

OPEN TEXT - BASED ASSESSMENT ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2014-15



SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) Class-IX

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**CENTRAL BOARD OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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OPEN TEXT MATERIAL

1. Theme – A Story of Two Brothers

Abstract

Set in the era of the great divide of two nations, this is a story encompassing the lives of two brothers whose destiny had taken a different course from the contented life they once had. From the refugee camps to the tumultuous struggle they ensued, the story narrates how a person moulds his reality from rags, and how the other lurches into the shackles of urban poverty.



Main Text

Soiled floors, anxiously stirred souls, nervous air, and confusion. As this delirious boy made his way through a swarm of people, peeping as far as he could, scanning for familiar face, all efforts seemed futile. The refugee camp seemed to quiver from providing any sort of refuge. The enigma of what had happened was unfathomable for this little lad. The India- Pakistan divide had scarred the innocent lives of millions, one of which was him. Happy families broken, brotherhood was precariously held with feeble strings, unaware of which Manpreet merely of 14 years, sat quietly in a corner, nibbling on the stale bread, all that the nonchalant camp could provide! Suddenly his eyes twinkled. "Maa!, Bhai!", he shrieked with all his might and ran with great alacrity like he'd found the elixir he ever wanted. He embraced his mother at once, who once was a renowned Thakurain of the huge bungalow at Lahore, wife of a sagacious Thakur, whose jurisdiction was considered the decree from the Gods- now a listless widow, still overcoming from the impalpable sorrow. Hugging and kissing both his beloved, he wiped off his tears.

The clock seemed to tick slower each day in the horrendous living conditions in the camp. Despite government's efforts to provide basic amenities and shelter to the homeless, the number of takers



outnumbered the resources. The fear of the unknown enveloped them, for what seemed like forever. They were unsure of their fate. After a month of struggle, a band of government officials arrived out of the hustle, announcing distribution of land for the refugees in the Lajpat Nagar area of Delhi. Manpreet's family was lucky enough to get that benefit. Being allotted that petty piece of land in the suburbs gave them hope - the hope of survival, the hope to be independent and to regain the status they once had had, all over.

The transition to settled life did not come easy. With great difficulty they managed to make a makeshift house, consisting of a large square room and a small room and a common lavatory set up by the government. The days spent in that house had been of acute sufferings. Countless days and nights were spent almost without food leading to intermittent jolts in the stomach, causing pain and agony with which the young ones tossed in the bed entire night trying hard to sleep. It was the mother who tried to soothe them in those waking hours of fret and pain.



The single mother was the only bread earner for the family attempting to combat the circumstances that had left two children solely dependent on her. However, the once Thakurain, now took to menial jobs. "Beta, I am going to get you some food. Take care, both of you, and don't talk to strangers." she left the kids all by themselves, to a brick kiln, where she worked in draconian conditions, inhaling the hazardous dust particles. Every night she came home broken tired, her health being seriously affected, she coughed excessively and it worsened as days passed by. The meager amount she received after sweating the entire day was not sufficient to make both ends meet.

The hideous and pathetic urban poverty had made them malnourished and withered. The mother was saddened by the cruel struggle one has to make for mere existence in a crowded city. With



these thoughts, her eyes moistened and was dumbstruck to see the transformation of her sons as well, who in a privileged position would always sneer at the sight of the good food and jibe faces, now were gorging on bits of substandard food which was all she could manage to arrange. She cried bitterly to witness these days of abject urban poverty. She saw how her sons acted beyond their years, never demanded anything, knowing the fact their mother could do nothing but silently curse her impalpable fate on one hand and showed great tenacity to gather strength from the situation on the other.

The Mother toiled harder each day to at least get her younger son Jeet, who was now 11, educated, in hope of him growing up and start earning respectably for the family. She invested all her wages on him, and sent him to a government school. On the contrary the elder son Manpreet, 15, plunged himself and did all sorts of odd jobs- newspaper vending, running errands, supplying milk, working as a mechanic, picking rags from houses to support his mother in sharing the responsibility of managing the house.

As the ravages of time unfolded, the family became immune to the sufferings, and years passed forth. The excessive strain on the mother began to show serious effects. The years of handwork and suffering she had endured emanated through her body. The symptoms that had once been neglected worsened.

