

96. More and more media attention is being paid to famous people who are successful in sports and movies. Why do you think this is happening? Is this a good thing?

It would not be unfair to say that today's world is saturated with celebrity related news and gossip. We have access to the very latest news in the world of celebrities via various different mediums. This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

The main reason for this is that people idolize celebs and want to know about them. Celebs are role models for many. People want to be like them and that is why they want to know everything about them. The media is only responding to people's desires. To survive in today's world, the media, whether it is e-media or print media, has to focus on these big shots. Another reason for this is that the celebs themselves need the media coverage to survive in today's era of cut-throat competition. That is why the extent and quality of celebrity news in the media is multiplying at a great rate.

However, too much focus on the lives of celebrities is certainly harmful for the people as well as the celebs themselves. Too much focus on celebrities is diverting people's attention away from more important issues such as politics and the environment. For example, the public knows more about Salman Khan and his broken relationships than about many political issues. Another important point is that sometimes these celebs are negative role models for people. For instance, if a celebrity drinks or smokes then young people may copy him thinking that it is glamorous to drink and smoke.

Too much celebrity gossip can be detrimental for the celebs themselves. Everyone knows that Princess Diana died because she was being followed by the paparazzi. Celebrities' lives do not have any privacy and they cannot enjoy the simple things of life like a common man does. This increases the stress in their lives and their career also suffers as a result.

To conclude, the media does focus too much into the lives of famous people because of several reasons. However, it should understand its responsibility and use its power for the right cause. It should know where to draw the line and should also know how much is too much.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Why it is not good for people

Para 3: Why it is not good for celebs

Conclusion:

97. Should media networks such as newspaper publish people's private information?

Media plays a very important role in our lives. Through the different media, be it print or broadcast, we get to know about the local, national and international news and along with that it helps spread awareness and brings to our notice the various issues and helps form our opinion. In this day of competition, in order to increase the sales or the TRP, many media people publicize the private life of the celebrities and other famous people. In my opinion, this is not justified.

It is true that the reason why such private information is publicly disclosed is because there is demand for such details by the masses and people enjoy such news. However, that doesn't give anyone the right to publish such information, especially without the consent of the person concerned. Every individual has a right to privacy and journalists and other media persons should not invade the privacy of anyone, be it a common man or a famous person.

Moreover, most of the celebrities act as role models for many youngsters. If negative or uncensored information is published about famous people, many people may follow them and indulge in the same kind of behavior as their role models, even if it is something wrong, like drinking or smoking excessively or using abusive language. To add to it, if some private aspect of that person's life is published or broadcast, it may affect the career of a celebrity adversely. Ultimately it is a loss for the public as well, as an artist is lost in the process.

My final argument against publicizing private lives of celebs is that when the paparazzi make their private lives public, it sometimes affects their performance, which is the loss of the common people. These celebs entertain us, and if they don't perform well, they cannot entertain us well.

Opponents may say that any public figure has to accept this as a part of their lives, as they chose this way of life, when they chose to become a celebrity. However, I strongly believe that this still does not give anyone the right to invade someone's privacy and make it public.

To sum up, it can be said that we all have a right to privacy and so do the famous people. It is not right for the media networks to publicize anyone's personal and private information.

Plan followed

Intro: They should not

Para 1: first reason

Para 2: second reason

Para 3: third reason

Para 4: My view

Conclusion

98. Some people say television contributes more than other modern inventions to the quality of life of ordinary people. Do you agree or disagree?

The television has become arguably the greatest invention of the past century. There is no doubt that it has significantly changed the life of the ordinary man. However, I disagree that it adds more to the life of the common man. I believe that the mobile technological gadgets of today have surpassed the TV, as they also provide TV on the go along with all other benefits of the phone and the computer.

Undoubtedly, the TV is still very important to us. We watch TV in the morning to receive the daily news. We eat watching it. We watch it before they go to bed. Thus the television eats up most of the time we get to stay at home. What is more, the advertisements succeed in giving rise to strong materialistic wants in us, which must be one of the reasons why we are becoming increasingly consumerist.

On the other hand, the modern gadgets have accelerated the pace of communication, and now we are able to communicate with anyone in any corner of the world. Long distance communication has also become much cheaper than before. Newer jobs have been created because of these technologies. Many people work in the programming field, as systems analysts and as web designers.

Furthermore, businesses can expand globally, with very little investment. They can develop a network of customers and get instant feedbacks on their products or services. Payments can be sent and received by wireless terminals, like PayTM. Another big advantage is to the students. Students can create documents and immediately upload them to a teacher's electronic folder. Teachers can then view the documents immediately, and keep them permanently stored. It works in reverse, too. Teachers can upload assignments, links, or feedback for students via these shared resources or folders.

Moreover, these gadgets have proved an asset in healthcare also. The tablet and smartphone are becoming nearly as ubiquitous in healthcare as the stethoscope. One survey in 2013 discovered that 86% of physicians used smartphones. In one handheld device, doctors can access patient information, research medical literature, and securely communicate with patients and colleagues.

To sum up, it can be said that television has been the leader in changing the life of man till the beginning of the 21st century, but the mobile communication technology has now surpassed all other inventions in affecting the life of the common human being.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: What all we see on TV – When-when we see the TV – Ads on TV

Para 2: How modern gadgets are better

Para 3: More advantages of modern gadgets

Para 4: More advantages of mobile gadgets.

Conclusion: reiterate your points

99. Some people are interested in international news, others prefer watching national news. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

All cultures whether literate or not have a thirst for news. The news plays a vital role in human affairs and also keeps us in touch with our environment. Some people just like to watch national news whereas others want to know all about the international arena. Before rendering my opinion, I think it is important to look at the argument on both sides.

Those in favour of national news contend that it is enough to know what is happening around them in our own country. They believe that what is happening a thousand or more miles away has no bearing on their lives and it is futile to go into the depth of that news. Their curiosity is satiated with political, social, sports and entertainment news of their own country. For example, most people in India follow the national political developments as it affects important aspects of their life such as their finance, health and education. They like to discuss national issues and express their concern over them.

Those interested in global news say that global news gives us a big picture view of what is happening around the country and the world. Today, the world is becoming more and more interconnected and a well-rounded understanding of politics, the environment, social structures and the global economy is needed in order to make important decisions of their lives. Some like to invest in the stock market which is affected by any happenings anywhere in the world. For example, when tsunami struck Japan in 2011, the stock market around the world saw a sudden dip.

Another reason of taking interest in international news is that today people travel the world for various purposes. Tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. For example, today people go for business tourism, religious tourism, education tourism, medical tourism, sports tourism, political tourism and remote tourism. Keeping in touch with international news keeps affects our decisions regarding our destination of travel and many more factors. Therefore international news is of paramount importance today.

To conclude, international news is very important in today's times. It does not, however, mean that national news is not important. I firmly believe that news of our own country is very important, but today we belong to a small global village and not a huge planet Earth. Therefore all news is local news.

Plan followed

Intro: it is important to look at the argument on both sides

Para 1: views of those in favour of watching national news

Para 2: views of those in favour of watching international news

Para 3: more views of those in favour of watching national news

Conclusion: your opinion - news of our own country is very important, but today we belong to a small global village and not a huge planet Earth. Therefore all news is local news.

100. Recently, more and more people use the Internet to get information and buy goods. What do you think about the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?

The Internet is probably one of the greatest inventions of the century. This essay intends to discuss the pros and cons of the Internet.

Information is probably the biggest advantage that Internet offers. Internet is a virtual treasure trove of information. There is a huge amount of information available on the Internet for just about every subject known to man, ranging from government law and services, market information, new ideas and technical support.

Another big advantage of Internet is the speedy communication. Now, you can communicate in a fraction of second with a person who is sitting in the other part of the world. With the help of such services, it has become very easy to establish a kind of global friendship where you can share your thoughts and explore other cultures.

Entertainment is another popular reason why many people prefer to surf the Internet. Downloading games and songs or just surfing the websites are some of the uses people have discovered. Finally, with numerous online services you can now do net-banking, book tickets for a movie, pay utility bills, taxes etc., sitting at home.

On the other hand, if you use the Internet for online banking, social networking or other services, you may risk a theft to your personal information such as name, address, credit card number etc., which may land you in serious trouble.

Secondly, Internet users are often plagued by virus attacks on their systems. Virus programs may end up crashing your software and sometimes even hardware. Furthermore, Internet allows you to access and download millions of pornographic photos, videos and other X-rated stuff. This can be detrimental for children and teenagers.

Finally, people now only meet on social networks and face to face communication has taken a back seat. More and more people are getting apart from their friends and family. Even children prefer to play online games rather than going out and mingling with other kids.

To conclude, with all its falls the internet has the potential to make your life simple and convenient, as well as wreak havoc in your life. With clever use, you can manage to harness its unlimited potential.

Plan followed:

Intro

Para 1, 2 and 3: Advantages

Para 4, 5 and 6: Disadvantages

Conclusion

101. Films can have effect on the children's education and teach them many things. Do you think it is always a positive influence? Discuss.

It is irrefutable that movies can be very educative for children. However, the effect of movies is not always beneficial. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the positive and negative effects of movies on children.

On the positive side, movies are enjoyable for children of all ages. They stimulate children's emotions, imaginations and conversations. Movies also introduce children to cultures and historical events. Movies used in the classroom enhance learning. Therefore, if the movies are good they can have a very positive influence on a child's growth.

On the downside, children are negatively affected by movies with sex, violence drug abuse and offensive language. Older children and adolescents may copy the risky things they see in movies. What is more, movies glamorize things like smoking and drinking and children are quick to pick up these traits.

Furthermore, watching too many movies can impede the development of healthy habits like playing outdoor games, reading and spending quality time with family. Children who are avid film viewers are more likely to suffer from obesity related problems throughout their lives.

I believe that as everything has its pros and cons, movies too can have both - good and bad influences. It is very important for parents to check the movie ratings before allowing their children to watch any movies. The best thing for parents could be to watch movies with their children. Watching movies together could be a very rewarding experience.

