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MEMBERS AREA

'RC DAILY DOSE'
Volume 26

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PASSAGE – 1

In the societies dominated by muscle power and money power, men determined the conditions governing the terms of relationship between man and woman. Since men fought the wars and ran the enterprises of industrial production, they arrogated themselves to superior position and gave women a subordinate role in social and economic activity of communities. Marxists and liberal thinkers of the 19th and 20th Century raised their voice against the long standing harassment of women and advocated equality for women. It took long for these ideas to fructify in legislation. Women were given right to vote in 1921 in the imperialist England.

The first half of the Twentieth Century saw the mergence of a series of protest movements in many countries of the world aimed at securing equality for women. In Europe and United States, women obtained legal equality. The Communist regimes of U.S.S.R. and China were committed to liberation of women and assigned greater role to them in ushering in an egalitarian society. Women's participation in the labour force registered impressive increases. But the emancipation of women was overlooked by many conservative countries of Asia and Africa.

Of late, a new way of thinking has emerged in many democratic countries of the world, seeking a more effective role for the woman in society. The accent of feminine movements has undergone a qualitative shift from the strategy of securing emancipation of women to facilitating empowerment of women. Mere equality for women is not sufficient. Since most of the institutions of society are dominated by man, the concept of legal equality of women has not been able to demolish the traditional prejudices nurtured by man regarding unsuitability of women to hold top positions in industry, business, politics, scientific establishments and even in academics and arts. The physiologists and psychologists have repeatedly demonstrated through scientific tests and experiments that women are not inferior to men in intellectual capacity or emotional stability and can perform as well as men in social and economic activities. Since the life and career of most women is still guided by men, they are not able to direct their lives and make sufficient efforts for impressive achievements.

The empowerment of women aims at giving women power to exercise autonomy over their destiny. They will refuse to submit to the conventions that bind them to the four walls of the house and to a subservient role in the bringing up of the family. They will seek a more active role in the bringing up of the family. They will seek a more active role in the shaping and grooming of the children than the current role of cooking food for them and giving them emotional sustenance by their unconditional love and affection. For playing a greater role in the family and society, they have to shape up their personality through education. Moreover, economic self sufficiency is a precondition for empowerment of women. Women should seek careers for earning money as well as for recognition, growth and self-actualisation. They will not aim at merely supplementing the income of their husbands. They must make a fuller use of their talents and skills to secure for themselves and their children the best of nutrition, education and cultural life.

The social position of women is determined by their economic position. In spite of extensive legislation providing equal inheritance to women in the paternal property, most property still remains in the constructive as well as legal control of men. Vigorous efforts should be made to transfer the property in name of women who rightfully own the land. Effective monitoring of the progress in this regard can accelerate the process. The title of women to land should be publicly displayed in the offices of Panchayat bodies so that effective intervention can be made if their rights are encroached upon.

Notions of women's inferiority thrive on ignorance. Achievements made by women in the field of science, academics, public services, literature and politics should be widely publicised to mould public perception. Their practical sense, aesthetic taste and capacity to love and care should be appreciated by the society.

When women face discrimination on ground of getting lower wages or denial of educational opportunity, they have to organise themselves and demand equality. They may also seek legal aid and fight for restoration of their rights. They can enlist the support of existing organisation in this cause or may set up their own legal aid groups.

A more active role in local bodies and state politics will accelerate the process of empowerment of women. In India, reservation of 30% seats for women in Panchayat bodies has already been made. This provision, if fully utilised, can offer them an enhanced role in village affairs and will add to their strength in fighting against sexual discrimination.

In South-Asian countries women's role in agriculture operation has been crucial particularly in paddy-transplanting and harvesting. Moreover, the dairy, fishery, poultry and piggery depend heavily on women's labour. Seeing that credit institutions have generally passed them by, women in Bangladesh have effectively organised themselves into co-operatives and secured substantial financial assistance from the Gramina Banks there. They have improved their economic condition and have become a source of strength to their children. The Bangladesh experiment can be replicated in countries like India with profit.

