

IIT Madras

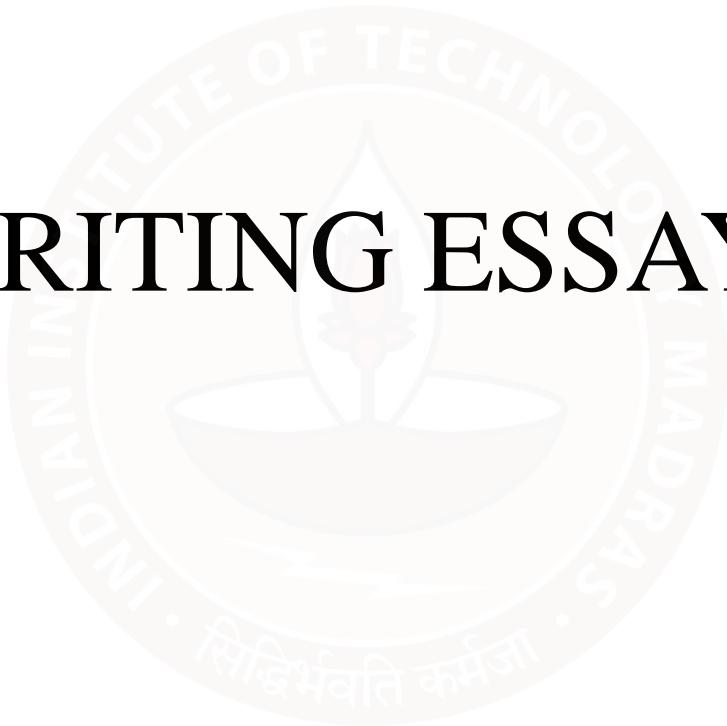
ONLINE DEGREE

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WRITING ESSAYS



ESSAY WRITING

- An essay is an important form of writing in any language.
- Grammatically correct language, good writing skill, knowledge of spelling, vocabulary, punctuation and other conventions of writing are all important.

- Contents for an essay can come mainly from general knowledge, they can be supplemented from other sources, at the internet, and with experts.
- A good essay needs planning.
- A good essay reads well if it has good examples, has evidence and arguments based upon good ideas.

QUESTION

In about 250 words, write an essay on Agriculture in India.

Synopsis: In your essay, you can include the following: its contribution to the India economy, history of agriculture in India, unique features of Indian agriculture – its present problems and privileges, - its future.



FIRST DRAFT

Just now in India farmers are in the news headlines. Suddenly they have hundreds of millions of sympathisers, because, the latter say, the government has given them the freedom to sell their produce where they would like to and this might make them vulnerable to the agents who would force them to sell at less than government fixed price. The government, therefore, they say, may continue to buy their produce through a single sale point, as has happened in recent years. The government, and other free market thinkers, say having freedom to sell where they wish to might bring them better prices. The government will also buy from them at a reasonably high price, but the farmers should have the choice to sell to whosoever gives them the better price.

This controversy alone shows the pathetic state of agriculture in India. It is being presented as an industry that would die unless the government bought all of its stock. That is certainly not the case. Agriculture is the oldest industry in India. Ever since there has been an organized society in India, there has been agriculture. The Vedas and folklores mention agriculture. Division of castes, etc. in India is more or less based on roles and responsibilities in agriculture. Agriculture until very recently provided employment to over 80% people in India. Some were directly employed as farm workers and owners, some others provided for farming, and yet others found employment in helping store and sell farm produce to the consumers. India until recently was the biggest exporter of food grains like rice, wheat, pulses, corns, spices, fruits and fruit-based products, besides cash crops like cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, oil seeds, herbs and herbal products, fish, meat and dairy products.

For India, agriculture was also the prime source of earning foreign exchange. It sold to the world, and its produce were valued above all else's. Foreigners came to India in search primarily of its farm produce, which was of the best quality, and which they bought here cheap and sold dear abroad. Not only its produce, they also imported farm labour from India. All the Indians in Pacific Ocean – Indian ocean islands were captured by the European colonial powers of the 16th and the 17th centuries for agricultural produce which were grown almost entirely by farm labour imported from India.

