

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

u breeds Authoritarians → Anarchy

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए Candidates must not write on this margin

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BLIND BELIEF IN AUTHORITY IS THE GREATEST ENEMY OF TRUTH

Required Critical essay

The period of dark ages in Europe was characterised by dominant authority of the church. Anything and everything said and ~~propagated~~ by the church remained unquestioned.

Chall. & Status, Questioning, 7001.

Bit

→ Stale Try to make it interesting. Earth is at the centre of universe

was one such fact blindly accepted for 1600 yrs, we believed by the whole society. when Galileo was at centre of universe became Galileo tried to demystify the belief of "Blind faith in Authority" of Church using empiricism, he faced stiff

resistance from the people as well as Church. But soon with further scientific developments, it was firmly established & challenged it.

→ advancement of gigantic scale



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that earth revolves around the sun.

This story clearly illustrates that ~~Max~~ ^{Blind faith in authority can} initially ~~because of lack of advancements~~ people believed in what church said ^{lead to backward,} but later people developed blind belief ^{a throne of} which became the greatest enemy of ^{of} truth despite substantive proof. ^{Subman & King}

Authority, according to Max Weber, is the chance of a man or group of man to get his ^{PSIR} commands obeyed. It can be ^{Not} "traditional authority" in which people have belief due to historical continuance. Or it can be "charismatic", in which people believe someone to be having extraordinary or mystical powers. And lastly, it can be "legal-rational", in



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which people are believing due to rules, laws & procedure.

All of these authorities may be well aligned to the truth and if not people may stop obeying them. However, the problem arises when people start to have blind beliefs in the authority.

At the individual level, generally we have cognitive biases towards simplicity. Thus, for the ease of process people blindly believe in authorities.

These days we often come across people, who blindly believe anything mentioned in authoritative whatsapp groups.

They usually believe in disinformation like distorted historical learnings.

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When such campaigns are run at societal level, it can radicalise youth. For instance, Naxalism is spread on the premise that government is exploitative, thus needs to be overthrown. But the blind believers of this ideology, ~~keeps~~ are kept at greatest distance from the truth about government's welfarist orientation.

Similarly, blind belief in religious authority may lead to false narratives. In the contemporary context, people continue to believe in 'Purusha Sukti' hymn of Rig Veda that formed 'the basis of caste system'. Despite all scientific discoveries explain equality among



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humans and no concept of 'pure blood',
the truth remain invisible.

Likewise, the case of women
subordination plays out. Religious and
philosophers (like Aristotle) gave secondary

optional revision
status to *u go on i ques!* women and restricted their
So sociology life chances. But the truth remains is

brought forward by many women entering
in non-conventional fields like Avani
Chaturvedi (IAF Pilot) or Kiran Mazumdar
(Biocon founder).

In the corporate level also having
blind belief in superior's orders can
eliminate scope of truth for all stakeholders.
For instance, the higher management
of Whitehat Jr. ordered to increase



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profits through any means. The advertising team then engaged in 'false advertisements' by adding 'fake claims', keeping everyone away from ~~the truth~~, soon becoming the reason for its collapse.

At the level of state, blind belief ~~outto~~ to any authority may go against the truth. Notably, the most notorious case of ADM Jabalpur V/s Shukant Shukla explains how the supreme court blindly applied 'procedure established by law', thereby opposing the very truth that human life is supreme and 'right to life' cannot be suspended even during an emergency.

At the national level, politicians

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may engage in vote-bank politics and ideological indoctrination to keep voters away from the truth. For example, climate change is a truth as often observed by IPCC reports. Yet, Mr. Donald Trump ~~asserts that there is no such thing has led to blind faith of~~ many Americans in this ~~thought~~.

to 0
Further, this blind belief can be due to mystical or supernatural powers - charisma of the leader, or "ideological state apparatus" like media, education.

The case of Adolf Hitler explains both. Through his charisma and ideological thought - "Mein Kampf", he generated false narratives of racial superiority and anti-Semitism, that led to death of



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millions of Jews in holocaust.

However, is truth an objective reality? According to Sophists - "there are no truths, there are only arguments".

As per Jainism's Anekantvad, there can be different ways of perceiving the reality.

Thus, it may be the case that those people who are perceived, by others, to having blind belief in authority may actually be rationally deciding to

submit to authority. Taking the same case of Germany, during 1930s, it may be that people were well aware of the truth that in the absence of a charismatic leader, the humanitarian

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crisis unleashed post-Treaty of Versailles
1919 may never end.

Nevertheless, there are some universal
truths which have to be recognised.

And for that, education is necessary
that generates critical thoughts. Rabindra
nath Tagore emphasised heavily on
experience based learnings to develop
rationality and scientific temper.

Also, in order to bring truth to
forefront social movements are necessary
to discard blind faith. The Young
India movement by Henry Vivion Derozio
focused on questioning all authorities
and rationally determining truth. Such
ideas can eradicate irrational beliefs.

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Lastly, acknowledging the Anekantvad principle, people should reject the authorities that paint only single-infaliable picture of reality, like the cases of fundamentalist-terrorist groups that have unwavering commitment to extreme ideology.

Voltaire

← अज्ञान-विज्ञान

For every blind belief, there is a tunnel of enlightenment. Like the way renaissance brought light to the dark period, individual self-realisation can open eyes towards the unexplored world.

50

Self Better world!
(Spirit of Inquiry)
Scientific vigour
(tamper)

~~Q. 6~~
Hear voice
write!

No
Space for
Comments!