To summarise, movies can have a positive or a negative influence on children but if parents take steps in choosing their children's movies, then the effect can be largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro: It has both positive and negative effects

Para 1: Positive effects

Para 2: Negative effects

Para 3: Negative effects

Para 4: Own opinion

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

102. Today the Internet has replaced traditional books as a source of information. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

The Internet as the mainstream of media plays a very important role in transferring information. Some people assert that Internet would take the place of books in the future. However, in my opinion, each medium has its own advantages and disadvantages. Books will always hold a place in our lives.

Admittedly, Internet has made our lives very convenient. Firstly, it can transform information instantly. It can tell us what happened in the world right away with very impressive pictures. Secondly, it plays an important role in education. People can study history, culture, language and cooking skills from the internet. Even the books are now available in electronic format (e-books) and that is the reason some people find it a threat to the traditional, physical, book.

However, we should not neglect the importance of books which are very convenient to carry and easy to get. Books are available everywhere, such as in the library, in the book store, in your pocket or beside the pillow. After a day's work we can relax in our bed or sofa by reading some book or magazine. Books are also very good travel companions.

Moreover, it is very difficult to sit for long hours glued to the monitor screen. Eye strain and back pain are also some disadvantages of the internet. With so many power cuts, as in my country, we cannot rely on the internet. Last but not least, the day is not far when all people will be able to afford the internet connection.

To conclude, despite the threat of the internet, the book has maintained its place. So I feel we'll never go without books because they have served us so well for so long.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of internet over books

Para 2: Advantages of printed book

Para 3: Disadvantages of internet

Conclusion: Despite the threat of the internet, the book has maintained its place.

103. As communication technology develops people are interacting with each other in different ways. Does this trend have more advantages or disadvantages?

Technology has revolutionized the concept of communication. It has brought in the market many gadgets to facilitate communication. This has led to a considerable change in the type of relationships that people have and largely these changes have been positive although there is a downside to this phenomenon as well.

The most significant impact of technology on communication is that the speed of communication has increased manifold and the cost has been cut drastically. In the pre-information technology days, a document often required re-typing on the typewriter before the final version. Sending the letter across to someone else required a visit to the post office and a postage stamp. Faster methods such as telegrams had severe limitations in text, and remained costly. Computers and the internet have made easy the process of creating and editing documents and applying features such as spell check and grammar check automatically. Email allows sending the document to any part of the globe within seconds, making telegrams, and even ordinary letters mostly obsolete.

The accessibility of communication has also improved because of the low cost. Relationships have become better because people are connected to each other all the time and there is little chance of misunderstanding because of communication gap. Finally, technologies such as the internet help spread the net of communication by tracking down old friends, shedding light on new business opportunities, and the like.

On the downside, the possibility of high quality communication from anywhere in the world to anywhere else at low costs has led to a marked decline in face-to-face communications and to an increased reliance on electronic mediums. Communication has become concise and short, and the adage "brevity is the soul of wit" finds widespread implementation, though unintentionally. The small keyboards in mobile phone and other hand held devices that make typing difficult has resulted in a radical shortening of words and increasing use of symbol and shortcuts, with little or no adherence to traditional grammatical rules.

Summing up, as every garden has weeds, similarly the effect of technology on communication has a downside. Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: these changes have been positive although there are some negative changes also

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Negative side

Conclusion: Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative

104. Some people say now there is less communication between the family members than in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I do not completely agree that nowadays there is lesser communication among the family members than in the past. What has actually happened is that most of the communication has changed from direct face-to-face communication to blind communication via the computer screen or the cell-phone.

To begin with, even today, the family is the center of many people's lives. As many people study or work in the same city and live in the same flat or house, family members have numerous opportunities to talk to each other. The whole family also gets together to have dinner at night, at the same time, exchange their days happenings. Last but not least, on weekends, the whole family goes for outings or shopping together and on these occasions gets opportunities to communicate with each other.

On the other hand, in this era of cut-throat competition, people spend more time on their study and work. Meanwhile, Compared to the past, people have to face fiercer competition and suffer greater pressure nowadays. Therefore, they have to devote more time and energy to their careers. For example, many jobs require people to work in other cities and many children have to leave their parents at an early age to study or work elsewhere. That is why to some extent communication has decreased among family members.

Today families communicate with each other as much as or even more than the past via the cell phone and internet. Earlier, when a member of the family went to another city or country for study or for a business trip, the landline phone or the traditional letter was the only means of communication. Today, families have minute-to-minute information about each other and many applications such as Skype have made video chat so easy and good that distances seem no barrier at all and communication has become even more frequent.

To sum up, it can be said that, even today families communicate with each other in many ways. To some extent the fast paced life has decreased interaction among family members but technology has brought in newer means to ease communication.

Plan followed

Intro: I do not completely agree – communication has changed – some decrease is there

Para 1: How families communicate even today

Para 2: How communication has decreased

Para 3: How communication has changed

Conclusion:

105. Nowadays people like to use new electronic equipment. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Technology has practically taken over our lives. Electronic devices have become an integral part of our lives. Such devices range from cellphones and notebooks to washing machines, microwaves and dishwashers at home. We use electronic gadgets not only for work in offices and industries, but also in our homes. Everyday there is a new invention that makes our work easier and convenient. This development has both merits and demerits. In my opinion its pros are more than its cons.

At work, the use of computers has made the work of the employees faster and their productivity and efficiency has improved immensely. For most of the jobs, having computer skills has become a pre-requisite. Electronic devices can be used not only at work, but also for education and for domestic purpose. For instance, we don't have to go anywhere to buy groceries and vegetables. These can be ordered in a few clicks of the mouse and are home delivered. The time saved with the use of such equipment can be utilized to pursue our hobbies and other interests. Even for hobbies, people take online classes or watch videos and learn new things, like recipes, guitar lessons, language lessons and so on.

To add to it, most of the schools have classrooms equipped with electronic equipment, like smart boards, projectors, TV screens, etc. The use of technology in education has improved the quality of learning among students. Furthermore, communication has been revolutionized with the use of such devices. We can connect with anyone, in any corner of the world, within a matter of seconds. Through video calls, people cannot only stay in touch with friends and relatives, but it has also helped many people expand their business globally.

On the downside, we have become too dependent on the electronic equipment and gadgets. Without these devices, people start feeling helpless and it seems that our work and world has come to a standstill. Also, the over-dependence on technology has led to many health-related problems, due to less physical activity and less utilization of our brains, making us less creative. We are so reliant on technology that a system failure for a few seconds at the stock exchange, can lead to huge losses, affecting an entire country's economy.

To conclude, I would reiterate that the increasing use of electronic devices has brought tremendous positive changes in our lives. However, it is in our hands to mitigate its negative effects, by not over-depending on electronic devices. It has been rightly said, "Technology should improve your life, not become your life."

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Electronic devices at work and home – Benefits

Para 2: Benefits in school

Para 3: Drawbacks

Para 4: More drawbacks

Conclusion:

106. Computers have made our world a better place to live. Do you agree or disagree?

Computers are ubiquitous nowadays and almost every home, office, or school has a computer of some kind these days. There can be no denying that this is because of the plethora of benefits we get from using computers. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that computers have transformed the world for better.

To begin with, our personal and professional lives have improved because of computers. We can now do more things and do them more easily than we could before. Checkout lines at stores move faster because a computer scans the prices. The bank manages our account more easily because of computers. The weatherman reports the weather more accurately with the help of computers. A computer is involved in almost everything we do, or that is done for us. Most people these days do their jobs with the help of a computer. Architects use computer programs to help them design buildings. Teachers use computers to write their lessons and get information for their classes. Pilots use computers to help them fly planes. With the help of computers, people can do complicated jobs more easily.

Furthermore, through the Internet, computers have made communication much more convenient. E-mail has made it possible to communicate with people instantly at any time of day. The Internet has made it possible to find out the latest news right away - even if it is news that happens someplace far away. The Internet has made it possible to get almost any kind of information from any place quickly, right in your own home or office. To add to it we can now do net-banking, online shopping and even do air and rail reservations online.

Undoubtedly, there is a dark side to this man-made machine called the computer. Many jobs have been lost due to the fact that computer can do a lot of tasks more efficiently than humans. This has led to high unemployment in many countries. What is more, kids if left unsupervised would spend all of their time playing games on the computer rather than using it for educational purpose. Moreover children might use the internet to access pornographic material. Furthermore some people when working from home with computer are far more likely to feel cut off from rest of the world. Also frequent and prolonged computer exposure may pose physical health risks especially for children. The most frequently cited are visual strain, harmful effects of radiation and posture problems. Last but not least, in case of network failure, the whole office work may come to a standstill. Despite all these drawbacks, the computer has made life without it un-conceivable.

To sum up, computers and the internet have come to stay. Obviously, the whole world has changed for the better.

Plan used

Intro: agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages through the internet

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion: pros more than cons

107. More and more adults are spending time playing computer games. Why are adults doing so? Is it good or bad?

Video games and computer games are heavily marketed towards teens and young adults, but recent studies show that the average video game addict is 35 years old. This essay intends to analyse the reasons why adults choose to play video games. I believe that playing video games is good in adulthood, but only until it becomes an addiction.

There are many reasons of adults playing video games. The first is that these games act as stress busters. In the hectic life of today, adults have a lot of responsibilities. They have to balance demanding jobs, look into the needs of spouses and children, and also deal with problems of ailing parents or friends in crisis. So, they need time to relax, unwind, and take their minds off real life.

However, when adults develop an addiction to video gaming, they suffer a lot of problems. Firstly, there is an increased risk for depression, anger and mood swings. Secondly, these gamers withdraw from friends, family, or spouse to the point that family, social, or work life is disrupted. In addition, the gaming addict may neglect household responsibilities and chores, and may lie to family members about the time he spends on these games.

In addition, adults addicted to gaming may have physical symptoms like difficulty sleeping, migraines, back and neck aches and dry eyes. Video game addicts also may become so preoccupied with earning the high score or reaching the next level that they forget to eat, shower, shave, or take care of basic hygiene. The addicts also lack physical exercise and so also suffer from an elevated BMI (Body Mass Index).

