

Worksheet

8

Reading : Comprehension Passage

Date

Name

Class & Sec.

Roll No.

Marks OBT.

8. Read the following passage carefully.

1. There is no fault in the *fundamental*¹ principle of *nishkam karma* or desireless or unselfish work. The common but apparent difficulty about it lies in our die-hard conditioning to *sakam karma* since childhood – on the *plea*² of encouragement, strokes, motivation, etc.
2. Nishkam Karma (NK) is socio-economically a sound principle because it implies less grabbing for oneself. It does not imply depriving oneself of the normal earnings, minimum necessities and basic comforts of life. But it restrains unbridled consumerism, and thus keeps alive the hope of sustainable development. However, if well-off citizens and leaders, especially in a developing country, begin to extract more and more for themselves from the society through questionable means, then less and less will be left for the deprived people. Thus, *sakam karma* becomes socio-economically hazardous. For instance, recently the MPs passed a resolution, *apparently*³ without any opposition, to avail themselves of pension benefits; even if elected for one five-year term. This may imply a person becoming an MP at the age of 37, and start getting pension as soon as the term ends, when he/she is only 42 years.
3. Commitment to work as a principle implies work for work's sake. Such an attitude causes less disappointment or *depression*⁴ if expected recognition and rewards do not flow. The HV (Human Values) of contentment gets a chance to express itself. On the other hand, commitment to rewards tends to make work an instrument for such rewards. Rewards become the real goal, and with that creeps in DVs (Dis-values) like greed and jealousy. Therefore, being a workaholic does not necessarily mean *nishkam karma*. It is often due to hankering for power, position, fame, i.e., *sakam karma*.

(a) Write the option you consider to be the most appropriate :

- (i) Nishkam karma means _____
 - (a) selfish work
 - (b) hard work
 - (c) unselfish work
 - (d) irregular work
- (ii) Nishkam karma keeps alive the hope of _____
 - (a) reward in the next life
 - (b) fast development
 - (c) sustainable development
 - (d) peace in society
- (iii) Commitment to work implies _____
 - (a) very hard work
 - (b) work for reward
 - (c) work for work's sake
 - (d) being a workaholic

VALUE POINTS

The passage is about :

The attitude of *nishkam karma* and its utility in present day world.

Para 1

- *nishkam karma* preferable to *sakam karma*

Para 2

- NK, implies less grabbing, restrains, unbridled consumerism, *sakam karma* hazardous
- Resolution for pension benefits throughout life

Para 3

- work for work's sake, less depression
- In *sakam karma* rewards real goals, disvalues creep in, greed, jealousy

GLOSSARY

1. fundamental : basic
2. plea : argument
3. apparently : clearly
4. depression : sadness, sorrow

- (iv) Dis-values creep in when _____ .
(a) we do *nishkam karma* ✓ (b) reward becomes the real goal
(c) we do *sakam karma* ✓ (d) we are greedy or jealous
- (v) Normally one becomes a workaholic when one does _____ .
(a) *nishkam karma* ✓ (b) *sakam karma*
(c) too much work ✓ (d) no work

(b) Complete the following sentences :

- (i) *Nishkam karma* is socio-economically a sound principle because _____ .
(ii) *Nishkam karma* is specially useful in _____ .
(iii) The M.Ps passed a resolution to avail _____ .

Space for Answers

b)

i) is implies less grabbing for oneself

ii)

iii) themselves pension facilities

(b) Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

- (i) A rajasic person likes to opt for pungent and burning food.
(ii) Patience is required to produce intrinsic changes in one's personality.
(iii) If you satsang with holy persons, you can solve ethical problems.

(c) Answer the following questions :

- (i) The synonym of 'succulent' in paragraph 2 is _____ .
(a) juicy (b) solid
(c) watery (d) dry
- (ii) The antonym of 'modesty' in paragraph 3 is _____ .
(a) soft (b) arrogance
(c) disobedience (d) proud

Space for Answers

- a) i) According to sacred Hindu texts, vegetarian diet is basically Sattvic consist of the components of plant kingdom that lead to the development of sattvic qualities. Whereas Non-Vegetarian diet called Rajasic diet consists of animal food which develop Rajasic qualities.
- ii) Vegetarian food promotes Sattvic qualities by increasing lifespan and outer strength of a person. It also reduces violence on animal promoting a Sattvic lifestyle.
- iii) According to Gita, a Rajasic person prefers unpleasant with strong taste or smell which is sour, hot or rough.
- iv) Patience and perseverance are needed to bring intrinsic changes in one's personality.
- v) A association of sacred literatures or men which gives a purifying impact on subtle mind and solves ethical issues with practical guidelines is called a Satsang.

