

Essay for Mains 2024**Essay Test - 01****Time Allowed: 1.5 Hour****Max Marks: 150**Name: MINAL NEGITest Date: 14/12/2023

Email Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Important instructions:*Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics:*

- Stick to the word limit: 1100-1200 words.
- Ideal time: 1.5 hours.



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Always Ahead



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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

[illegible]

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I don't want women to have power over men but over themselves

"Men are not enemies but fellow victims. Women's denigration of themselves is the biggest problem"

- Betty Frieden

As we navigate through the complexities of this ever evolving world, the discussion on gender justice and women empowerment might have changed in manifestation but remains the same in spirit.

In ancient times, women were rarely allowed to participate in holy rituals. As time passed and humans evolved, we see the menaces of dowry and domestic violence. Male chauvinism has now taken the form of objectification of women in media, cyber crime, revenge porn and

much more.

Human dignity lies at the core of a respectable life. When one is denied this very aspect of existence, life might seem to be unworthy of living. Women have seen this rejection since time immemorial in one form or the other.

In this essay, we shall see how a woman herself is responsible to a large extent for her lagging behind and also, how upliftment of femininity lies in the hands of every woman who is responsible to have power over herself.

The discrimination against women continues from womb to tomb. Female foeticide and infanticide lead to Amartya Sen's

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concept of "missing women". The sheer undesirability of female child gives a start to her difficult journey thereafter.

Moreover, as soon as a child is born, the inherent stereotypical gender roles are evident in the toys that parents buy for their children. Girls are given a 'kitchen set' and boys get to handle 'remote control cars', laser guns etc.

The same is manifested in the real life roles of both as they stop playing with those toys. Girls are taught how to cook and clean and boys are endowed with the task of fetching daily necessities from the nearby shop. Thus infusing them with predefined roles, they are supposed to do as per societal morality. Girls do not have an opportunity to handle finances early in life.

Adding to it, the girl is supposed to behave the same as she gets married. She is bound with marital obligations and often tortured for dowry.

However, self-determination in career choices, goals and major life decisions is the key to the essence of freedom one can feel. Taking responsibility of her own decisions makes her an independent woman in real sense.

The torture faced by woman extends to her rights over her own body. The debate over reproductive rights has sprang up with USA's supreme court's decision of declaring abortion illegal. A woman has the sole prerogative to decide the matters regarding her own body. The matter is not only about bodily integrity but also its impacts on other walks of life.

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Question No.

प्रश्न संख्या

For
Practice
Use Only
विवेक अभ्यास
के लिए

Arlie Russell in her book, "The Second Shift" describes the time poverty a working woman faces because of the society's obligations which lay the sole responsibility of parenthood and household chores on women. This motherhood penalty has restricted female labour force participation rate to 23.7% in India according to PLFS.

Even after facing all these hurdles, if a woman makes it to her office everyday on time, she has to face the brunt of invisible glass ceiling which restricts her from holding senior managerial positions of the organisations.

workplace harassment and reluctance of corporate firms to provide paid maternal leave of 26 weeks leaves female workforce struggling with the sticky floor

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referred by Sheryl Sandberg in her book "Lean In".

Sandberg also stands firm on her view of women holding the positions at all levels in an organisation to have a fair share. She brings up the importance of women's inclusion in decision making by small acts such as letting them speak in a meeting, giving them equivalent projects to head and much more.

India has demonstrated the same by passing 106th amendment act, giving the much required right of political participation to women. Women holding only 15.1% seats in the parliament paints a grim picture of status of women in the nation.

Notwithstanding this, Esther Duflo, nobel laureate in economics has shown in her

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study that women sarpanchs have administered their villages more efficiently than men. This shows that if women are given power to ~~the~~ actualise their potential, we shall see what they can bring on the table.

Eleanor Roosevelt says, "Woman is like a tea bag, we do not know how strong it is unless put in hot water". Hence it is important to treat both sexes with equanimity and withdraw ourselves from the prejudices of one being lesser than the other.

Woman empowerment and feminism is often confused for providing privilege to women over men. However, feminism in simple words means treating a human as a human before stripping off one's individuality by associating feminine characteristics.

Feminism is no way means being able to lift two hundred pounds like a man, but being able to shape the decisions affecting one's life and have equal opportunity to do so.

However, although the women community has a large part to play in their own upliftment, rest of society has its own share of responsibility. As it is often said, "Women mostly need empowerment but seldom need help."

Such help becomes indispensable in modern nuclear families so that the wife is not overburdened with carework. A husband heating up the leftover food, changing the baby's diaper, doing the dishes or making the bed forms the basic symmetrical couple.

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On a societal level, it is important to not make a woman feel guilty about taking time for her own. She must be allowed to be a proud mother and at the same time be a dynamic professional.

Perceptions of gender roles sowed by the members of the family and society impacts the socialisation process. Creating gender neutral environments, quality education opportunities will help in addressing these deep seated issues

Claudia Goldin, nobel prize winner in economics explains how temporal flexibility in the form of work from home, flexible schedules and service sector can increase women's economic participation. Creche facilities, paid maternal leave, and more Aanganwadi centres will prevent women from giving up their jobs due to difficulty in balancing

motherhood duties and professional dreams.

All these steps will allow women to stand at par with their men counterparts. When we talk about empowerment, it is not about domination over men, rather experience of power within oneself to have a sense of true liberation.

Women today are capable of & adorning themselves with all the feminine virtues and at the same time break through the windows of oppression, objectification and social liabilities. Even if a young mother chooses to give up her job for her little one, it must not be under the expectations of others.

Women have the right to play an equal role in the nation's decision making and build a society where girls have all the opportunities to realise their

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untapped potential. Women must raise a voice not just for themselves but also for the good of men and for an entire generation of gender sensitive youth that awaits because I don't want a woman to have power over men but over themselves.