To sum up, video game addiction is not just limited to teens, but has also engulfed the adults. These games are addicting and isolating and so it would be better for adults to refrain playing such games.

Plan followed

Intro: Cause effect essay

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Harmful effects

Para 3: More harmful effects

Conclusion:

108. Many jobs used to be done at home by hand, but nowadays an increasing number of them are done using machines instead. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

Modern technology has equipped us with machines. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall the cons outweigh the pros.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for work and increases output. In the words of Oscar Wilde – “The fact is that civilization requires slaves. The Greeks were quite right there. Unless there are slaves to do the ugly, horrible, uninteresting work, culture and contemplation become almost impossible. Human slavery is wrong, insecure, and demoralizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends.”

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses.

Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are a failure where creative work is required. For example, the unique and original work done by many artisans can never be reproduced by any machines. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the negative effects of machines outweigh the positive effects on the individual and society. In order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of machines

Para 2: Disadvantages of machines

Para 3: Other negative effects

Conclusion: Machines are good but should be used judiciously in developing countries because may lead to unemployment

109. Some people think the mobile phones are most useful for their professional lives, others think mobile phones are most useful in their personal life. Discuss both of them and give your opinion.

The mobile phone is ubiquitous these days. I believe that mobile phones are very beneficial in both - personal as well as professional lives.

In personal life, the main advantage of a mobile phone is that it keeps people connected to their kith and kin at all times. Today we live in nuclear families but are connected to our extended family network all because of the cell phone. Secondly, it saves a lot of time. In the spare time that a person gets while travelling or waiting for someone he can carry out a number of tasks such as paying bills, ordering grocery, booking tickets and so on. Nowadays we all know that both parents are working. If they do all this work while commuting to and from work, they can give more time to their children once they are home. The world would be a lot slower had the mobile not been there. What is more, children who have to leave their elderly parents at home because of work, feel comfortable because they know they can be called any time their parents need them.

On the other hand, in professional life also, the cell phone has proved to be an asset. Professionals can use functions like call conferencing and video call conferencing instead of traditional face to face meetings. This saves a great amount of valuable time and cost for the companies. In addition, last-minute information that could make or break a project can also be delivered if a business cell phone is kept on hand. For instance, in the case of an emergency, having a business cell phone allows workers to call their fellow co-workers at all hours. Moreover, phones with advanced features, such as global positioning systems (GPS), also help you navigate with ease, making sure that you are able to meet with a new client on time.

→ Read the following

It is difficult to decide which sphere of life has been influenced more with a mobile phone. In many cases it is difficult to draw the line between personal and professional use. For example, a busy gynaecologist having to attend a patient in labour can attend her children also side by side in the time before delivery. This way neither the personal life suffers nor the professional life. Ten years ago the cell phone was a luxury; today it is a necessity to balance personal and professional life.

To conclude, the cell phone has revolutionized communication and brought equal benefits to both personal and professional lives.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages in personal life

Para 2: Advantages in professional life

Para 3: Overlapping role of cell phone

Conclusion: equal benefit

110. Some people are making new friends by using socializing network websites and internet chat rooms. Some people say that this is a good thing. Other people say that people should make new friends by face-to-face chat. Discuss these views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that it is good to make friends online on various social networking sites and internet chat rooms. However, others are in favour of making friends by direct face to face chat. This essay intends to look at both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

On the one hand, social network sites like 'Facebook' provide a great opportunity for people to socialize with one another and find common ground, before even meeting. Online social groups have become fundamental building blocks of modern human societies. They have a beneficial effect on our way of life. They increase our social interaction and give us more ways to make social connections. Earlier our social interactions were constrained by national boundaries, but now the Internet has turned communication into a global phenomenon. Today, our network of friends stretches across the globe.

On the other hand, making friends through direct contact is definitely better as social media sites can cause more harm than good. People can make fake IDs and cheat anyone. Every now and then we hear stories how girls and boys were cheated through such sites and after months of friendship, the original identity of the person turned out to be very different. Cyber criminals can hack the IDs of people and chat on their behalf which may cause huge misunderstandings.

Furthermore, face to face friendship is better because it is a friendship which has a deeper bond than online friendship. Man is after all a social animal and friends are meant to be there when you need them the most. Online friends cannot be with you when you are sick and you need a friend's touch. Face to face friends are with you in thick and thin and this can never be possible with online friends.

To sum up, even though the growing majority of the world's population abides by the social meme: "I love my computer, because my friends live in it", I still reiterate my opinion that face to face friendships are stronger and longer-lasting.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of online friends

Para 2: Advantages of face to face friends

Para 3: More advantages of face to face friends

Conclusion:

111. Many adults think that childhood and schooldays are the best years of a person's life. What's the reason for this? Do you agree or disagree?

Everyone has nostalgic memories of one's childhood days and would like to return to them if given a chance. Therefore, it goes without saying that childhood and early school days are the golden periods of one's life. However, the later school years, the teenage years, do have some stresses.

To begin with, there are many positive aspects of being a child. One of the biggest benefits is in the area of sleep. Generally, parents encourage children to 'go to bed early' for one reason or another. Sleep seems to be something that most adults wish they had more of. Another benefit of being a child is in the area of responsibility. The only person a child is responsible for is himself. Life is therefore less complicated and slower-paced. In addition, children are normally not engaged in full-time work. This means the stress of finding and keeping a job is not a part of their life.

Moreover, people tend to treat children with love and care and generally tend to ignore their mistakes, which if done by an adult are taken seriously. A child is inexperienced, and lacks understanding about life; he or she must go through a period of learning basic 'life skills' such as manners and appropriate language. All this is also a fun part of growing up.

On the other hand, the teenage years have some tensions. Teenagers face the identity crisis, which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty, which are very stressful for some. Then they have the stress of choosing their career because the subjects relating to one's career have to be finalized in secondary school. Nonetheless, these stresses are minor if compared to the responsibilities and tensions of adulthood.

To conclude, childhood for most people is certainly a stress-free time. I believe that childhood and primary school days are among the best times in a person's life. Teenage years do have their downside but still they are better than older years.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: reasons

Para 2: Other reasons

Para 3: stresses or teenage years

Conclusion: childhood and early schooldays the best.

112. Some people think parents should control the behaviour of children from a very young age but others think we should give them more freedom. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Young children are beginners. They have lots to learn and one of the biggest lessons they must learn is to behave or act in an acceptable manner. So parents have the onus of instilling the best values in their children. Some people say that parents must pull the reins on their children from a really young age but others opine that children should be given freedom. This essay shall look into both views.

Firstly, restrictions create responsible and respectful children who, in turn, mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for others. They know the importance of relationships. They know their cultural values as well. They know their boundaries. Moreover, children are like sponges, which very easily absorb what is taught to them. If you teach them good values, they will imbibe them. If parents don't realize their role and don't bother much, children will learn from other sources like TV and the people around them. They learn whatever they see and observe and if no one tells them at an early age what is wrong and what is right, they may learn vulgarity and violence. Later on parents may find it impossible to make them unlearn those things.

Furthermore, if parents don't control their child's behavior from a very young age, they may fall into bad company. They may start taking drugs under peer pressure. Once children become drug addicts, it is very difficult to bring them to normalcy once again.

On the other hand, those who believe that children should be given freedom are of the view that if children are controlled too much, they may become rebels. It would also snub their individuality and creativity. They may withdraw into a shell and sometimes go into depression. Therefore, they opine that children should be handled with soft gloves.

To conclude, parents are responsible for bringing children into this world and it is their responsibility for instilling good behavior in them. So, the earlier they do so the better. If they keep waiting, things may go out of hand.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: restrictions create responsible and respectful children

Para 2: if parents don't control their child's behavior from a very young age, they may fall into bad company

Para 3: if children are controlled too much, they may become rebels

Conclusion: Controlling them is better

113. Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays and as a result children have to be raised by either maids or grandparents. Definitely, grandparents are better than any other option and this situation affects the family in both positive and negative ways, which I shall highlight in this essay.

On the positive side, looking after the grandchildren keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age, and children are also well looked after.

Moreover, such a situation encourages joint family system. Therefore, all the benefits of a joint family are there. There is security in the family as we all know that there is security in numbers. Another big advantage is that grandparents teach moral values to children. If grandparents do not look after children then parents use TVs as baby-sitters and children can become couch potatoes.

On the negative side, it is generally seen that grandparents are over-doting and, out of love, may pamper and spoil the grandchildren. Another disadvantage is that if there is not enough harmony between the parents and grandparents then it can lead to frustration and spoil the whole atmosphere of the house. In such cases children are the worst sufferers.

To conclude, it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren. Both parents are free to pursue their careers, grandchildren learn moral values, are looked after well and grandparents enjoy themselves and don't suffer from loneliness and depression.

Plan followed in the essay

Intro: address the essay question appropriately.

Para 1: Advantages to grandparents and children

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren.

114. Teenagers have problems at home and school. What difficulties are they facing now? What should parents and schools do to help them?

Teenage years are the most delicate years of a person's life. These are beautiful years but have their share of difficulties. This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school and also suggest some ways forward.

The main problem teenagers face at home is the identity crisis, which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty, which are very stressful for some. To add to it parents have become workaholics and do not give the required time, which teenagers need in these crucial years.

Furthermore, parents want to take decisions for their teenagers like selecting their subjects. They do not give any importance to the aptitude of the child and force the subjects of their choice on them. They also want their child to excel in everything, which can lead to a lot of stress. They also press their teens to follow the traditional culture where as teens want to adopt the global culture, which they are exposed to. To tackle these problems, parents need to spend quality time with their children in these impressionable years. The child's aptitude should not be ignored and choice of subject should be left on the teenager.

In school also teenagers are not without problems. Pressure of studies is just one problem. Classroom bullying by some students and favouritism shown by the teachers can be very stressful. To add to it some of them are being sexually harassed and abuse daily at school by other teenagers, teachers. Some of them are too hurt to tell anybody while others feel embarrassed to tell others. Peer pressure is also an issue of concern in these years. Teens can easily be swayed to take drugs under peer pressure. At school taking part in extra-curricular activities keeps teens happy. These activities act as stress-busters. Teachers should have an unbiased attitude and treat all students equally.

