



Can take you to the top, character will keep you there."

A school cricket match in the to mid-1980s took the Indian cricketing world by storm. A pair of batsmen from Mumbai scored over 500 runs in an unbeaten partnership. As they grew and came into limelight, opinions were divided about who is more talented. After two and a half decades, while one of them became the most successful batsman the world has ever seen, the other player had barely few matches to his cricketing career. This story of Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli is a stark reminder that only character can ability can take you to the top, but ~~can't~~ sustain you there.

good examples

Character, in general, refers to the traits that set a thing, a person, a nation or any entity distinct from other entities. Strictly speaking in terms of an individual, it is the sum total of moral and ethical qualities that structure the attitude and personality of a person. Character

The erstwhile large empires of Greece and Rome collapsed because of ~~over-indulgence~~ in the sensual pleasures.



Even today, everywhere we see examples can be found which ~~show~~ that talent and abilities can never be sufficient to keep one at the top. Justice, Karnan of Calcutta High Court is a person belonging to Scheduled Caste ~~the~~ fact that the apex judiciary in our country is still ~~not~~ ^{woefully} lacking in representation of depressed classes, show the enormity of Justice Karnan's abilities. But his conduct over the last two years reflecting a lack of integral character has led to his imprisonment and social censure.

Similarly in corporate world, character of any company is reflected in the social value it is creating apart from ~~the~~ profit for shareholders. Character is also seen in the standards of corporate governance and respect for the laws and regulation of the country. Volkswagen used to be the number one automobile maker in ~~the~~ world. However, the recent scam of ~~their cheating~~ of environmental

standards has burnt a huge hole in their pockets as well as reputation. Abraham Lincoln has rightly said -



'Reputation is the shadow, character is the tree

Ques

The ²⁰⁰⁸ ~~recent~~ global economic crisis which led to bankruptcy of giants like Lehmann Brothers, American Insurance Group etc showed that sustainability of any enterprise can never be achieved through deceive and deception. The financial companies had bundled junk quality loans and through securitization had sold it as AAA bonds. The whole world is still reeling under the impact. The 'Occupy Wall Street' Movement in its wake showed how financial companies have lost credibility.

Nowhere the quote is true than the realm of political power. There is no greater aphrodisiac than power. Lincoln said -

'Nearly everyone can stand adversity. But if you want to test ^{a man's} character, give him power'. History is replete with stories of men & women

who were the bravest and most skilled leaders but ~~felt~~ failed to pass this test because of the character. The defeat of mighty Nandas empire at the hands of a commoner Chandragupta Maurya shows the strength of character. Even in modern times, leaders like Bill Clinton, ND Tiwari etc have ~~faced~~ disgrace. The examples of Ashoka and Aurangzeb and their legacy show that it is ultimately character that decides how history treats them. not an appropriate example?



However character as defined earlier is not limited to individuals. Societies, nations, communities, generations and even species have definite characters. The progress of human race is a story of its increasing control over its environment to provide for its need. Given the pace of technological development, we are at a better position than we ever were. ~~But~~ Despite this scientists like Albert Einstein haven't been optimistic about our race. He said: 'Our technology has exceeded our humanity'.

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in which light you are employing about him?
=

↓
Don't mix good and bad example in a single sentence

The development of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, ^{other} weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, etc have made our existence fragile.

Similarly the mindless pursuit of economic development has come at a huge cost. World Bank says 56% of the world population breathe polluted air. Since 1900, nearly three-fourth of tropical forests have been lost. And the existential threat of climate change and global warming are looming over our head. Gandhiji had said -

'Earth is enough for man's need but never for man's greed'.

It is only the inability of our race to control our greed that has led to this precarious situation. Any recovery would require people to cooperate in the spirit of selflessness and moral discipline.

James Davidson Hunter, has lamented about the decline of educational standards in his book 'The Death of Character'. According to him, the superficial personality has taken



precedence in the world over the underlying character. He identifies three essential characters for any entity. First is the moral discipline. It is about the limitation of wants and the ability to become the master of self. Second is the 'moral attachment' which is about valuing community over self. It is akin to Gandhi's dictum of 'The good of one is in the good of all'. Third is the moral autonomy which is the courage to stand for one's convictions.

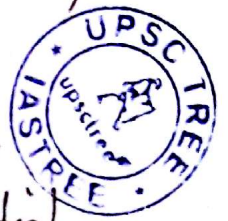


Nelson Mandela said that if you want to change the world, start with ^{the} children. It is crucial that the education system is reformed from 'career orientation' to 'character orientation'.

The ancient Indian culture where the teacher enjoyed pre-eminent position in society has to be brought back. Because it is ultimately the teachers, and the parents who will shape the future generation.

Simultaneously, it is important to redefine our notion of development along the lines of 'Sarvodaya'. The current model which

leaves women, minorities, disabled etc behind speaks of our misplaced priorities. Only an inclusive development ~~will~~ ensure the sustainability of any development.



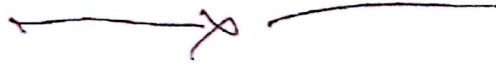
Similarly it is imperative that the ~~has~~ nations come together to address existential questions posed by environmental destruction and the weapons of mass destruction. It is ~~not~~ ^{a test} of strength of characters of ~~not~~ merely the nations but the human-race as a whole. The Paris Agreement 2015, Kigali Protocol 2016, the export control regimes are good initiatives but will require to be built upon.

~~The entire to~~

Various philosophers have termed the humans as the greatest creation of almighty. The ability to reason, control and manipulate impulses and the infinite intellect sets humans apart. ~~It~~ Simultaneously humans also possess an ability to emotional connect with other people not seen at a ^{similar} level in other animals. These are essentially the qualities that Darwin has highlighted as mentioned above. ~~It~~ It is time that humans turn inward and attempt to conquer self.

After all as Lao Tzu says,

'Mastering ~~over~~ others is strength; mastering
yourself is true power'





Dear Abhilash,

you have written a very good essay. The content of the essay shows your deeper understanding of things. you have used quotes to your advantage.

The essay is highly tilted towards broader aspect of character - character of a nation, civilization etc and in fact dominates the essay. Instead they should have given passing reference. The focus here is ability and character and mostly individualistic in nature.

Ability can be acquired but character requires cultivation. An excellent strategy is available for it in the portal. please go through it. (It is a mathematical approach to a philosophical essay).

Also you have to discuss the various tenets of character - What constitutes good character and What constitutes bad character?

Also discuss relevance of the essay. No essay is asked in vacuum. there is an undercurrent running through it. for this the relevance is

the rise of- educated terrorists, corrupt
bureaucrats, value-less scientist, manipulative
doctors, misleading lawyers, quality-less teachers
Criminal
politicians
etc - which is rampant across our society.

you have to show why value education is need
of the hour and who and what shapes
an individuals character. (Role of Family,
society, institutions etc)

Apart- from the above discussion, you have
to mention certain examples as outlined
in the strategy document in the portal.

Your writings are a pleasure to read.
But try to avoid digression.

Marks:- $13/25 + 50/100 = 63/125$