One ill-fated day she started spewing out blood which sent Manpreet in a state of panic. He rushed her to the government hospital, where she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was summoned to get admitted at a moment's notice. Manpreet was distressed, he was aware how cardinal it was for his mother to get proper treatment but he also knew fully well that he could not afford it. The private doctors had refused to go forth with the treatment and demanded enormous amounts of money; on the other hand, the government hospitals had run out of facilities and only prescribed a few medicines with a stern warning of not doing any sort of work as it would be fatal for her health.



With the hope of restoring his mother's health, what now seemed plausible to Manpreet was to play multiple roles of managing household chores, looking after his mother, younger brother and also earn single handedly to tackle this grim situation. Under such circumstances, Jeet's education was



constantly interrupted and often put aside for many weeks, which troubled Manpreet deeply. He worked selflessly hoping that the days of darkness would soon be over, but the worst was yet to come.

One evening, after painful plodding he delved in the pockets of his tattered trouser to take out the money he had earned, but couldn't find any. The realization that his money had been stolen on the way back shattered him. He blamed God for all the unfairness he had to face, and felt the urge to steal to tackle the shortcoming. Looking through his anguish, his mother embraced him in consolation and said, "Son, I know the world is unfair but one has to brave all situations with courage. Remember the sun is bound to rise after prolonged darkness" These words sparked his infatuation for working even harder and he moved on with renewed aplomb. He walked all the way to the Gurudwara that night, to fetch food for his starving family. That visit gave him immense strength and revitalized his faith in the supreme power.

Frequent visits to Gurudwara restored his faith in the almighty and saved him from indulging in antisocial practices. His notable sincerity in providing services was acknowledged by the owner of a car sales shop. "Lad, I've been noticing your dedicated service for the past week. Why don't you work here on a permanent basis?" Manpreet explained his abominable state. Empathizing with his situation the man offered him a respectable position at his shop. Manpreet's happiness knew no bounds. For once in his life all odds favoured him. He readily accepted the offer. He couldn't wait to go home and tell his mother about his new found job.

Manpreet, with his honesty and merit, was further promoted; his brother was but a contrast to Manpreet. Jeet who had given into poverty sought an alternative- stealth. He did not realize the worth of the sacrifices that his family had made, instead of studying hard, he had fallen prey to the hounds of the society. His addiction to drinking led him on, and he drained the hard earned money of his family so, stealing from other people was the only way out he was left with. Many a times he was in police custody and it was his elder brother who came to his rescue. He thus became a liability to his family.

Years flew by. Manpreet was now 22 and he had worked his soul off to bring his family out of the acute urban poverty. With the copious money he was now earning, he managed to get his mother proper treatment for her illness. She was recovering, rather slowly, but the years of prolonged illness had taken a toll on her general well- being. However, Jeet was leading towards oblivion. Days and nights he didn't return home. And when he did, he was never in his senses all right. He had become a drunkard, draining all his family's money, as well as falling in a debt trap. All his family's efforts to pull him from the vacuum were in vain.

Soon the mother began feeling, that she had breathed the number of breaths given by the lord, and that, the end was near. She wanted to see Manpreet, settled and raise a family. She had lost all faith in Jeet and Manpreet was the only ray of hope. Moreover, he had started earning decently enough to be a family man. And so, he found himself a partner, and got married. On the other hand, Jeet's visit

