

IIT Madras

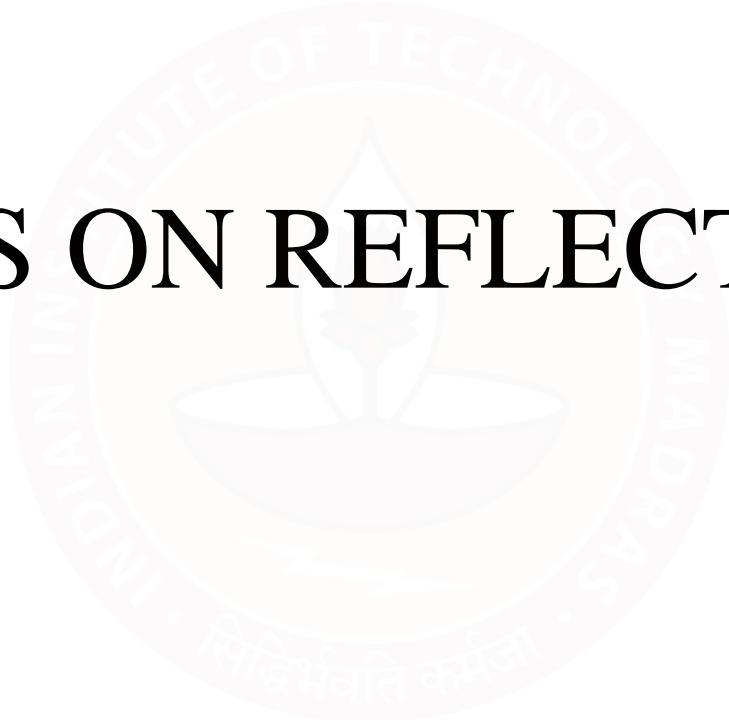
ONLINE DEGREE

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ESSAYS ON REFLECTION- II



- A good essay is not possible without revision.
- Revision will help you get rid of those little mistakes that happened because of oversight, because of haste and because of slip of hand, etc.
- On the whole, if you have 30 minutes for an essay, you should keep atleast five minutes for revising it.

- A good essay must also have some stories, anecdotes, etc.
- This story can be included in synopsis in the form of instances and illustrations. While writing at least about 20-25 percent of time and words may be given to illustrations, instances from your experience.

- The final draft must be easy and interesting to read.
- Sentences and paragraphs there must not remain unconnected.
- One must lead to the other, the other must follow from the preceding which means you should use lots of cohesive devices connecting sentences and paragraphs.

- Some of these devices are as follows: As, example, for example, here, henceforth, hence, illustrating, nevertheless, so, however, how so ever, thus, therefore, that is why, etc.
- Using these markers, using prepositions properly, using pronouns only after nouns, etc. strings the sentences into meaningful paragraph.

ACTIVITY

Lot of people say all human beings are alike. They can therefore, live and work alike. We need not worry about local cultures, local languages. One global culture will create global happiness. Do you agree? Write an essay in about 200 words presenting your views on the subject. You can use any ideas, examples and evidence in support.

SYNOPSIS

Definition of happiness- instances of happiness- empathy- cut-throat competition- work life- statistical evidence- working hours- English language for job application- number of suicides- mental and physical health etc.

DRAFT 1

The definition of happiness is different for every individual. While some may consider being close to nature gives them happiness. Others may think that splurging on shopping brings happiness to them. The United Nations presents a World Happiness report through a survey. The survey includes various parameters such as mental illness, diversity, communication, work, food and shelter, etc. According to the report, Finland continues to be the happiest country for the third consecutive time.

- We seldom get perfect work in the first draft itself.

DRAFT 2

God made country, man made towns, goes a saying in English. In god's world there are no boundaries or compartments. Its one world that god created. But because of our convenience or because of our fear or pride, we divided this world into many cultures and countries. Sometimes, we consider them important for the growth of mankind. Unlike other animals, man does not live only by food. Man also needs company and joy. Because all human beings are differently inclined, different cultures have emerged.

These cultures have evolved in hundreds of thousands of years. They have not been made overnight like government projects. But they can be destroyed in no time. The temple at my village is just a lump of clay under a tree but that lump of clay has protected the entire village for centuries, as the villagers believe. Global cultures may not respect these little local cultures but their contribution to the evolution of mankind is unquestionable. Could Gautham Buddha have been born in a poor family or could Jesus Christ have been born in families other than that of a shepherd? Happiness is defined as a state of mind free from pain and anxieties. There is also a positive definition. Happiness is getting a desired thing or experience but because man is affected by the cultures he lives in, happiness is a dynamic phenomenon, it depends upon many factors not always under any one person's control.

A child is happy being with his mother, young people are happy with their friends away from their mother and father. Old people are happy being with their children or grandchildren. Somebody is happy working all the time living in great comfort, enjoying great facilities. Some others are happy doing nothing or away from all facilities and living on the minimum. I eat 21 meals a week but I have a friend who eats only four meals a week and I think he is happier than I am. Happiness cannot have one definition that is why the American constitution said that each person has the right to pursue their happiness.

Today's world everyone wants to be successful, everyone wants the best of everything without waiting for long. As a result, there is a never ending emphasis upon acquiring more and more which is detrimental to happiness. Consequently, there has been rise in the number of health problems caused by stress. Happiness sure does not lie only in targets achieved. A large number of suicides worldwide occur only among middle or upper middle classes who are plain bored with what they have. Happiness as sages have said finally lies in sharing both our problems and privileges.

Thank you!

