis would not have taken place which gave birth to Global Twenty.

The eye-opener COVID pandemic which made all countries to think that by mutual cooperation and togetherness, stability can be ensured thus making the way to Indian cultural motto - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

India's security challenge ^{from} China-Pakistan economic corridor was met with active collaboration with Iran and the construction of Gwadar port by India was just an example of thinking amidst opposition.

The foundation of Conference of parties - Paris Agreement, Net Zero, Sustainable development, SDG goals wouldn't have into picture if climate change would not be a global crisis.

The best picture of opposition and its active solutions can be seen in politics where we find - introduction of Jandhan Yojna to counter red tapism, UPI adoption to create a digital economy, public distribution system to feed the marginalised, Beti Bachao beti padhao, Ujjawali yojna to counter the burning of fossil fuels etc.

Creation of 'National Disaster management authority' in 2005 after 'Gujrat earthquake' and 'PM Cares fund' to tackle future pandemics.

Moreover monetary policies, fiscal policies to counter inflation, economic imbalance, unemployment, ^{NITI AAYOG} is an example of active thinking at ~~legislature level~~ ~~economy level~~ executive level.

The introduction of pivotal judgement of basic structure in Keshavananda Bharati Case 1973, Right to Information Act, Judicial activism, Public Interest Litigation all came after a major judicial shock in the country.

The most recent introduction of Bhashiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhashiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Bhashiya Sakshya Bill is an example of removing the colonial shadow from rational thinking by the legislature.

But there is also a second side of a coin.

Yes, there is no doubt that thinking comes when challenges arrives but we cannot take it as granted.

As very often curiosity leads to thinking not necessary any opposition or challenge.

Since man is curious by nature, so it is very true that thinking is the natural reaction of human to its surroundings.

For example → The discovery of gravitational pull by Issac Newton was an instance of curiosity.

Moreover maximum theories like - Archimedes principle, pythagoras theorem, discovery of zero by Brahmagupta, Charak Samhita,

Indian scriptures and vedas are all examples of excellent curiosity and scientific thinking.

So by analyzing every perspective it is very evident to say that ~~an~~ opposition, challenges ^{are} very vital to have any sort of thinking and rationality.

2023 Mains

* Social issues.

Q Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in modern India?

Ans :- Marriage being a social institution in Indian society is one of the important sacrament since ancient India.

But in modern India the importance of marriage as a sacrament is losing its roots.

Factors for marriage's value degradation,

(i) Effect of westernisation : The cultural hegemony of west on Indian society is the catalyst to such scenario. Globalisation has put a negative effect on indigenous culture system of our soil.

Ex → The populism of 'feminism' in India has made a negative picture of women condition i.e. ~~they neglect marriage~~. Women do not need any men to survive and hence they neglect marriage.

(ii) Self independence : Economical independence is another reason that people are not engaging in marriage and focussing more on their career. and boys.

Ex → Indian government decision to raise the marriage age of girls, i.e. 21 yrs, ~~and~~ ultimately focusing more on career goals.

(iii) Changing purpose : Earlier marriage was considered as a religious and sacred union b/w bride and groom but now, people tendency towards marriage is to get an emotional support, companionship.

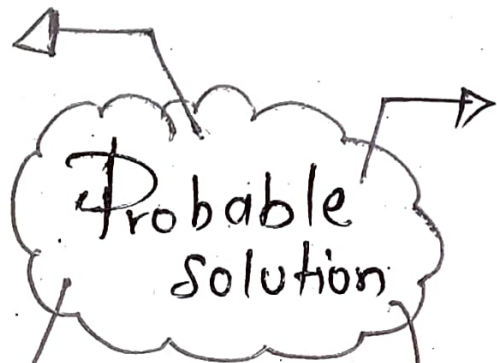
(iv) Modern day alternative : Same sex marriage, live in relationships, is helping to reduce value of marriage as a sacrament.

Ex → Pre-marital sex is not now ^{not} considered as a taboo in Indian society.

(v) Other reasons :- Marriage desirability declining and seeing marriage as a threat to personal liberty by youngsters.

Ex → Marital rape and early divorce and introduction of dating apps has led to low consciousness and faith in marriage.

Parental support and emotional bonding with family can ease the problem.



Education system should have sex education to raise the importance of marriage in society

Consciousness and respect should be raised in youngsters regarding their culture.
i.e, culture preservation

Social conditioning of marriage as a barrier to independence should be regulated.

Yes marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in modern India but at the same time a large chunk of population is still holding the strong roots of sacrament in Indian society.