To conclude, there is no doubt that teenagers face a lot of problems at home and school but simple measures taken by parents and teachers can help make these years pleasant and memorable. The onus is on the parents and teachers to make these teenage years stress-free.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: Problems at home

Para 2: More problems at home and solutions

Para 3: Problems at school and solutions

Conclusion:

115. More and more young children have mobile phone. Some people say it is a good thing for them, while others say it is a bad thing. What is your opinion?

Mobile phones have certainly become ubiquitous, especially in the hands of children. As with any other gadget of technology, cell phones also have pros and cons. If used wisely and within limits, the advantages are more than the disadvantages.

To begin with, if children have mobile phones, they feel safer because they are never out of contact with their parents or guardians. Cell phones provide a way to quickly contact someone if they are in trouble or are lost. Children having cell phones helps parents feel more at ease.

Secondly, having a mobile phone helps children to learn in a lot of different ways. First they learn about technology; about how to use the mobile phone. Second most phones today have apps through which they can access online courses and lessons which can be provided in fun ways and can in some cases instantly tell you if you have the right answer. It may even sometimes be possible to do homework on a phone and send it to the teacher. Even without the internet phones can be used to provide short assignments, or to provide reminders to study.

On the other hand, today's cell phones are not just phones; they are smart phones. They give too much power in the hands of the children. If misused, they can play havoc with the children's lives. Most parents cannot keep an eye on what their children are using the cell phone for. Secondly, children get distracted when crossing the road while texting on the phone is going on and this can lead to accidents.

I believe that merits of cell phones outstrip the demerits if parents make conscious effort to choose the right phone for their child. They can block unwanted calls, set time limits for phone usage, prevent access to web sites, set school-accepted usage limits, and find their child with the built-in GPS feature.

To sum up, for the safety of the child and to keep parents mind at ease, children should have the cell phone but the onus is on the parents to make the right choice of the phone.

Plan followed

Intro: advantages are more than the disadvantages

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: Own opinion

Conclusion:

116. It is better to teach sports to young people at school as an alternative to playing computer games at home. Why is it important? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.

I agree that it is advantageous for young people to do sports activities in school instead of playing computer games at home. I have several arguments to support my perspective, which I shall elaborate in the upcoming paragraphs.

To begin with, outdoor activities are good for the physical health of the child. Obviously, if a child is playing outside he/she will be a lot more active than the child that stays indoors. As it is childhood obesity is a serious problem and has to be tackled on a war footing. Children who do outdoor sports are less likely to suffer from this problem.

Secondly, outdoor activities are good for mental health. It has been proven by researches that by outdoor activities, the brain develops at a much faster rate than by playing indoors. Moreover, researchers have found a new disorder called 'Nature Deficit Disorder' seen in children who don't play outdoors. It has been seen that children who play outdoors are less stressed out with life. Not only do they become better learners, and do well in school, but they are much happier. All of this comes from just playing outside.

On the other hand, playing video games is also essential. These games introduce children to technology. They enhance critical thinking and improve visual and motor skills. They can be played indoors, when whether outside is not good. However, there should be a limit on these games because they are addicting and children forget everything else such as homework, when they start playing. These games are also isolating, as they are usually played alone.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that it is more beneficial for children to play outdoor sports in school than to play video games at home.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para1: sports increase physical health

Para 2: Sports increase mental health

Para 3: Advantages of video games ending with disadvantages

Conclusion:

117. Some parents believe that watching TV and playing computer games should be limited and substituted by reading books. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

TV and computer games have become an obsession with children and therefore some parents believe that the time children spend on TV and electronic games should be cut down and allotted to reading books. I definitely agree with this perspective. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of watching TV and playing PC games, provided it is done in moderation. To begin with, video game playing introduces children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes. Watching TV also is very educative for children.

On the other hand, reading books is also important because it provides an active learning for learners while TV is a passive one. Reading can greatly enhance people's imagination. For example, the individuals make different images in their mind when they read some articles or sentences and then use their imagination to put the story together whereas the TV audience just passively accepts information from the TV screen.

What is more, reading can also contribute a lot to language skills. Reading begins the journey through one's language development stages. Reading opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for people. Reading and writing are important ways we use language to communicate.

To summarise, on the whole these games and TV are very good, but only if a balance is maintained between these activities and reading books. For the holistic development of children all these are required. The onus is on the parents to allocate equal time for these to their children.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of TV and computer games

Para 2: Importance of books

Para 3: More advantages of reading

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

118. Young people these days tend to be less polite and respectful than in the past. What are the causes and suggest some solutions.

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life there is also a growth in the anti-social behaviour and people have become less respectful of each other. This essay intends to analyze some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

Today, we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet, but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom, but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics, and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they don't respect them.

The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children. Now there are nuclear families in which both parents go out to work, and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the Internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see the programs full of violence and crime, which makes them anti social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti social behaviour. To add to it, the values of traditional culture are being lost and people are following the global culture, which is also considered anti social by the orthodox elderly.

There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. Government should also fix the maximum hours a worker can work per week so that exploitation is not there in the job market. People should revert back to the old joint family system. This would be in the benefit of all. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. Negative effects of excessive consumerism should be taught to the people. Media can play a big role in highlighting the good points of the traditional and the western culture so that the people can adopt good social values. Neighbourhood associations should be set up to connect people to each other.

Summing up, anti social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures, and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

Plan followed

Intro: I intend to explore the possible causes of this situation and suggest some ways forward.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion:

119. In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?

In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Many factors could be responsible for this trend. The most important reason is that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously under such circumstance, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another barrier to late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on the society as a whole. Firstly, low birthrates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labor force in the future. A graying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulder of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: negative effects on society

Para 3: negative effects on families

Conclusion:

120. Parent, usually mothers, give up work, choose to stay home and look after families. Some people think the government should give them salary. Do you agree or disagree. Give the reasons from your own knowledge and experience.

I definitely agree with the notion that mothers, who stay at home to look after their children and family should be compensated by the government in the form of a paid maternity leave. In the following paragraphs I intend to put forth my arguments to support my views.

My major argument is that the future of the world rests largely in the hands of the generation we are rearing. Once a child is born, it becomes national property. Mothers are the front line childcare providers and therefore, if they are supported by the government they can do their job better. This help can be in the form of a salary by the government. In most Indian homes the mother's salary is necessary to support the family. So, if the mother does not get paid, then she has to go back to job and this affects the childcare. Nurseries fail to provide the one-to-one interaction children need.

Secondly, a woman has to go through very stressful time physically, emotionally, and financially during pregnancy period. There is extra financial burden related to her prenatal care, preparing for a new baby, and then the care of the baby. Therefore, government help can ease their burden and they can look after their babies nicely. Finally, if women are supported by the government, they can look after their health. Health as such involves several factors. It is not simply being free from diseases. So, proper education, enough employment opportunities, food security and affordable medical care are some of the contributory factors that the government can provide to make women healthy. Needless to say, there should be enough provision for all these in a society that expects to be healthy today and tomorrow. It is well known that women play the most crucial role in managing the health of the family. And healthy families contribute greatly to social welfare.

The opponents, however, claim that it is a personal choice to stay home to look after family. So, why should there be government support for women who stay at home to look after their families? They have a point, but I still feel that women need the aid considering the physical, emotional, and financial stress they face.

To sum up, women should be supported by the government to look after the family and themselves. This can contribute a lot to social welfare.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: Women should be supported by the government to look after the baby and themselves. This can contribute a lot to social welfare.

121. Caring for children is an important thing of the society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. Current research has shown that the early years (ages 0-5) are the most sensitive for brain development. Over 90% of brain growth occurs during this period. The people who care for the child are also those who shape the child's mind. I firmly believe that all parents should get childcare training, even if they have to hire professional nannies for this purpose.

Childcare courses are important for many reasons. Firstly, traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another, through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient in today's era of nuclear families. So parents should undergo childcare training. It is also a misconceived idea that childcare is a simple process of feeding children, changing diapers and making them sleep regularly. Contemporary childcare is not limited to this. Childcare is a complex science that goes beyond nutrition. It involves the physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Therefore, with the changing times and changing family structure, childcare training courses should be the norm for all would be parents.

Secondly, childcare training teaches parents how to take a holistic approach to care for their children. Many people might wrongly think that childcare is all about love. Parents have to learn when to be firm, and when to give some room to children. For example, children eat a lot of candy, without knowledge that candy can cause obesity and tooth damage. Parents should not respond to children's needs for candy permanently.

Furthermore, quality childcare has many other far-reaching benefits. Studies show that children who get good care, enter school with better math, language and social skills. Parents, who have themselves done such course, can monitor the childcare being given by a professional nanny, better. Thanks to the surveillance cameras, parents can keep an eye on what is happening at home from their cell phone, even during work hours.

To summarise, successful childcare does not lie only in love but also in other skills. Children's healthy development is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. With these borne in mind, parents should now be compelled to join childcare training.

Plan followed

Intro: Parents' participation in care training is advisable.

Para 1: Childcare is much more than changing diapers and feeding children

Para 2: Childcare training teaches parents for a holistic approach of childcare.

Para 3: Far reaching benefits of quality childcare

Conclusion:

122. There are some violent cartoon characters on TV such as Mickey Mouse, which bring negative influence to children. Do you agree or disagree? What types of TV programs are suitable for children?

A child's mind is like a sponge. It absorbs everything children see and hear. If they are constantly exposed to cartoons with violence and fighting it will affect them morally and may lead to teenage violence in the future. Therefore, I agree that violence in cartoons has a detrimental effect on children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, the major effect that has been proven by psychological research is that the children, who watch cartoons full of violence, may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. They do not fear violence nor are they bothered by violence in general. If one character gets killed, the other cartoon characters don't care, and they may even laugh. TV makes violence and even death seem funny and unreal. Children do not learn to respect life because violence shown on television desensitizes them.