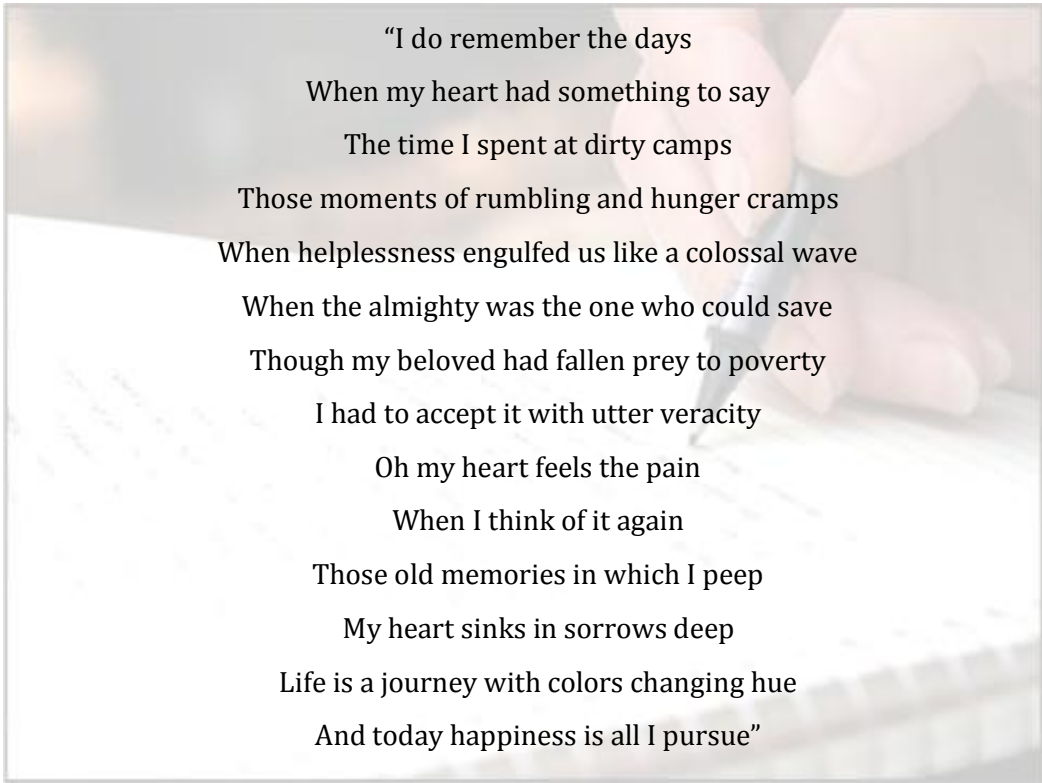


to his home was dwindling. Whenever he turned up, he only demanded for money. Time flew on and one fateful day, a grave knock at the door startled the family. There were two police constables, with sorry eyes who delivered the sad news. Jeet was no more. He died of alcohol overdose. He had met an appalling end and succumbed to the miseries of demonic urban poverty.

On the contrary, Manpreet had overcome his woes, beating his destiny with his hard work and high morals. Highs and lows came and went; he never deviated from his path and continued working hard.

Though both the brothers came from similar backgrounds and circumstances but had different approaches towards tribulations. The first brother took poverty as a challenge and decided to defeat it while the other succumbed to the poverty.

But that was not all. Manpreet was a very socially driven youth. The pain that was inflicted upon him from this acute situation of poverty, along with the loss of his dear ones and the destruction of his family- altogether blazed his heart with fire. He thought of the night he had almost given up all hopes. What he was today was by the grace of Almighty. He realized, it was now his turn to pay back. He devoted his time in the Gurudwara, doing every bit of service to mankind he could. Helping the churning poor, empathising their pain and remembering how he was once in their shoes. He sat reminiscing the days gone by, took a paper and scribbled his heart out-



“I do remember the days
When my heart had something to say
The time I spent at dirty camps
Those moments of rumbling and hunger cramps
When helplessness engulfed us like a colossal wave
When the almighty was the one who could save
Though my beloved had fallen prey to poverty
I had to accept it with utter veracity
Oh my heart feels the pain
When I think of it again
Those old memories in which I peep
My heart sinks in sorrows deep
Life is a journey with colors changing hue
And today happiness is all I pursue”



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Sample Questions

1. 'Poverty is not an economic abstraction, it is a human condition'. Justify the statement. (5)
2. In context to given story, what according to you are the causes of poverty and what may be your contribution towards eliminating poverty? (5)

Marking Scheme

1.
 - ☆ Poverty is a state when a person is not able to have square meals a day.
 - ☆ It is a state of despair, grief and pain
 - ☆ Opportunities are there to come out of this vicious cycle through hard work and self-belief.
 - ☆ Poverty is a state of mind when one feels resource less, be it physical resources i.e. money and likes that we can see or be it Humane resources i.e values, confidence and trust which though very important cannot be seen.
 - ☆ How much is enough cannot be measured, but when greed is there, one is poor. (5)
2. Causes of poverty:
 1. Lack of opportunities
 2. Lack of productive resources and access to it.
 3. Partition of the country and the loss of all assets of the family
 4. Lack of education and skills to make an individual future readyMy contribution towards eliminating poverty
 1. Imparting Education
 2. Skill Development
 3. Strong Value System
 4. Involving with NGOs to fight the vices in the society. (5)

(To be assessed as a whole)



