

CSS-1992

Q.1: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:

Throughout the ages of human development men have been subject to miseries of two kinds: those imposed by external nature, and, those that human beings misguidedly inflicted upon each other. At first, by far the worst evils were those that were due to the environment. Man was a rare species, whose survival was precarious. Without the agility of the monkey, without any coating of fur, he has difficulty in escaping from wild beasts, and in most parts of the world could not endure the winter's cold. He had only two biological advantages: the upright posture freed his hands, and intelligence enabled him to transmit experience. Gradually, these two advantages gave him supremacy. The number of the human species increased beyond those of any other large mammals. But nature could still assert her power by means of flood and famine and pestilence and by exacting from the great majority of mankind incessant toil in the securing of daily bread.

In our own day our bondage to external nature is fast diminishing, as a result of the growth of scientific intelligence. Famines and pestilence still occur, but we know better, year by year, what should be done to prevent them. Hard work is still necessary, but only because we are unwise: given peace and cooperation, we could subsist on a very moderate amount of toil. With existing technique, we can, whenever we choose to exercise wisdom, be free of many ancient forms of bondage to external nature.

But the evils that men inflict upon each other have not diminished in the same degree. There are still wars, oppressions, and hideous cruelties, and greedy men still snatch wealth from those who are less skilful or less ruthless than themselves. Love of power still leads to vast tyrannies or to mere obstruction when its grosser forms are impossible. And fear-deep—scarcely conscious fear—is still the dominant motive in very many lives.

1992

Evolution and Problems of Human Being

Men have been subjected to both natural and man-made miseries. Human survival was once precarious due to environmental threats. However, humans had advantages of hands and intelligence, which gave them supremacy over other species. The human population increased but continued to face disasters despite hard work. As scientific knowledge grows, our dependence on nature diminishes, though we still need to address these issues with improved techniques. However, human evils cannot end this way, as suffering persists due to the love of power.

CSS-1993

Q.1: Make a précis of the following passage, and suggest a suitable title:

The best aid to give is intellectual aid, a gift of useful knowledge. A gift of knowledge is infinitely preferable to a gift of material things. There are many reasons for this. Nothing becomes truly one's own except on the basis of some genuine effort of sacrifice. A gift of material goods can be appropriated by the recipient without effort or sacrifice; it therefore rarely becomes his own and is all too frequently and easily treated as a mere windfall. A gift of intellectual goods, a gift of knowledge, is a very different matter. Without a genuine effort of appropriation on the part of the recipient there is no gift. To appropriate the gift and to make it one's own is the same thing, and 'neither moth nor rust doth corrupt'. The gift of material goods makes people dependent, but the gift of knowledge makes them free. The gift of knowledge also has far more lasting effects and is far more closely relevant to the concept of 'development'. Give a man a fish, as the saying goes, and you are helping him a little bit for a very short time, teach him the act of fishing, and he can help himself all his life. Further, if you teach him to make his own fishing net, you have helped him to become not only self-supporting, but also self-reliant and independent, man and businessman.

This then should become the ever-increasing preoccupation of aid-programmes to make men self-reliant and independent by the generous supply of the appropriate intellectual gifts, gifts of relevant knowledge on the methods of self-help. This approach, incidentally, has also the advantage of being relatively cheap, of making money go a long way. For \$ 100/- you may be able to equip one man with certain means of production, but for the same money you may well be able to teach hundred men to equip themselves. Perhaps a little 'pump-priming' by way of material goods will in some cases, be helpful to speed the process of development.

(E. F. Schumacher)

1993

Intellectual Aid is The Best Gift

Intellectual aid is preferred over material gifts. Owning something must require some efforts. In material aid no need of effort, while in intellectual gifts there is. Material gifts make people dependent, while intellectual gifts make free. To give fish or teach the art of fishing is not as good as to teach how to make a net. It makes him not only self-supporting but also self-reliant. To teach a hundred to equip is preferred to give \$100 to someone. It would be helpful to speed up the process of development.