Secondly, children try to copy what they see and as a result become aggressive by nature. They cannot tell the difference between real and unreal. The characters in the cartoons are make-believe. Young children are unable to realize that when a character attacks someone it is not real and should not be imitated. Children have imaginative play, which is very important for their characters' development. Unfortunately, research proves that watching violent cartoons decreases the imaginative play for the children, and increases the imitative play in which the child imitates the violent and aggressive actions observed in cartoons.

There are many types of TV programs, which may be better for children. Educational cartoons are a good way to instill positive values in a child. However, it is the parent's duty to make their children watch cartoons, that entertain and educate them, without being violent. Parents must watch the cartoons with their children, and evaluate these cartoons together. Talking with the children about the cartoons they watched is very significant, because parents then will be able to know if these cartoons affect their children positively or not. The government should also take steps to increase the amount of educational programming available to children.

To conclude, children will try to mimic anything they see or hear and cartoon violence is no exception. So, it is the onus of the parents to see to it that they do not see violent cartoon programs and see educational cartoons instead.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: First negative effect of violence on TV – desensitizes children

Para 2: Second negative effect of violence on TV – children imitate the characters and become aggressive

Para 3: Examples of good programs for children. Parents and Government's onus.

Conclusion: Restate opinion

123. Some people argue that a growing number of young people spend too much time in watching TV. Why does this phenomenon happen? And what kinds of activities should be encouraged to them?

Television has become ubiquitous nowadays. Most families have more than one television in their houses. This essay shall outline some of the reasons why the youth of today spend too much time watching TV and also suggest some other activities, which they should be motivated to do.

First of all, television is usually one of the first media, which young people meet with. Parents use this medium as baby sitters for their convenience. This habit continues as the child grows. What's more, TV seems to be the most convenient medium. There's no need to move anywhere, just to push the button and then they can see a completely different world. Then, there is the peer pressure; those who are not up to date with the latest programmes on TV, are considered as inferior by their peers.

In addition, the TV of today has so much to offer. There are uncountable channels running 24/7 to suit every taste. The satellite TV has brought in all foreign channels right into our bedrooms. The youth of the global village of today keep themselves at par with each other through these channels. Last but not least, the reality TV shows of today such as Dance India Dance and the Indian Idol have given an opportunity to today's youth to show their talent to the whole world and get name and fame overnight. So, because of all these reasons, the youngsters of today watch too much TV.

Because of TV, children are being alienated from the outside world. They should travel, read books and play outdoor games. Parents and teachers should take the onus of diverting children's mind away from TV and towards other healthier activities. Sports stadiums, gyms and playgrounds should be there in cities, so that the youth are motivated to use them. Parents should act as role-models, by themselves staying away from TV as much as possible. TV should not be there in each and every room of the house. One TV per family should be there. All these steps can prove very useful to motivate the youngsters for other activities.

In summary, there are a plethora of reasons why young people watch too much TV. There should be some control on this and they should be encouraged to do other outdoor activities also.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons of watching too much TV

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: other activities – travel - read books - play outdoor games

Conclusion:

124. Some people think that watching TV programmes can help children's development while others disagree. What is your opinion?

Watching TV programs can help children's development in both positive and negative ways. If there is a limit to the number of hours a child sits in front of TV and a control over the type of channels a child is exposed to, then TV can be very good. However, if children watch too much TV and if they are allowed to watch almost any type of program then TV can be detrimental for them.

Television definitely has its good side. It can be entertaining and educational, and can open up new worlds for children, giving them a chance to travel the globe, learn about different cultures, and gain exposure to ideas they may never encounter in their own community. Shows with a pro-social message can have a positive effect on children's behavior; programs with positive role models can influence them to make positive lifestyle changes. The opponents may say that there are plenty of different medium of information such as books, magazines, teachers etc. But, in our modern world children must learn faster and use all contemporary technologies in order to succeed in competition.

On the other hand, watching too much TV can be very harmful. The major hazard is a matter of what children watch. There are many contents that are unsuitable for young people, like violence or porn. These can badly disturb a process of mental development and make children less sensitive. Secondly, television may affect students' schoolwork. Many students spend most time watching TV in the night although they have a lot of homework to do. Some young people even watch TV until midnight. Therefore, it not only affects their work, but also influences their spirits and physical strength. In the morning, students may feel sleepy in class.

Finally, the most serious problem is that television viewing may affect young people's health. It not only affects their eyesight but also leads them to be obese. Children who watch TV are more likely to be inactive and tend to snack while watching TV. On top of that, many TV ads encourage unhealthy eating habits. After-school TV ads target children with ads for unhealthy foods and beverages, like fast food and sugary drinks.

In conclusion, it can be said that it is really important to watch TV properly. Only when children's TV programs are chosen wisely and watched moderately, can they benefit them in positive ways. Therefore, parents should take the responsibility and supervise their children's TV watching activities.

Plan followed

Intro: If watched in moderation, TV is beneficial – otherwise detrimental

Para 1: Positive effects

Para 2: Negative effects

Para 3: Other negative effect

Conclusion – reiterate opinion

125. Most children want to watch the same TV programs and play the same computer games like their friends do. Should parents allow them to do like this?

Psychologists, dealing with the study of child development, believe that peer relationships provide a unique context for cognitive, social and emotional development of children. This is the reason why most children engage in parallel play and tend to do same types of activities as their peers do. A child who copies other children may pick up good habits but may also pick up bad ones. So, a sensitive parenting is required and children should not be allowed to watch same types of TV shows and same types of games as their friends watch and play. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, all TV shows are not safe for children to watch. Even some cartoon characters are so violent that children learn nothing fruitful from those programs. Such programs may make them insensitive to the pain of others. It is surprising that even watching news could have negative outcomes for a child. For example, sometimes news portray suicides glamorously and children may take it as a viable option for stress. As a result of this cases of 'copycat suicide' occur. Therefore parents should not allow their child to see such shows even if his/her friend is watching the same.

Similarly, all computer games are not good for children. Mind games like solitaire are good but some action games and fighting games can harm children. For example, in a small fight between my niece and nephew last year, my nephew hit my niece so badly that she suffered internal bleeding and had to be hospitalized for few days. When I asked my nephew from where he had learnt to hit like that, he replied he had learnt it from a computer game. In short, children mimic everything innocently without knowing the consequences, so a constant check is required.

Moreover, if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then children start thinking that they can get away with this excuse every time and by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late. So, it is necessary to keep an eye on what their children are playing or watching on TV.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that children should not be allowed to watch the same TV programmes that their friends watch, or play the same games which their friends play just because their friends are doing so. Parents should carefully monitor what their children play or see.

Plan followed:

Intro: Children should not be allowed to watch and play same type of TV programs and same type of computer games as their friends watch and play.

Para1: All TV shows are not safe for children to watch.

Para 2: All computer games are not good for children.

Para 3: if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

126. In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or sharing a home with friends. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? Give your opinion.

The trend of living along or with friends rather than families has gained popularity among the youth, all over the world. It has some advantages as well as disadvantages. I agree with the given methodology of young people leaving their parents' homes and living alone. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Living alone or sharing an apartment with a friend teaches the young adults many things. They become independent, more confident, develop decision-making skills and learn to deal with situations and problems on their own. It is true that these things can be taught at home, while living with their parents, however, there is always a sense of dependency and security that the children feel when with their parents, which may come in the way of their handling things on their own. For instance, children who live with parents till a late age are too dependent on someone else to give them suggestions, or make decisions for them. They may never step out of their comfort zone and consequently, cannot handle challenges very well.

Furthermore, living away from home encourages the young people to explore more and learn more. They gain more experience by meeting new people from different backgrounds and culture. It also helps them become more social, whereas, if they stay with their parents they may not feel the need to socialize or there may be restrictions at home. Such generation gap may spoil the parent-child relationship. It has been rightly said that 'Distance strengthens relationships.'

To add to it, when parents know that their children are going to stay on their own just after school, they also start imparting moral values to their children in early childhood, and so by the time the children step out of their homes, they are mature enough to understand the difference between right and wrong. They also learn how to manage expenses related to rent, bills, food, etc. They would never learn to handle these things when staying with their parents.

The opponents of this view say that such freedom to the youth usually takes them on the wrong path like drug addiction, petty crimes, etc. However, I still believe that with freedom, a sense of responsibility is developed and by the time children reach adulthood, they have been taught about moral values and ethics and they are mature enough to understand the difference between what is right and what is not.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that young adults should live independently, as experience is the best teacher, especially for learning life skills. Family will always be there to support them even if they don't live with them. In this world of competition it is very important that the youngsters learn to fend for themselves.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: benefits of living on their own

Para 2 & 3: More benefits

Para 4: Opponents view

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

127. Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Human development is a complex interplay of many factors. Some individuals are of the opinion that parents are more significant for children whereas others opine that friends have a more important role. It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.

Parents have direct interactions with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. These have their greatest effect on intellectual development and character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bedtime stories to the behavioural habits parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. They know their child's temperament better than anyone else. They can provide critical input better than anyone else. That is why it is believed by some that parents have the strongest role in a child's development.

Friends, on the other hand, are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. Building good relationships boosts a child's self esteem and they find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems. Therefore, friendships are essential to assure children develop a healthy psyche. When kids are surrounded by friends or have one close friend, they have better self esteem, feel a sense of well being and experience fewer social problems.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence friends may impact more. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support.

To conclude, children are affected by many different factors such as parents, friends and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of friends

Para 3: your opinion

Conclusion: Cannot generalize. Both are important and individual variations are there

128. Playing team sports can teach students more than just games themselves. What do young people learn from playing team games? How are they useful in their later life?

I agree with the given statement that team sports teach more skills for life than just teaching about the game. This essay intends to discuss what students learn from these team sports. How such skills of life can help in adult life will also be discussed.

Some important skills taught by team sports are communication skills, co-operation and conflict management skills. All these are only learnt through team sports. When we step into daily life, we realise that communication skills are the most needed skills. We also have to co-operate with our family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours in daily life.

When we do team activities, we learn co-operation also. Conflict management skills are also learnt when we do team sports. You have differences of opinion and you learn to manage tough situations very diplomatically. All these are very necessary skills of life.