OPEN TEXT MATERIAL

2. Theme – *Living on the Edge*

Abstract

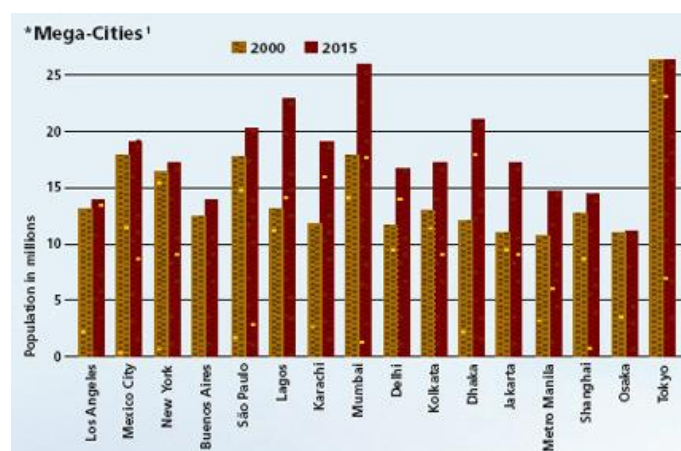
Big cities provide big opportunities. They attract both rich and the poor alike. The poor from the villages are attracted by greater job prospects, better infrastructural facilities and above all an escape from constraining social and cultural traditions in rural villages. Urban life presents conditions of overcrowded living, congestion, unemployment, lack of social and community networks, stark inequalities and crippling social problems such as crime and violence. Many of those who migrate benefit from the opportunities in the urban areas while others may be left behind to struggle with the challenges of city life.

Urban Population Growth

Despite the multitude of problems related to the urban poor, the number of urban residents is growing, by nearly 60 million every year. According to W.H.O. figures the global urban population is expected to grow roughly 1.5% per year between 2012-2030. By the middle of the 21st century, the urban population will almost double, increasing from approximately 3.4 billion in 2009 to 6.4 billion in 2050.

In the years to come, urban population growth will occur in the cities of the developing countries. By the middle of the 21st century the urban population of these countries will be more than double. On the other hand in the high income countries, the urban population is expected to remain largely unchanged. Reasons for urban growth are attributed to both natural growth and rural to urban migration. Immigration accounts for two-thirds of the urban growth. Without immigration, urban population will decline or remain static.

Let's have a look at population growth in selected mega-cities of the world. (Study figure 1)



Source: <http://newint.org/features/2006/01/01/facts/>

Fig. 1: Population growth in selected mega cities of the world (2000-2015)

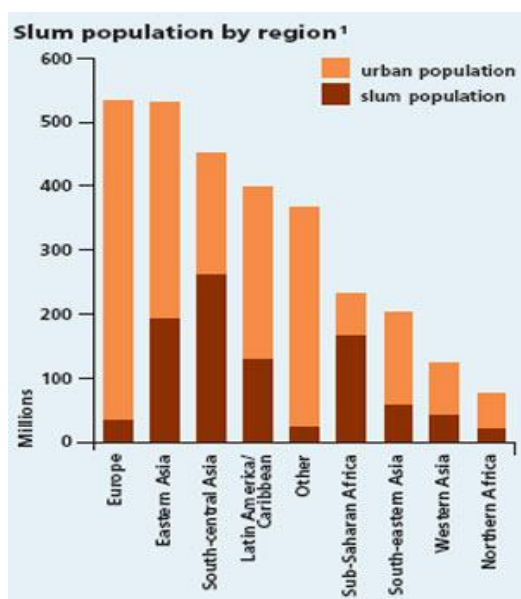


Compare the growth of urban population in the developing nations with that of developed nations. We would come to a conclusion that the population of the cities located in the developing world like Karachi, Mumbai, Delhi and Dhaka will grow faster than that of the developing world like Osaka and Tokyo.

Challenges

Challenges faced by urban immigrants like resource constraints, inadequate Government policies at both the Central and local level and lack of planning for urban growth and management have led to the rise of slums.

What is a slum? A slum for the purpose of Census has been defined as residential areas where dwellings are unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangements and design of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of street, lack of ventilation, light or sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors which are detrimental to the safety and health. Slums have been categorized into three types: Notified slums, Recognized slums and identified slums.



Source:

<http://newint.org/features/2006/01/01/facts>
Fig 2: Slum population by region

Slums lack infrastructural facilities. The water that they fetch is not clean and purified. It is contaminated and attracts flies and mosquitoes. This water is often stored which causes diseases like malaria. Water is not available everywhere in a slum. Women at times have to walk 2-3 kilometers each day to fetch water for their daily needs. Toilet facilities are not adequate. Slum dwellers are not able to build toilets in their homes. Inadequate sanitation facilities leads to harmful diseases like diarrhea, jaundice, cholera, parasitic worms etc.