As a result, agriculture is no longer the thing that attracts anyone but one without a choice. All kinds of wrong policies concerning agricultural finance, use of fertilizers and pesticides, neglect of its own inherited methods in these areas, absence of facilities for marketing, neglect of traditional methods and reluctance to bring in new ones, all together have reduced agriculture from a profit generating and leading industry into a subsidy-dependent sick industry. This must change.

New policies must be introduced for liberally and generously financing agriculture, for marketing of its produce, for making it a profit generating sector, for developing local answers to needs for power, capital, seeds, fertilizers, manures, harvesting, storage and marketing. Rivers must be allowed to flow freely round the year , and not just during monsoon when they are in floods. Farmers should have no limits on how big they can be, just as there is no limit on how big a mall or a car factory can be; similarly, they ought to have the permission to grow anything and sell it anywhere they like, just as other products in other sectors are allowed to. Once again agriculture can regain its place of pride, and can enrich all associated with it. (594 words)

IRRELEVANT IDEAS

WHAT IS	WHAT SHOULD BE
Entire first paragraph	X
2 nd Para – 158 words for one idea, Agriculture used to be important...	Five words would be enough: Agriculture used to be important.
100 words for saying it has earned Foreign exchange for India	This point can be made in a few words.
Agriculture in Independent India – little or no data,	Should be stated with some data.
Making agriculture a popular career – hardly any example to show why new policies can succeed	
But no, or nearly no error of grammar or spelling, etc.	

VAGUE WORDS, CLICHÉ, JARGON

WHAT IS	WHAT SHOULD BE
hundreds of millions of sympathisers...	Numerous/Innumerable...
freedom to sell where they wish to might bring them better prices	freedom to sell where they wish to might bring farmers better prices...
... the pathetic state of agriculture in India	X
... is more or less based on roles and responsibilities...	is based mostly on roles ...
... a tremendous body of knowledge...	...a body of knowledge...

<p>... abandoning their centuries old farms and farm lands...</p>	<p>... abandoning their farms and farm lands...</p>
<p>... modernizing and developing agricultural technology, though lots of agriculture universities were opened in India. Crop insurance is nowhere visible except on paper.</p>	<p>... modernizing agricultural technology, though many agriculture universities were opened. Crop insurance is yet to be available.</p>
<p>... corruption being so endemic in government offices...</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>... agriculture is no longer the thing that attracts anyone but one without a choice...</p>	<p>... agriculture attracts only the unemployable.</p>
<p>, just as other products in other sectors are allowed to. Once again agriculture can regain its place of pride, and can enrich all associated with it</p>	<p>X</p>

FINAL DRAFT

Agriculture is the oldest industry in India. Until recently, it provided employment to over 80% of India's population. It also brought most of India's foreign exchange. India has everything for good agriculture, soil, water, sunshine, and a culture. It grows all sorts of crops, from water intensive to no water crop as well.

But agriculture no longer has the old importance. It is not a profitable occupation any more. Plot sizes have been made uneconomical for large scale productions, no investment was made in modernizing agricultural technology. Even now crop insurance is only upon paper here. Farmers were forced to sell their produce to government, but they were treated neither respectfully nor paid fairly and promptly.

As a result agriculture, no longer attracts anyone with brains. All kinds of wrong policies concerning agricultural finance, fertilizers and pesticides, neglect of its own inherited methods in these areas, absence of facilities for marketing, all together have reduced agriculture from a profit generating industry into a subsidy-dependent industry. This must change.

New policies must be introduced for financing agriculture, for marketing of its produce, for developing new sources of power, capital, seeds, fertilizers, manures, harvesting, storage and marketing. Rivers must be allowed to flow freely. Farms should have no limits on how big they can be. Similarly, they should be allowed to grow anything and sell anywhere, just as other products in other sectors are allowed to. With some determined investment and industrial freedom, agriculture can regain its place of pride, and can enrich all. (252 Words)

ACTIVITY

Write an essay in about 250 words upon each of the following topics.

- a. Textile Industry of India
- b. Local Foods in Global Times
- c. Future of Local Languages
- d. Traditional Indian Marriage
- e. Indian Cinema
- f. Indian Sports

Thank You!