



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034

CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHEET

Class IX

Assignment - 1

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

Dear Students,

- Reading newspaper makes you well informed. It enables you to take part in every discussion pertaining to the world's current events.
- Reading newspapers will improve your knowledge in general and it will be easy for you to relate to other people who often talks about current events and politics.
- Through newspapers, you will have a clear idea and understanding of what is happening in your country and the whole world.

Board Exam Solutions Discriminate Hugely Against These Students

The debate on the best way to deal with board exams - whether to hold them, the formula for deciding a student's marks, the need for monitoring internal school assessments and so on has many interested participants and is being settled by the Supreme Court. But how relevant are these questions for poor students and specifically for Adivasi students?

In underdeveloped rural areas where the majority of Adivasis live, there were just three percent internet connections according to a household survey conducted a few years ago. Not many Adivasi families have smartphones. Even today, around 47 per cent of Adivasi households depend on kerosene for lighting. Clearly, the world of online education is closed to Adivasi students. This is not just a digital divide. In the absence of government intervention, it is a demolition of the entire framework of the Right to Education for most poor families, and certainly for students in India's Adivasi households.

From March 2020, when the first lockdown was declared, and schools were closed and classes shifted online, 90 to 95 per cent of rural Adivasi students have been deprived of any education whatsoever. Class X and Class XII final year students have not been able to attend classes or give any pre-board online exams. So schools cannot make internal assessments of the Adivasi students regardless of the weightage given for such an assessment. The Tribal Affairs Ministry has accepted that even in the schools considered the best models, namely the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMR), only 17.7 per cent of total Adivasi students enrolled have been able to access online classes. Although some schools opened for a short period after the first phase of the pandemic, they had to be shut down again this year.

So what were the Adivasi students doing? A most disturbing picture emerged from the reports made at a recent online meeting of activists of the *Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch* from 11 states. They said in most areas, because of the acute financial distress caused by lack of work and livelihood, students have turned into labourers, looking for any work available. In many states, January-June is the season for gathering and collecting minor forest produce. Students staying at home became gatherers deep in the forests. The cumulative dropout rate from Class 1-X of Adivasi students is as high as 62.4 percent. The apprehension is that unless governments take proactive measures, more children may drop out after schools start functioning.

What has worsened the situation is that scholarships for these students have been cut drastically. The ratio in payments for scholarships between the central government and states is 75:25. In a scandalous example of a truth deficit, the Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh Saruta, informed the Lok Sabha in March this year that during the pandemic 2020, 35.5 lakh Adivasi students were given their scholarships amounting to

1,986 crore rupees by the centre. Since this is in such complete variance with ground level reports from activists, it became necessary to check with the Ministry's website.

It is also not clear what the government is giving students who used to live in hostels, now closed, and were getting a higher scholarship amount than day scholars. Have their scholarships continued, been reduced or completely eliminated? Activists reported that after hostels closed, students have not received any money. For the current financial year, in the first quarter, not a single rupee has been given for any kind of scholarship. The dashboard shows 0 allocations in 2020-2021. This means that during the second pandemic phase, Adivasi students have received no scholarship money. This is a government that can so blatantly lie and make false claims even while depriving the most vulnerable, young Adivasi citizens of what is their right.

Yet another right has been denied to them. Under the Food Security Act, mid-day meals are a legal right. With schools shut down during the pandemic, large numbers of children have suffered the loss of at least one guaranteed nourishing meal. Some states, notably Kerala, have ensured doorstep delivery of dry rations in lieu of mid-day meals, including to Adivasi hamlets. This has been a great help. But the Centre has no such programme. The NFHS (4) had shown that among all social categories, the highest numbers of malnourished children are among the Adivasis. Lack of government intervention during the pandemic will worsen this situation.

There are solutions. Even with its limited resources, Kerala has shown the way. It has ensured that each child has access to education. There are several methods being used: village-level classes through dedicated TV channels; TV sets are provided and ensured to centres within the village supervised at the panchayat level; village-level surveys are conducted to ensure that all children are attending classes; the government has encouraged a social campaign for donations to provide smartphones; and it is ensuring internet connections. Where there is political will to back and implement a vision of education as a universal right, hurdles can be overcome.

Based on the above news article, attempt the following questions:

Q1) State the reasons as to why the formula for deciding marks for class 12 Adivasi students is unfair and unjust when just three percent internet connection is available in underdeveloped rural areas where the majority of Adivasis live.

Q2) Explain "Right to Education". How have the Adivasi students been denied this right?

Q3) List the setbacks caused to these students when the schools were shut down during the pandemic.

Q4. Mention the rights that have been taken from them by the government, for example under the FOOD SECURITY ACT.

Q5. "Where there is political will to back and implement a vision of education as a universal right, hurdles can be overcome". Analyze this statement with the help of steps taken by the government of Kerala.



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CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHEET

Class X

Assignment - 1

Critical thinking helps to cultivate higher-order thinking skills. Think beyond the print. It fills the gap with the 'why' and 'how' questions that one must answer for themselves if they are to internalise, construct and structure their analysis focusing on the topic at hand.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR??

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing – Walt Disney. Think big and flood your mind with positivity to achieve success while starting up.

Running a business is a learning curve and is not for the fainthearted. You have to decide what you want and then wholeheartedly commit to it, which more often than not is a surefire way to succeed. The success that you seek ultimately lies within you.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ENTREPRENEURS

Characteristics of entrepreneurs

Read the case given carefully and analyse who can be successful entrepreneur based on their skills and characteristics.

Scenario 1 –

Ameera started a shop of designer Ababya online. Her designs are amazing, unique and customers would love it. She has been researching unique fabrics and embroideries around the world to make her designs stand out. She herself looks into every detail of her products, buys fabric, does designing, decides price and makes advertisements for her product for Instagram and Facebook. She has also done photoshoot of her products for advertising.

Do you think Ameera can be successful entrepreneur?	Why do you think so? What are the characteristics she has?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Scenario 2 –

Jassim, finds his job boring as an engineer as he was always liked fashion and grooming. His friends and family asked him not to give up his well-paying job. He quits is well paying job after he got himself trained by leading institute.

Jassim opens a salon, he appoints the best trained staff. It's one of its kind and customs are loving it. In six months, the salon is packed with customer and appointments are always lined up.

Do you think he can be successful entrepreneur?	Why do you think so? What are the characteristics he has?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Scenario 3 –

Shahad took up business management at university, as she always wanted to be and entrepreneur. She scored well and later took up a job in one of the leading companies, She did not start her business as she did not have any new idea. Now she has been offered business partnership, but she does not want to quit her well paying job. She said she was, stressed about her limitations as far as typing, book-keeping and computer skills were concerned, so she is not sure if she will be able to handle all the work if she joins the business.

Do you think he can be successful entrepreneur?	Why do you think so?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>