1. *According to the passage, the author:*
 - (1) has doubts on the empowerment of women.
 - (2) genuinely believes in and fights for women empowerment.
 - (3) has opined that women are themselves to blame for the stature enjoyed in society.
 - (4) has invalidated the relationship of the economic position of women with their social position.
2. *All of the following are true, with respect to the passage, except that :*
 - (1) women in Bangladesh have improved their economic condition and have become a source of strength to their children.
 - (2) economic self sufficiency is a precondition for empowerment of women.
 - (3) social position of women is determined by their economic position.
 - (4) women empowerment thrives on notions of the inferiority of women.
3. *The main aim of women empowerment, as per the passage, is :*
 - (1) to promote their efficiency and improve their skills.
 - (2) to make the society acknowledge the pivotal role they have been discharging diligently all these years.
 - (3) to enable the women to exercise autonomy over their destiny.
 - (4) to give them the opportunity to learn, train and expertise.
4. *The position of women in society, as per the passage, is :*
 - (1) because of the arrogance of men in doing certain activities that are not possible to be done by women.
 - (2) because of the lack of knowledge, exposure and training.
 - (3) because of the fickle minded nature of women.
 - (4) because of their lack of stamina to do heavy jobs.
5. *The passage advocates women to seek career because :*
 - (1) they would acquire recognition, growth and self actualisation.
 - (2) it would make them assertive and aggressive.
 - (3) they would appreciate the conditions in which men work.
 - (4) children derive great inspiration from working mothers.
6. *Which of the following is not true, as per the passage ?*
 - (1) Nature has ordained women to play second fiddle to men.
 - (2) Women are not inferior to men in intellectual capacity or emotional stability.
 - (3) Women's empowerment is confined to merely securing equality for women.
 - (4) Notions on women's inferiority are based on ignorance.
7. *A suitable title for the passage could be :*
 - (1) Men And Women Perform Different Roles.
 - (2) Discrimination And Injustice Done To Women.
 - (3) Empowerment Of Women.
 - (4) Men Are Stronger Than Women.
8. *The passage is at best an extract from :*
 - (1) an article on 'Women's subjugation to Men'.
 - (2) an essay on 'Ways and means of uplifting Women'.
 - (3) a report on the proceedings of the conference held to discuss women's rights.
 - (4) a debate on 'Who is more cruel -Man or Woman ?
9. *The author, while handling the passage, has displayed :*
 - (1) bias towards man.
 - (2) antipathy towards women.
 - (3) an objective approach.
 - (4) ignorance of key issues.
10. *The passage related to :*
 - (1) morality.
 - (2) sociology.
 - (3) political science.
 - (4) psychology.

PASSAGE – 2

The progress of man from a cave-dweller to a cosmonaut owes as much to competition among men as to cooperation. Cooperation among groups has strengthened them to fight against nature. But inside the groups, individuals have always shone above one another by dint of their individual talents and skills. Since the beginnings of history, brave men have competed with others for the hands of the most beautiful girls. Hence the saying: "Only the brave deserve the fair". Even Rama could wed Sita after competing successfully with other kings and princes.

The great naturalist, Charles Darwin, attributed evolution of man to the fierce competition among the species in a struggle for survival of the fittest. Gifted with a big brain and flexible limbs, man survived while unwieldy dinosaur became extinct. Competition is the law of nature and all beings compete with one another for scarce resources of nature. The communities most successful in this competition have evolved great civilisations, developed science and technology and achieved higher standards of living than those communities who lagged behind in the competition.

Competition has contributed greatly to the improvement of technology. But for the inexorable competition between the U.S.A. and the then U.S.S.R., the breath taking advancement in space travel and Man's landing on the moon might never have come about. Both the countries wanted to score a first over the other. While U.S.S.R. was the first country to launch a Sputnik, USA became the first to send a man to the moon. The satellites in space have revolutionised the communication technology. Now people from all over the globe can watch Olympic games or summit meetings of world-leaders live on their T.V. screens. Through Star T.V. and Cable T.V. networks, achievements of different national cultures in cinema, music, fashions " and theatre are being beamed to the global community. It is leading to the growth of a single world culture, heavily dominated by the western culture.

Man has immeasurable potential for growth and development. Competition inspires a man to realise his potential by measuring his intellectual and physical capacities against those of a rival competitor. Surpassing others in performance enhances a man's self-esteem. It motivates him to greater efforts to improve himself. Competitive opportunities provided by the society are a mechanism for upgrading the productive forces and also to formulate norms for selection of community leaders in various fields of human endeavour.

Competition constantly influences the market forces of demand and supply of goods and services. Firms are constantly improving the quality of their products to survive and succeed in the free market economies. Thus we find that the Japanese electronic products, though costlier than similar products manufactured by other countries, out sell those of other nations and are progressively enlarging their market share. Japanese cameras, televisions and music systems have become universal favourites.