Furthermore, we also learn leadership skills, decision-making and critical thinking skills while doing team sports. We learn how to make our voice heard and we also learn how to accept the correct suggestions of others. Finally, we learn sportsman-spirit, which is a very good trait. We learn to accept victory with modesty and defeat with grace. This is an important life skill.

Summing up, team sports teach us about the game but they also teach important skills of life, which are extremely helpful in life later on.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: Communication skills, are only learnt through team sports.

Para 2: co-operation and conflict management skills

Para 3: Leadership skills, decision-making and critical thinking skills while doing team sports

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

129. In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves in recent years. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative development for the society?

As any country develops, people are faced with new challenges and set new goals for themselves. Many individuals have to leave their families and as a result this trend of living alone or in nuclear family units has increased. This essay intends to explore the reasons of this phenomenon in depth. I believe it is largely a negative development, although there are a few advantages, too.

The first possible reason of this changing family structure is globalisation. The huge planet Earth is now a small global village. This situation has opened lots of opportunities for the people to travel to and work in other countries. Moving to foreign countries or even in far-off places in one's own country is not possible with the whole family. So this has led to the breaking of joint families into nuclear units. When children of such nuclear families grow older, they live individually to explore new avenues for themselves.

The second important reason is the growing generation gap. The elderly want to stick to their tradition and culture whereas the youngsters want to adopt the global culture. This leads to conflicts and so there is lack of harmony among the family members. The senior members of the family do not want to let go, but the youth want to be free birds and so living individually is the only option once they are able to earn for themselves.

This situation is both positive as well as negative, but the demerits outweigh the merits. Man is, after all, a social animal. Living alone may seem good for some time, but this isolation can lead to depression. There are many ups and downs in life, when a person needs the loving and tender care of his nears and dears. In addition, children of nuclear families are often left unattended when both parents are working. They can become self-centered or can even go astray. The elderly also need the love and support of their children at this age. They are forced to live lives of isolation and depression. This has also led to the mushroom growth of old-age homes. On the positive side, this leads to faster progress, as people are not held back by family ties. Nuclear families are easy to maintain. Conflicts are also less and so love among the extended family members is maintained. Family get-togethers are celebrated with great enthusiasm.

To sum up, living alone has become common because of many reasons, which have been discussed above. In my opinion, the cons of this situation, overpower the pros.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: positives and negatives of this situation.

Conclusion:

130. Nowadays young people prefer to move to big cities; older people, however, are the opposite and prefer to stay in the countryside. What are the positives and negatives of this trend?

Rural ageing, or in other words more elderly in the rural areas has become very common almost everywhere in the world as the young move to the cities in search of better opportunities. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this demographic shift. I believe that the demerits of such a situation are more.

The advantages to the young to move to cities are obvious. Cities are full of opportunities for the young. Job vacancies can be filled. Economic growth can be sustained. The pension gaps can be filled by the contributions of new young workers and they also pay taxes.

Similarly, the elderly who don't migrate to cities are at an advantage. Ageing in the rural setup is healthier than ageing in the urban areas. For instance in a recent survey, 70% of the elderly in rural areas reported their health as good as compared to only 52% in the cities. Then, there are strong social networks in rural areas, where life is comparatively slower. Also there is a strong sense of attachment to the place. The elderly feel more comfortable in familiar environment.

On the other hand, this urban migration of the young is challenging for the youth. The young migrants may be exploited as increasing competition may make them willing to work for low pay. Increase in urban population may put pressure on resources. Unemployment may arise if there is unrestricted number of workers.

Furthermore, the rural areas may face economic disadvantage, as there are fewer young workers. Agricultural production would suffer and there would be reduced family support for the elderly. In such a situation, additional pressure would fall on the governments.

To sum up, young people moving to cities and elderly staying behind in villages would have both positive and negative effects. Concrete steps have to be taken by the governments to ameliorate the negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages to the young

Para 2: Advantages to the elderly

Para 3: Disadvantages to the young

Para 4: Disadvantages to the elderly

Conclusion:

131. Some people say that it is impossible to live comfortably in big cities. What problems are faced by the people living in big cities? What solutions can be taken to solve those problems?

Cities are growing. Unfortunately this development has made it difficult for people to lead a comfortable life in cities. This essay intends to analyze the problems faced because of this situation and suggest some solutions.

To begin with, the most common problem in many cities is environmental pollution and unhygienic surroundings. This is because cities act as magnets for people of the rural areas as a result of which cities have to house more people than they can possibly afford. Therefore it is hard to maintain cleanliness. Unhygienic surroundings are the breeding ground for germs and cause many health problems. On top of that, the spending capacity of people has gone up and so more and more people are buying their personal vehicles. This vehicular pollution affects the quality of air and leads to many respiratory ailments. All of these affect the quality of life in cities.

Furthermore, the cost of living is also pretty high in metros. In large cities, land prices are exorbitant. Consequently, people are forced to buy ridiculously small homes for huge prices. Those who cannot afford to do so spend the whole of their lives in rented apartments. Worse still, the law and order situation in many big cities is not particularly good making them unsafe for visitors as well as those dwelling in those localities.

The solutions are not simple, but many of these problems can be solved with a little bit of planning. High population density is the main reason that reduces the quality of life in cities. Although this is not exactly avoidable, governments can reduce the migration to cities by making jobs available in smaller towns as well. For example, industrial units can be set up in small towns and villages. If these units employ the people living nearby they will not have to move into large cities. What's more, the fact that cities are home to a large number of people makes it possible for civic bodies to collect more money from taxes etc. If these taxes are utilized properly civic authorities can build better roads and flyovers that will ease the traffic congestion. And by improving the quality of public health care, the government can ensure that all people get medical attention when they need it.

To sum up, poor planning and the centralization of jobs is the main reason that reduces the quality of life in large cities. However, these problems are solvable to a great extent. The governments just need to make a determined effort to decentralize the jobs.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

132. Parents often buy their children many toys. What are the advantages and disadvantages of children having a large number of toys? Use examples from your personal knowledge and experience.

Toys are not just playthings. They are the building blocks of our child's future. They teach our children about the world and about themselves. That is precisely why parents always want to provide their children with toys. The issue of concern here is regarding the number of toys children are given. While some parents fill their children's rooms to the ceiling with toys, others limit the number of toys that children have to play with.

On the one hand, there are a few advantages of children having a plethora of toys. They have more variety to play with and they can pick out their personal favourites from those toys according to their taste. Moreover, parents can be satisfied that their children have enough to play with when they are themselves busy.

On the other hand, too many toys prevent kids from fully developing their gift of imagination. Children learn to be more creative with fewer toys. To cite an example, an experiment was conducted in Germany in which all toys of a kindergarten classroom were removed for three months. It was observed that children soon began to use their basic surroundings to invent games and use imagination in their playing.

Furthermore, children with fewer toys establish better social skills. They learn how to share with other children. Also, they develop a greater love for reading, writing, and art. Fewer toys also make children to become resourceful by solving problems with only the materials at hand. And resourcefulness is a gift with unlimited potential.

Children with fewer toys become less selfish. Those who get everything, believe they can have everything they want. This attitude is definitely detrimental to a child's psychology. They do not even value the toys they have. Another advantage of not having a basement full of toys is that children are more likely to play outside and have the much needed physical exercise which results in healthier and happier bodies. Finally, fewer toys result in a less-cluttered, cleaner and healthier home.

To conclude, toys are very much needed for the development of children, but there should be a limit on the number of toys a child should have. Excess of everything is bad.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of having too many toys

Para 2: Advantages of fewer toys

Para 3: Other advantages of fewer toys

Para 4: more advantages of fewer toys

Conclusion: fewer toys are better

133. Young people have different ideas and attitudes with their parents and grandparents. What are the differences? What problems may be caused?

The differences in the thinking of parents and children have been there since age-old times. These differences are referred to as the 'Generation Gap'. This essay shall delve into these differences and the problems caused by these differences.

To begin with, it is generally seen that older people have more traditional views on the world. For example, younger people tend to have a more relaxed view on marriage and divorce, whereas our parents and certainly our grandparents considered marriage to be a sacred and important institution. What is more, parents have many years of life experience behind them, and want to impart this knowledge to their children, but the children do not always want to hear. They want to be free, independent, to live their own lives, and make their own choices.

Furthermore, the older generation believes in going to bed early and getting up early, where as the young belong to the 24/7 society, where the waking and sleeping patterns are different. What is more, the elderly want them to wear traditional clothes, where as the youth want to wear the global wear that is jeans and T-shirts because they feel comfortable in it. Another difference is that the parents want their children to follow the careers of their choice. However, youngsters want to walk on the un-trodden path and pave new ways for themselves.

These differences can lead to a strained relationship between young people and their parents. Children can rebel against their parents because of this generation gap. Today's 'Generation Gap' is a lot different from the 'Generation Gap' of yesteryears. Earlier children were dependent on their parents and grandparents for all knowledge and information. They accepted meekly what was told them to do. Today's children belong to the age of the IT revolution and are part of a global village. In many ways they are much more well-informed than their parents and grandparents. Today, the onus is on the parents and grandparents to walk fast and catch up with their children to bridge this gap.

To sum up, I would like to say that generation gap is nothing new and only the parents can take a step forward in this direction and bridge this gap.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into the causes and problems caused by the generation gap.

Para 1: Differences

Para 2: More differences

Para 3: Effects

Conclusion: Onus on parents to bridge the gap

134. Some people believe that children should be brought up in cities. Others believe that countryside offers a better environment for children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people believe that growing up in a big city provides children with many advantages, whereas others, including some educators and social scientists, agree that the countryside is better for the health and physical development of children. This essay shall discuss both views. I, however, side with the former view.

Admittedly, there are some advantages of raising children in the countryside. Firstly, the countryside is virtually pollution free as a result of which children can breathe fresh and healthy air. Secondly, parents do not have to worry about where their children are playing because there is lots of open space and there is no risk of being hit by any vehicles. Finally, children brought up in the countryside are more in touch with their culture and tradition than those of cities. In villages people have still retained the community spirit whereas in cities people don't know their next-door neighbours.

