

Q.1

The future depends on what we do in the present

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75 years ago, two countries were formed along 38th parallel, South Korea and North Korea. Both of them aspired to become super strong in future. In that 'present' moment, South Korea decided to invest in human capital and development, ^{whereas} North Korea invested in personality cults.

Today, 75 years into future from 1945, we see South Korea as one of the most developed countries in the world. whereas, its counterpart is languishing at bottom in most of development indicators.

This proves age old wisdom that the future depends on what we do in the present.

In this essay, we will see how our actions in present will

shape our future. We will later explore how to live in present and act. We will also see whether living in present enough or we need to do more. We will finally conclude with advantages of acting in present.

First of all, let us define what we mean by present and future. Present is anything associated with our current time. Like, you are reading this piece in present. future is unknown sphere which explores what might happen after some time.

All our actions in present time will determine our future. Vivekananda said - "what you are now is result of your actions, ^{in fact} what you will be depends on what you do now". This quote can be visible in our history also.

The inventions of fire and wheel in stone age helped us in realizing their potential in present with invention of motor bike, aeroplanes etc. Similarly, Indian history is full of accounts with worshipping nature. In present times, we see this in our approach towards worshipping Ganga river, sacred grooves etc.

Thus, our actions in past have yielded ~~results~~ ^{results} in present. Similarly, our present actions will determine our future. Let us see how our present society actions will shape its future.

In family, a child is taught to respect elders, women, weaker sections etc. If the child does that, he/she becomes an excellent person in future. Thus, present values of child determine its future personality and attitude towards weaker sections.

Speaking of weaker sections,
we want them to prosper in future.
We want our women, Dalits, minorities,
disabled, tribals, transgenders etc. to
have self-confidence and opportunity.
For that, we need to act now. We
have to create enabling environment like
tolerance, affirmative action, adequate
funding to achieve these in future.

Similarly, we want future
India to be free from poverty and
hunger along with quality life. For that,
we need to invest in health and
education at present. Need to increase
health budget to 3% of GDP and education
budget to 6% of GDP. For removing
poverty, we need to give them adequate
skill & employment opportunity in present
to create a virtuous cycle.

For achieving these goals, we need support from political decision makers of present. Speaking of politics, we know currently that 43% of our parliamentarians face criminal charges. (ADR report) We want future politics to be enabling for honest and clean ~~imp~~ image individuals. For that, we need to implement certain electoral reforms in present to reduce influence of money and muscle power in politics.

Similarly, we want our youths to lead the country in future with adequate representation of dalits, tribals, women, minorities and transgenders. For that, the actions are needed in present. The policies need to be inclusive. 102nd amendment giving representation to

socially and economically backward groups is a good step.

Economically also, we want to achieve inclusive growth in the country. For that, present initiatives like PM Jan Dhan Yojana, MGNREGA, DAY-NRLM, Atal Pension Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jal jeevan mission etc. are extremely important for future growth. The present mechanism of target based programmes like SANKALP, STRIVE aim to create a prosperous economic environment in future.

Talking about environment, climate change is a universal concern of the future. For that also, we have to start acting in present itself.

Paris climate summit aims to ~~set~~ limit the avg. ^{global} temp rise to much less than 2°C and till 1.5°C. For that, current initiatives like focus on renewable energy, International solar alliance is needed.

Along with it, UNCCD's aim to remove desertification of 350 million hectares needs planting more trees in the present. We have to act now to save earth for our future generation.

We need scientific approaches for this.

Scientifically, we want future India to be technically competent with rest of the world. For that, we need to increase our investment in R&D at present from 0.5% of GDP. We also need to nurture our kids with programmes like PM Innovative learning programme (PILP).

Similarly, we also want to do well in sports (especially Olympics) in future. For that, we need to identify young talent at present and nurture them. Khelo India aims to do that.

Thus, we have seen our present action will determine our future. India is behind developed countries in many aspects. For being on par with them in future, we must invest in our present. The countries like USA, UK, Japan invested heavily in human development (health & education), political reforms, economic empowerment in the past (that time's present), whose positive impacts ~~are~~ they are reaping in present (that time's future).

Thus, it is extremely important to judiciously use our present

Contrastingly, If we don't invest correctly in our ~~past~~, present, we will suffer in future. Just like, a child who is not taught correct values in present will become a spoilt child in future.

~~We did~~ similarly, India did not invest heavily in health and education, in past, whose results we are witnessing in devastating 2nd wave of COVID-19.

This is amplified with some of us having blind superstitions.

Thus, it is our actions in present which determine our future. So, it is essential to use our present efficiently otherwise we are left to regret in future.

A question arises, how do we ensure good actions in present and

is it just enough to secure our future. Let us explore.

For ensuring good use of present moment, we have to learn about importance of time. One must remember that time and tide wait for no one. Thus, utilizing our time ^{judiciously} should be our primary goal.

This can be done with inculcating values like making routine & having discipline in life.

Similarly, we can take help of elders in our home to remind us about importance of present with their valuable experience, mistakes and their learnings, we can make good decisions in present.

Along with it, living and acting in present is necessary but not sufficient. We should also invest some time in visualizing our future. We should visualize how we want our future self to be, how our future society should be and how our future country will be. This will give us necessary inputs and ideas which we can inculcate in present. ~~to~~

Thus, a vision of our future is also necessary. Later on, we should work towards implementing them in present.

We started this piece by comparing future of two countries based on how they acted in their 'present'. We all want our future

self, society and country to be progressive and developed. For that, we must do right actions in present. Bhagwat Geeta gives us the message to do our 'Karma'. Our 'Karma' will determine our future. Along with it, it is also necessary to have a vision of future in order to plan our goal.

Thus, it is not only ^{on} our present actions our future is dependent, but also on our vision of future.