Figure 2 shows that the proportion of slum population to the urban population is highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Central Asia. It is the least in Europe.

A region wise study of the slum population tells us that Asia has 60% of the world's slum dwellers, Africa 20% and Latin America 14%.

A peculiar feature of Asian urbanization is the prevalence of "megacities" that are home to 10 million people. In 2011, there were 23 such cities worldwide, 13 of which were Asian. It is expected that by 2025, the number of megacities would reach 37 out of which 21 are Asian. Southeast Asia has most densely populated cities with population densities going up to 16,500 people per square kilometres.



Slums in India

Slum Population in India by States		
State	2011	2017 (Projected)
Maharashtra	1.81	2.05
Uttar Pradesh	1.1	1.2
Andhra Pradesh	0.81	0.86
Madhya Pradesh	0.64	0.71
Gujarat	0.46	0.52
Delhi	0.31	0.37
Source: Census of India 2011		
All figures in crores		

According to the NSSO estimates nine million households or roughly one- eighth of India's urban population lives in slums.

According to recent estimates, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh will be having largest share of slum population in India by 2017. These states are already home to a large number of slum populations which mostly lives in and around urban areas. By 2017, Maharashtra will be home to more than 20 million of slum population in India followed by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that by 2017, India's total slum population will be 104 million.

At the crack of dawn, 13 year old, Radha wakes up in the urban sprawl of Delhi's Yamuna Pushta. She heads towards the slum public toilets next to the railway line. Returns and gets ready to go along with her mother to fetch water from a tap at the end of the lane. She carries along four empty cans and places them in the long serpentine queue where women are shouting and jostling over the water tap. After two hours she returns to her rickety shack and quickly gets ready for school. On good days breakfast is a dry chapati with left over vegetable.

On her way she drops her 8 year old brother to a small unrecognised private school. No one is at home when she returns at one o'clock along with her brother. She has to cook and feed him and do all the household work from cleaning to washing. In the evening when all other children are playing in the *basti* she sits and completes her homework and returns to household work.

Her two elder sisters have gone along with her mother to work in the neighbourhood bungalows. They return in the evening. Radha and her brother Sonu are privileged to get education as no one else is literate in her house. Her father is a rickshaw puller. He works morning to night and is barely able to earn Rs. 300 per day.



Dharavi



Source:

<http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/A-level/AQA/Year%2013/World%20Cities/Mumbai/Mumbai.htm>

and 152 in food. Furthermore, there are 111 restaurants and several thousand boutiques in Dharavi.

As put nicely by someone: Dharavi is becoming the green lung stopping Mumbai choking to death on its own waste. The recycling factories in Dharavi have saved Mumbai. The city of Mumbai generates almost 7,025 tons of waste on a daily basis and for this reason Dharavi remains a land of recycling opportunity for many rural Indians. A disposable plastic cup may reborn several times in Dharavi. They are discarded and gathered in, melted and remoulded in some new plastic form. Thousands of tones of plastic, metal, paper, glass, cotton, metals revolve around in Dharavi each day.

In the little corner of Sion Dharavi one can see a flourishing papad making cottage industry. The women keep themselves busy by making papads.



Source: <http://mumbai-magic.blogspot.in/2007/03/pappadam-central.html>

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Sample Questions:

- Q1. Will imparting education to children in slums, enrich their lives without providing them with basic needs? Comment. (5)
- Q2. Reason out why do the developing nations have more slums than the developed nations? (5)

Marking Scheme:

1.

- ☆ Imparting education to children will not enrich their lives immediately; it simply prepares them for the future.
- ☆ But in order to ensure that the education that we provide them reaches them, a good atmosphere is necessary.
- ☆ They don't have basic infrastructure and health care. Their atmosphere instead of motivating them to study, demotivates them.
- ☆ They will not be able to study in a condition in which they cannot even find food to eat, and will be forced to work as a child labourer in order to earn money for their daily bread, and not choose to continue to study. (To be assessed as a whole, 5 Marks)



2. Reasons of the developing nations have more slums than the development nations:
- ☆ The only type of settlement affordable and accessible to the poor in development nations where competition for land and profits is intense?
 - ☆ In comparison with developed nations, limited job opportunities in developing nations.
 - ☆ Lack of job prospects, education, health facilities, along with restrictive social or cultural realities.
 - ☆ Lack of infrastructural provision to meet economic and social needs.
 - ☆ Lack of planning and reforms by governments / bad governance.

(To be assessed as a whole, 5 Marks)