On the other hand, living in a big city almost guarantees children a chance of receiving a better education than in the countryside. Cities are equipped with more schools and facilities such as large libraries, museums, zoos and other educational establishments that can assist children in their overall education. Parents can choose where to send their children to school based upon their own set of requirements and special needs or abilities of the children. In contrast, the children living in the countryside normally have few, if any, choices concerning where they attend school and the educational facilities mentioned above are also next to nil.

In addition to a better variety of educational opportunities, children can learn through more cultural experiences when growing up in a big city. Since cities are busy places with events always going on, on the weekends children can have the opportunity to attend concerts or view exhibits in museums and be exposed to many different kinds of people with different backgrounds. On the other hand, children in the countryside are very limited as to their exposure to cultural events and the types of people they see. Seldom do they ever even enter a museum or come into contact with people different from themselves. This can limit their knowledge and views of people outside their communities.

To conclude, while the countryside surely provides benefits such as cleaner air, less noise and a calmer lifestyle, the benefits of living in a big city far outweigh those of living in the countryside. This is due to the fact that children can gain a better education and more cultural experiences when they grow up in a big city.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Para 1: advantages of raising children in the countryside

Para 2: Advantages of raising children in cities

Para 3: more advantages

Conclude: Raising in cities is better

135. Nowadays in some countries children are given fewer responsibilities compared to the past. Some people believe it is a positive development while others argue otherwise. Discuss both views. What is your opinion? Give some relevant examples from your own experience.

There have been many changes in the way children are brought up now, as compared to in the past times. One such change is that the children of today have lesser duties and obligations than in the earlier times. Some individuals consider this change as positive and others opine that it is detrimental for the children and society. I will delve into both these perspectives in this essay. I, however, side with the latter view.

In the past, children had more tasks, as compared to the present era. In those times there were a lot of adverse situations that the children had to encounter, like freedom struggles, wars, revolutions, etc. Such situations led the children to become more mature and thus, more responsible at an earlier age. Another reason is that the family structure was such that each family had many children. Consequently, the elder siblings were given the responsibility of taking care of the younger ones in the family. As a result, the family bonds were stronger and children valued everything more.

In the contemporary era, children are not given too many responsibilities. The competition has become global and children focus only on the academics. They are not given any extra burden or duties by the parents. They enjoy the outdoor sports, extra curricular activities and have time for their hobbies too. This leads to the holistic development of the children. Such children are more focused and career oriented. However, the downside to this development is that the children become responsible much later in life and face many difficulties when they come across hardships. Also, according to some studies, there are more chances of such children to become insensitive or selfish when they grow up. They may not even take care of their own parents when needed.

Admittedly, it is important that children of the contemporary world need to focus more on their academics and future. However, for the holistic development and to inculcate in children attributes like self-discipline, being caring, responsible and for stronger family ties, it is important that parents involve the children in the household chores. These chores can be made interesting for the children.

To conclude, it is true that children of today do not have so many responsibilities, but I believe that it will be damaging for the society if the children are not involved in the household chores. Parents need to instill confidence in children by assigning them some tasks, which they carry out responsibly.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Earlier situation

Para 2: Present situation

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

136. In many countries, children are getting fatter and less fit day by day. Why is it so and suggest solutions.

It is irrefutable that childhood obesity is a burgeoning problem these days in many parts of the world. In this essay I intend to discuss the causes of this problem and suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason is unhealthy diet. Children are attracted to fast food, which is rich in sugar and fat. They are ignorant of what constitutes a healthy diet. Parents nowadays are busy in their work and are not present to guide their children. To add to it, children are bombarded with advertisements from fast food companies.

Another important factor is that children are much less active than they used to be. In the past young people took part in activities that burned a lot of energy. However, today they spend a lot of their time indoors, sitting in front of the computers or playing video games. This sedentary life style is playing havoc with the health of young

There are a number of steps that need to be taken to solve this problem. The first is to educate children about nutrition. Health education should be incorporated in school curricula. Schools should organize compulsory lessons to explain the main elements of a healthy diet and teach pupils how to prepare healthy meals. Parents should also cook healthy delicious meals at home so that children are deterred from eating fast food. Furthermore, governments should have some restrictions on the type of adverts shown in children's programmes. Finally, children should be encouraged to take part in sports. Schools have a great role to play in this.

To conclude, childhood obesity is a serious problem and it should be tackled on a war footing, otherwise the young people of today will have a very unhealthy middle and old age.

Plan followed:

Intro: In this essay I intend into the causes of this problem and suggest some ways forward

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion

137. People say that a child's success is dependent on the way parents bring them up. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Success in a person's life does not come overnight. One cannot buy success from a store. It is something that requires the continuous investment of time and effort by the parents. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that parents nurturing contributes a great deal to a child's success.

There is no doubt that the most important part is played by the parents in the upbringing of a child. Parenting consists of balanced development of children's physical, emotional and intellectual qualities. Parents provide shelter, food and clothes and also promote the healthy growth of their children. Parents provide safe loving environment and have a mental bonding with their children. All these things do play a part in the child's success in his later life.

Undoubtedly, there are other factors such as good schooling, good teachers, peers and the media. These too have a role in success of a child; but ultimately it is the parents who select the schools for their children. Good schools have a good infrastructure and good faculty. They also have regular parent-teacher meetings. These interactions between parents and the pedagogues are helpful in understanding the aptitude of the child and guiding him towards the right career path.

Furthermore, the friend circle of the child also matters in success of the child. Here too, there is the role of the parents. Good parenting involves keeping an eye on the child's peers. If parents are themselves friendly with the child then their children will introduce them to their friends also. This is very important in the most impressionable adolescent years of a child's life. Finally, there is the role of media. Here too parents can intervene and monitor what their children are watching.

To sum up, parenting is not an easy task. Becoming a parent is the easiest part, whereas, being a conscious and positive parent is a momentous task. Parenting is the most important role one faces in a lifetime. Parents who provide an encouraging environment for their children are rewarded when, as adults, their children become successful in life.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Parents' role

Para 2: Role of schools – but suggest that ultimately it is the parents role

Para 3: Role of peers and media – but ultimately it is the parents role

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

138. In some countries, the age of 18 means adults, while in others, it is older. What is your opinion and talk about the responsibility of an adult?

People are divided on the age of adulthood. Some people think that the graduation of high school makes a person an adult. Others think that the age of 21 is the age when childhood is replaced by adulthood. In my country, India, 18 is the age when a person is officially declared an adult. This essay shall deal with the responsibilities of an adult.

The first event that makes a person an adult is getting a job. The ability to earn his own money gives a person the opportunity to live independently from his parents. Personally, I think the first job is a very important experience in a person's life and it has a great impact on his personality. He learns how to manage his expenses and how to save money for the more important things. In addition to those benefits, one learns how to arrange his time in order to have all done on time.

The second event, which from my opinion deserves an attention, is the graduation from a college or university. I think it is a very essential step in one's life because this means the beginning of a new life with more responsibilities.

Finally, I believe that marriage has a great impact on a person's life. Marriage means an independent life from one's parents with a new person. It is a very great experience. Two persons create a new family and they face new difficulties and responsibilities.

In conclusion, I think that the list of events that make a person an adult can be continued. For example, getting a driving license has sometimes a very great impact on person's life. Another important event in a person's life is the army. I know many young men who served in the Army that changed them very much. They became more serious, self-confident and independent people. So, my point is that every person has different events that influence his life and make him an adult.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the responsibilities of an adult

Para1: Graduation from college – getting a job and the responsibilities that come with it.

Para 2: voting rights – bank account – driving licence and the responsibilities that go with these rights.

Para 3: marriage and the responsibilities of setting up a new life.

Conclusion: So, my point is that every person has different events that influence his life and make him an adult.

139. Some people agree that children should do what their parents tell them to do. Other people think children should learn how to think for themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Bringing up children the right way has been a long debated issue. Some individuals are of the opinion that parents should decide everything for the children, while others opine that children should be made independent and should take their own decisions. This essay intends to analyze both the perspectives. I am of the opinion that children should be allowed to think freely and take decisions, but with the guidance of the parents.

The main reason why some people say that parents should tell their children what to do is because children are immature and do not know right from wrong. Children do not have the awareness, experience, knowledge and wisdom that their parents do. So, children should do as their parents say. Moreover, it cannot be denied that parents only want the best for their children and will never misguide their children. Following what their parents say also makes the children more disciplined and respectful of others.

On the other hand, there are many benefits of encouraging the children to learn to think for themselves. First, they become more responsible and independent soon. These attributes are essential in today's era of competition. This can be done by making the children decide their own activities, choose the sports they like, pursue their interests and not restricting them with rules. Furthermore, such freedom leads to creativity and originality in children and they grow up to be successful in their professions/career.

In my opinion, children should not be restricted and should be encouraged to be creative and free thinkers. However, the parents need to play the role of guides and coaches. They need to ensure that while the children are deciding for themselves and taking their own decisions, they are shown a path and a direction. For instance, when parents ask children to do household chores, it should be in such a way that the children feel that they are in-charge of the activity. This motivates them to complete the tasks independently and without any restrictions.

To conclude, it can be said that it is important to give liberty to children to make choices and decisions, but the parents need to show them the right direction by guiding them and supervising their activities.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: In Support of Parents

Para 2: For Children

Para 3: For Children

Conclusion

140. Nowadays, fewer people tend to look after their old relatives and send them to some old age homes. What is the situation in your country? In your opinion, who should be responsible to look after the elderly?

Demographic trends suggest that we are heading towards a graying society and it is the bitter truth of today that children are sending their elderly parents to live separately in old age homes. Fortunately, in my country, India, the old-age homes are still in their infancy. Ideally, the children should look after their elderly. However, I have strong arguments to suggest that the elderly should live separately in old-age homes.

The ideal situation would be that the elderly should be looked after by their children. Parents spend their whole life toiling hard to provide the best to their children and now it is the children's turn to pay back. It is their moral responsibility to look after their parents. However, it has been seen that most elderly are leading miserable lives with their children. They are leading isolated lives amidst their family members and that is why I firmly believe that they should live separately.