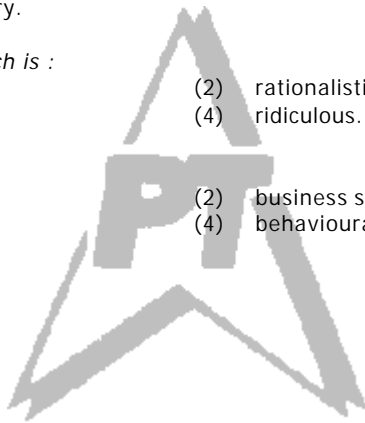
Competition has greatly raised the academic standards over the last century. Competitive spirit enters a child's mind unobtrusively at an early age. As he plays for fun and frolic in nursery school, he gets competitive excitement when he out-performs his playmates. He discovers that he has to master language and develop his verbal skills if he is to make a good impression on others. The periodical tests, debates, quiz events are all designed to foster a spirit of competition among the young. Competition has raised the performance standards enormously. It has become really very difficult for students of average ability to get selected in professional -medical, engineering or management -courses.

Competition has led to a spectacular growth of sports and athletics. At every world event, a few old records are shattered and new records are established. The top players of golf, tennis, football, boxing and cricket are among the highest paid individuals. Many of the sports-stars have become role-models for the youth to emulate.

Competitive spirit is not an unmixed blessing. While it motivates the successful competitors to forge ahead in varied fields of human endeavour, it bogs down many others who fail more often than succeed. Many accept their position of mediocrity. Quite a few, on the other hand, harbour resentment against teachers, umpires, parents and even fate which unjustly deprive them of lime-light and fruits of competitive success. Competition breaks the spirit of many who, desirous of higher things, do not make it to the top and remain irreconciled to their stature in life. For every successful person in competition, there are many who fail and after having failed stop making efforts at developing themselves. They withdraw into their shells and sulk. It is a loss not only to them individually, but the community is also deprived of many promising personalities which never attain full stature and do not contribute to the collective growth of the community. One wonders at times, if a less competitive and more cooperative society would not make for greater development, harmony and peace in the world!

11. *Which of the following would best support the author's contention, as gathered from the passage ?*
 - (1) Competitive spirit motivates the successful competitor to forge ahead in varied fields of human endeavour.
 - (2) Competition has led to a spectacular growth of sports and athletics.
 - (3) Competition has contributed greatly to the improvement of technology.
 - (4) All of the above.
12. *All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :*
 - (1) the progress of a man is ascribed more to competition than to cooperation.
 - (2) academic standards have been raised on account of competition.
 - (3) sports and athletics have shown a spectacular growth due to the cooperative spirit.
 - (4) market forces of demand and supply are constantly influenced by competition.
13. *According to the passage, man's self esteem is enhanced by :*
 - (1) rigorous self-development.
 - (2) surpassing others in performance.
 - (3) the way others project the person.
 - (4) doing smart work.
14. *As per the passage, competition :*
 - (1) has raised the performance standards enormously.
 - (2) breaks the spirit of many who do not make it to the top.
 - (3) is the law of nature.
 - (4) All of the above.

15. *Which of the following would negate the author's stand, as stated in the passage ?*
- (1) Man has tremendous potential for growth and development.
 - (2) Many of the sports stars have made the youth go astray, through their immodest and immoral living.
 - (3) Man has evolved to fierce competition among the species in a struggle for survival of the fittest.
 - (4) Competition inspires a person to realise his potential by measuring his intellectual and physical capacities against those of a rival competitor.
16. *Which of the following is out of place, with respect to the passage ?*
- (1) For every successful person in competition, there are many who fail, and after having failed, stop making efforts to develop themselves.
 - (2) Competition motivates a person to greater efforts to improve himself.
 - (3) Competitive spirit is an unmixed blessing.
 - (4) Improvement in technology was a fall out of the stiff competition.
17. *The passage is an excerpt of :*
- (1) an essay highlighting the various facets of competition.
 - (2) a critical viewpoint denigrating the damage caused by being competitive.
 - (3) a market analysis of how cooperation helps in overall benefit.
 - (4) a warning by a psychologist of the behavioural change and social imbalance arising out of being competitive.
18. *A suitable title for the passage could be :*
- (1) Competition Results In A Person's Arrogance.
 - (2) Ignorance Is Best Driven By Competition.
 - (3) Competition Is The Driving Force For Individuals And Industries.
 - (4) Competition Is The Mother Of Rivalry.
19. *The passage is handled in a manner which is :*
- (1) rhetoric.
 - (2) rationalistic.
 - (3) religious.
 - (4) ridiculous.
20. *The passage relates to :*
- (1) trade tactics.
 - (2) business strategies.
 - (3) philosophy.
 - (4) behavioural science.



Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(2).** Options (1), (3) and (4) find no place in the passage, direct or implicit. Option (2) is in place and is stated throughout the passage. Option (2) is the sought one.
2. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) finds its place in the passage. The last paragraph, fourth and fifth paragraphs state and uphold them. Option (4) is not in place, as the passage does not state so. Option (4) is the sought one.
3. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) are incorrect, as the passage does not state them. Option (3) is the correct one, for the passage, in the fourth paragraph, states and validates it.
4. **Ans.(1).** The opening paragraph states and upholds option (1). It is because men have thought themselves to be important that women are relegated to secondary positions. Options (2), (3) and (4) are not correct, as the passage does not state them.
5. **Ans.(1).** The fourth paragraph holds option (1) to be valid. By seeking career, women earn money through which they can grow and gain recognition. Options (2), (3) and (4) are not appropriate, as the passage makes no mention of them.
6. **Ans.(1).** Options (2), (3) and (4) find their place in the passage. The third and the sixth paragraph state and uphold them. Option (1) is out of place as the passage does not state or uphold it. It is the one sought.
7. **Ans.(3).** The title for the passage represents the theme or the essence of the passage. The passage is about the empowerment of women and the effects it has on them and society. Option (3) conforms to this and could pass off as an appropriate title. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are not representative of the contents of the passage and cannot be the title for the passage.
8. **Ans.(1).** Option (2) is, at best, the source from where the passage is extracted. The passage has stated ways and means of upliftment of women. Options (1), (3) and (4) are not appropriate and can be discarded.
9. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) are wrong. The passage does not show traces of them. Option (3) is correct, for the author has, without being unfair, examined the sensitive issue of women empowerment. The approach is objective.
10. **Ans.(2).** Clearly it is sociology to which the passage relates. Option (2) is the accurate one. The remaining options (1), (3) and (4) are not correct.
11. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) find their place in the passage. The last paragraph, second last paragraph and the third paragraph all state and uphold them. Hence all of them are the desired ones. However, option (4), their combination, is the perfect pick.
12. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) all find their place in the passage. The opening paragraph, sixth paragraph and the fifth paragraph state and uphold them. Option (3) is out of place, as the penultimate paragraphs ascribes the growth of sports and athletics to competition and not to cooperation. Hence the sought option is (3).
13. **Ans.(2).** The fourth paragraph states the way by which the self esteem of a person is enhanced. Option (2) best conforms to this and is the apt one. Options (1), (3) and (4) are not what the passage says and can be rejected.
14. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) all find their place in the passage. The sixth paragraph, the eighth and the second paragraphs all state and uphold them. However, option (4), their combination, is the sought one.
15. **Ans.(2).** Options (1), (3) and (4) all find their place in the passage. The fourth and second paragraphs all state and uphold them. Option (2) is not found in the passage. The penultimate paragraph states the opposite of it. Hence the sought option is (2).
16. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) are stated in the passage. The last and the third paragraphs make a mention of them. Option (3) is out of place, as the last paragraph has just the opposite stated. Hence option (3) is the one sought.
17. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) best fits in. The passage, in all likelihood, is an essay containing various aspects of competition. Option (2) is stated in the last paragraph but not in a denigrating manner. Options (3) and (4) are incorrect as the passage does not even remotely suggest them.
18. **Ans.(3).** The passage describes competition in its entirety. On account of competition, the survival of an individual or an industry is established. Hence option (3) best synthesises this and is the correct title for the passage. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are not suitable titles, for the passage does not mention them.
19. **Ans.(2).** The author has handled the passage using reason. Facts have been placed and reasons given. Option (2) is the appropriate one. The remaining options are not correct.
20. **Ans.(4).** The passage makes an indirect reference to options (1), (2) and (3) but they are not strong before option (4), which is the best area to which the passage relates.

Answer Keys

11.(4)	12.(3)	13.(2)	14.(4)	15.(2)	16.(3)	17.(1)	18.(3)	19.(2)	20.(4)
1.(2)	2.(4)	3.(3)	4.(1)	5.(1)	6.(1)	7.(3)	8.(2)	9.(3)	10.(2)