

Is Highly Competitive Environment Good or Bad

OUTLINE

i) Introduction:

Geniuses are not made in isolation. Progress, not possible without a competitor. Potential unknown to oneself is not unlocked until in competition. In today's world or even before that, competition has always been a driving force behind innovation and success.

ii) A competitive environment pushes you to your limits & then beyond — unlocks potential

(a) Exams like SATs, MCAT, CSS, JEE etc.

(iii) Competition leads to progress and betterment

(a) Apple vs Samsung

(b) Pepsi vs Coca-Cola

(iv) Individuals and societies do not grow in isolation

(a) Space race between US and Soviet Union in 1960

(b) Pakistan vs India competitive streak

(v) People develop strong discipline due to competitive spirit in their environment

(a) Addressing the 'Asian kid' stereotype

(vi) Competition builds resilience and prepares individuals for real-life challenges

(a) Athletes learn to handle pressure and over-come failure

(b) It builds a 'once more' mentality in competitors.

(vii) Conclusion

Essay

In physics, there is a concept of 'Applied Force' which accelerates objects into motion.

Similar to that, competition is an external force that pushes an individual to undiscovered potential. Many argue that a competitive environment leads to stress and anxiety, which is true but success or progress never comes from a calm environment without the stimulus of competition. It fosters creativity in the thirst to perform better. Individuals, nations and their will to do better would remain stationary unless pushed into acceleration through the force of competition. It is simply human nature to outdo one's competitor which naturally leads to growth, both at an individual level as well as societal level.

In today's fast paced world, where everyone and everything is connected, where an individual feels that all there is to discover has already been discovered, it is only the notion of competition that leads to innovation and progress.

A competitive environment pushes an individual to their limit and beyond - it helps them to unlock their potential once unknown to themselves. Exams like MCAT, GRE, SAT's etc tend to be highly competitive which requires the aspirants to study harder, at times under stress and pressure. However, one can see that the process of preparing for these competitive exams turns out to be beneficial even if the individual does not pass the exam. It broadens their horizon, fosters discipline and helps in the individual growth of an aspirant. Since, such competitive exams require extra attention and hardwork, somewhere along the preparation aspirants realise their potential to do better.

Competition leads to progress, innovation and growth. It's best example today is the competition between Apple and Samsung. Both companies sell their products at a global level with half the world's population as their consumer. If one looks only at these facts, it sounds more than reasonable that they let things run as they are right now, but it is the element of competition between the two companies that they are always innovating, coming up with new electronics new features that are accessible. It is the

creativity fostered through competition that leads them to growth.

Similar is the case with Pepsi and Coca-Cola. These companies are well known old competitors who come up with new ideas to out-do the other. This competition not only benefits the companies itself but the public as well.

For instance, Pepsi vs Cola provides us with cheaper options as a way to woo their consumer and attract more.

Individuals and societies do not grow in isolation, they both need a stimulus which comes in the shape of competition. As top companies compete with each other - so do nations. The Space Race between United States and Soviet Union in the 1960's prove that competition can lead to growth and progress of not only at individual level but a global level as well. Both the countries race to reach space first led to many countless discoveries in the field of astronomy and technology. A competition between two nations led to growth of an entire discipline. Technology we see today & knowledge we have of space today all became possible due to the highly competitive environment at that time. Surely, discoveries would have been made later on

as well but much slower if not for the stress and pressure of the moment.

Similar to the US - Soviet Union rivalry, we see India-Pakistan rivalry though it does not equate to the positive aspects of the former, this rivalry nonetheless does procure a need in the people of both countries to do better than the other.

There is a competitive streak in both to out-do the other, to perform better on a global stage. This need leads to progress and growth in each country.

So, this shows that competition with another might result in betterment, no matter a smaller or a larger scale.

Discipline is hard to achieve, especially in today's world where every entertainment is merely a click away. Easy access of distractions has made discipline a very grand notion - a very far off idea.

However, it is seen that in a competitive environment, people develop a strong discipline as they are in their competitive spirit. There is a stereotype involving 'Asian kids' mainly referring to East-Asians like Chinese, Koreans, that they are very smart. Their smartness is linked to the environment of their educational institutes - which constitutes

extremely challenging problems requiring a lot of discipline and study. Their environment is highly competitive which in turn produces a hard working and a smarter individual leading to the formation of the 'Asian kid' stereotype.

Lastly, competition builds resilience and prepares individuals for real life challenges. Success and failure are all part of life. To over-come failure and stand up and be willing to try again is a feat hard to achieve but a competitive environment helps by building a 'once more' mentality. Athletes especially prosper in such environment under pressure and stress and learn to remain calm while competing with many others.

Every notion has its pros and cons but when it comes to competitive environments the pros outweigh the cons. It is the law of nature that nothing shall grow or move until put into motion. Similarly to foster individual, societal or global growth, competition with others is a necessary driving force. It leads to innovation, creativity and advancement as a whole. It produces more capable, disciplined and resilient individuals.