My first argument is that living separately will give them a feeling of independence. Moreover, by doing so, they will command more respect in the eyes of their children. It is irrefutable that relationships become strong and meaningful when people are not under the same roof. Hence, if aged people are away from their children physically, both will be closer to each other emotionally.

What is more, the mushroom growth of old age homes is ample evidence that they are a boon for the society. They give the opportunity to the elderly to be in the comfort of people of similar age and experience. They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities. In such homes, the elderly also get a chance to do some social service activities, which in turn help the society.

Furthermore, the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking. Old age homes are also a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

To conclude, the elderly should live with people of their own age group, in old age homes, where they enjoy the retired period of their life nicely, comfortably and productively.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree. Old people should live separately

Para 1: Ideal situation

Para 2: this will give them a feeling of independence.

Para 3: Advantages of old age homes

Para 4: More advantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

141. In many countries, people are not taking care of their elderly relatives but seeking help of professionals to look after them. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

In the contemporary world, more and more people are hiring specialists to take care of the elderly members of the family at home or in old age homes. I believe this as a positive development and a number of arguments support my perspective, which I will discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The merits of hiring professionals to take care of the senior members of the family are numerous. In this fast paced world, everyone is leading hectic lives. People do not have enough time to spend with their family and take care of the elderly. So, it is better to have the experts take care of the elderly members of the family, as they are the best people to provide them not only with the medical care and attention they need, but also helps in keeping them company while the family members are busy at work or with their studies. This avoids the complications that arise in old age due to loneliness.

Furthermore, there are several senior care options available today in the form of old age homes, in-home caregivers or in assisted living communities. People can choose and decide on the best possible option that can be given to the elderly members of the family. Of course, this should be done with the consent of the elderly and also depending on the amount of care required for them. There are certain old age related conditions, which are best treated under specialists' care. So, in such cases, this care can be given in-home or in a nursing home, under proper supervision of the experts.

Undeniably, it is the responsibility of the children to take care of their parents in their old age. That being said, the family members may not have the time to be able to provide them with the care that is needed by old aged members. Moreover, the life expectancy has increased all over the world and there are two generations in many families that fall in the elderly group, needing the same kind of care and attention. So, this burden falls on the younger generation and it is impractical for them alone to bear this responsibility. So, the specialists need to be hired in such cases.

To recapitulate, it can be safely said that the younger family members should provide the best care to the elderly family members and in this modern era, hiring the professional caregivers is the most befitting and practical approach.

142. Nowadays, people are living an increasingly longer life and in many countries there are more old people than young people. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

It is the inescapable truth that we are heading towards a graying society, which means that the population of the elderly is soaring. Scientists predict that there would be fewer youth than olds in the near future. Although the population ageing should be seen as a success story, it brings social and economic challenges for the nations. So, it can be said that this situation is both, positive as well as negative.

First, there will not be enough workforces to keep the economy running. Lesser number of youngsters would mean lesser people working, which will decrease the revenue received by the government from taxes. To increase the labor pool, the government will need to spend a lot to invite foreign skilled workers to fill the job vacancies. This is exactly what is happening in developed countries like Canada and Australia, which have opened doors for skilled workers to immigrate and settle there permanently.

Second, health care costs are four to five times higher with the elderly because of their deteriorating wellbeing. Wear-and-tear on their bodies accumulated over the years make their immune system more susceptible to disease. It will be a necessity to allocate a considerable budget from the government to improve the quality of their life. No wonder, nanny care courses are in full demand in developing countries because professional nannies are required to look after the elderly and are being paid handsomely.

On the other hand, we cannot demonize the older population, because one day we, too, will pass through that stage. We cannot deny we've made progress. We've given ourselves the great gift of longer life and better health. So anything we face in terms of the challenges of dealing with this, does not outweigh those benefits. The challenge for the future is to ensure that people everywhere can grow old with security and dignity, and that they can continue to participate in social life as citizens with full rights. One way out would be to increase the age of retirement, and to give part-time work to the willing elderly. This could help in a big way to the predicted worker shortage. Also, part time, older workers don't need the benefits, don't get called home for sick kids, are more mature, and approach their jobs with more patience and better perspective. Working part time also allows retirees to stay active while maintaining their lifestyles, feel productive and interact with others, which is a win-win situation for all.

In summary, aging is inescapable. A predominantly old-aged society will certainly have a negative impact on a country's advancement, and so it has to be planned well. The countries will have to spend on prolonging the quality of life for the senior citizens, and providing job opportunities to them for as long as they are able to.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: negative effect on economy

Para 2: Healthcare costs

Para 3: Positives of a graying society and how to meet the challenges

Conclusion:

143. There are more and more old people in many parts of the world. What are the causes of this and what are the solutions.

Demographic trends suggest that today we belong to a graying society. This essay shall delve into the reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to deal with this situation.

The main reason for the increased life expectancy of people is the development in health care. Years ago, people died young because of simple things such as an infection or a virus. Now we have antibiotics and other medicines to help cure infections. Many incurable cancers and diseases such as tuberculosis are now completely curable. Due to technological advancements, many diseases such as breast and uterine cancer can be diagnosed so early that the evil can be nipped in the bud. What is more, advances in surgical techniques have made miracles happen. Transplant surgeries have increased the life of many.

Another reason of people living longer is that there is better access to health care. Earlier if a person suffered a heart attack or a stroke, a lot of harm was done before he could reach the nearest super-specialty hospital. Now faster modes of transport and the mushroom growth of such hospitals provide timely treatment. To add to it, people can now get consultation from any doctor in any part of the world because digital x-rays, MRIs and CT scans are there which can be sent to any part of the world at the click of a mouse.

A final reason for this is that there is more personal awareness. The quality of nutrition has also improved. People eat more healthfully than they used to. It is now common knowledge that eating low fat food can prevent heart disease, and we know that eating fruits and vegetables can prevent cancers. Now people have begun to realize the importance of exercise. Walking, yoga and gym culture has become very popular not only among the youth but also by the octogenarians and centenarians of our society.

These demographic changes are the reality of today. There is no going back. A lot of planning is needed at the individual level and at the government level to meet the challenges of old age. Governments have to provide special privileges to the elderly so that the elderly don't face any problems and at the individual level people should plan their retired life nicely so that they lead a happy life. For whatever reason people are living longer, what is important is that living longer is one thing and living healthier and productive lives is another.

To sum up, people are living longer because of many reasons and many steps can be taken to face the challenges of this demographic trend.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: first reason - Para 2: another reason – Para 3: another reason –

Para 4: steps to tackle it

Conclusion:

144. It is a fact that people nowadays are under a lot of pressure and their lives are becoming increasingly stressful. What could be the possible reasons for this? What are some solutions to address this issue?

It is irrefutable that everyone in this fast paced world of today is suffering from some form of stress or the other. This essay intends to look into some major causes of stress in people's lives and suggest some ways to overcome it.

To begin with, there is a lot of stress in the workplace. Managers are expected to deal not only with their own pressure, but also with the pressure of the people they manage. There are some people who are being squeezed from above and below. And when people themselves feel pressurized, they often put additional pressure on their colleagues, which is their outlet of stress.

Not only at the workplace, there are stresses even at home. The demands of the children are rocketing in this era of consumerism. Inflation is going higher and higher. Children and teenagers have their own share of stress of this highly competitive era.

The solutions are not easy. There can never be one way of effectively dealing with pressure, since no two people are affected by stresses in the same way. One man's stress may be another person's excitement. And, of course, depending upon what else is going on in a person's life, what feels manageable one day, may feel overwhelming the next.

Fortunately, there are things one can do that help manage the pressure. To begin with, one should do a stress audit. By identifying what stresses which overwhelm you, you can look at prevention as well as cure. Secondly, one should set realistic goals. Trying to make big changes, usually results in failure and disappointment. By lowering your standards, you can create far more 'wins' for yourself, and 'wins' make us all feel great. Then, misunderstandings are another big cause of stress. Therefore, anything that improves communication or clears the air will reduce pressure.

To sum up, there are many causes of stress in people's lives today. But steps can be taken to manage it.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: Causes

Para 3: Solutions

Para 4: Solutions

Conclusion:

**145. Old people think that life was better in the past than what it is now.
Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons and examples from your own life.**

Although it is true that a great many people now have a higher standard of living than in the past, it does not seem that it makes people any happier. In many ways and in many places, life is much easier and more comfortable than it used to be, but I agree that life was better in the past. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

One feature of modern life that has changed in many places is that people have less contact with each other, and there is less of a feeling of belonging to a community. People leave their hometowns more than they used to and so family ties are not as strong as they used to be. In cities, people often do not know their neighbours. As a result of all this, people can feel isolated. People help each other less and there is much more emphasis on the individual. Earlier, people had slower lives and they knew each other and led happier lives with a feeling of belonging for each other.

Modern life has also brought with it problems that people do not think existed in the past. For example, many people are concerned about rises in crime, and they also feel that life is much faster and more stressful than it used to be.

Another reason for people's unhappiness is that they have higher expectations than they used to have. They have more but they want even more. This leads to feelings of disappointment and even anger when people do not have everything they think they should have. People take for granted all sorts of comforts and material possessions that people in the past would have considered luxuries. They don't appreciate what they have. They simply want more. In the past, the society was not consumerist. People bought only what they needed and were happy and contented.

It is also true, in my opinion, that when people have all the basic needs for survival, they are likely to become more introverted and think about life more. This can lead to feelings of depression and dissatisfaction with their lives. If you are struggling to survive, you do not have the time or the opportunity to think so much about the meaning of life.

Of course, it is impossible to return to the past and nobody would want to exchange the comforts of modern life for the way that people used to live. However, in many ways, progress has not made people happier. Therefore, I reiterate my opinion that life was better in the past.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: isolated lives today

Para 2: More crime and more stress today

Para 3: Consumerist society. No contentment

Para 4: People think about their needs more as basic necessities is not a problem today.

Conclusion –