



Mains Practice Question

Essay Topics:

1. The pursuit of equality often starts with the acknowledgment of difference.
2. In the desert of apathy, even a drop of compassion is an oasis.

21 Dec, 2024 Essay Essay

1. The pursuit of equality often starts with the acknowledgment of difference.

Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** "Equality may be a fiction but nonetheless one must accept it as a governing principle."
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." (on addressing inequality through empathy and service).
- **Nelson Mandela:** "I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom"

Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Rawls' Theory of Justice:** Advocates for fairness by considering inequalities and distributing resources to benefit the least advantaged.
- **Intersectionality (Kimberlé Crenshaw):** Highlights how overlapping social categorizations like race, gender, and class contribute to systemic oppression and inequality.
- **Philosophical Linkages:** The Indian concept of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) begins with **Antyodaya (uplifting the weakest)**.
- **Policy Examples: Constitution of India, Article 15:** Prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10):** Reduce inequality within and among countries by addressing systemic disparities.

Contemporary Examples:

- **LGBTQ+ Rights Movement:** Recognition of sexual and gender diversity has led to legal reforms, such as the decriminalization of homosexuality in India (Section 377 judgment).
- **Reservation Policies in India:** Caste and socioeconomic disparities acknowledged through affirmative action programs.
- **Differently-Abled Inclusion:** The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities emphasizes acknowledging physical and cognitive differences for achieving equality.
- **Global Black Lives Matter Movement:** Acknowledging systemic racism in police practices and social structures.

2. In the desert of apathy, even a drop of compassion is an oasis.

Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- **Dalai Lama:** *"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."*
- **Mother Teresa:** *"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** *"The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer."*

Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Ubuntu Philosophy:** "I am because we are" emphasizes interconnectedness and collective compassion in countering apathy.
- **Buddhism:** The concept of *Karuna* (compassion) is central to alleviating human suffering and promoting harmony.
- **Kantian Ethics:** Encourages treating every individual as an end, rather than a means, rooted in empathy and compassion.

Contemporary Examples:

- **Malala Yousafzai's Advocacy for Girls' Education:** Compassion for marginalized girls in conflict zones has inspired global change.
- **Sonu Sood's COVID-19 Work:** Helped stranded migrant workers, showing how small compassionate acts can alleviate apathy.
- **Greta Thunberg and Environmental Advocacy:** Compassion for future generations drives her relentless activism against climate inaction.

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