

VIVEKANANDA VIDYA KALA ASHRAM  
ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION-2025-2

NAME : DIVYA PRADHA.R

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OUR CULTURAL VALUES AND THEIR PRESENT  
APPLICATION AS PER THE MAHABHARATA

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NAME : DIVYA PRADHA . R

CLASS & SEC : XI A

UNIT : YUKA SIVANVOIC



Our cultural values and their present  
application as per Mahabharata

धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः  
"Dharma when protected protects"

The Mahabharata is not merely the story of a royal dynasty, but a living encyclopedia of human life, reflecting values that shape Bharatiya Culture. ~~Its teaching on~~

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| * Dharma   | * Courage      |
| * Karma    | * Morality     |
| * Devotion | * Humility and |
| * Wisdom   | * Compassion   |
| * Duty     |                |

guide us even today. What makes the Mahabharata timeless is not its age, but its relevance - its principles glow in modern Bharath's action, leaderships, governance, military service and everyday social life.

# MAHABHARATA - A LIGHT HOUSE OF BHARATIYA CULTURE

Bharatiya culture rests on the pillars of DHARMA, KARMA, SHRADDHA, BHAKTHI and VIVEKA.

The Mahabharata embodies these values, through its characters - Each one representing a moral strength or weakness. In today's world of technology, competition and stress, these values act as moral compass guiding personal life, society, workplace behaviour, politics, leadership and national ethics.

## (i) DHARMA - Righteousness in Modern Life

The Bhagavat Gita says

"Better to perish in one's own duty, than follow another's"

Dharma is the core of the Mahabharata - Choosing the right path even when it is difficult and walking with integrity even when the road is full of obstacles. The pandavas lost everything, suffered humiliation, exile and injustice, yet never abandoned Dharma. Meanwhile, Duryodhana consumed by greed and pride, lost everything despite momentary victories.

## PRESENT APPLICATION OF DHARMA:

Operation Ajay (Israel war 2023)

When war brokeout in Israel, Bharath evacuated thousands of stranded citizens. Our government did not consider danger or cost - duty to protect citizens came first. This reflects Yudhishthira's dharma.

"Do what is right, not what is easy".

Chandrayaan-3.

The success of Chandrayaan 3 shows Dharma of perseverance. Scientists worked day and night facing failures like Arjuna did in battle. Their focus and commitment reflect Krishna's teaching.

"Do your duty with full dedication, without fear of failure".

KARMA: Moral justice beyond time.

Karma teaches that every action - good or bad - returns to us. This is seen in Dhritarashtra's story where past cruelty brought suffering.

## PRESENT APPLICATION OF KARMA:

In Bharath many powerful leaders involved in corruption ultimately face justice:

Their downfall shows that Karma never fails, even when delayed. Public trust grows when truth prevails, proving that moral accountability ever exists. Uncontrolled mining, pollution and greed lead to floods, droughts and global warming. This is the Karma of human exploitation, reminding us.

"When Dharma towards nature is broken, Karma responds".

SHRADDHA - Faith and Surrender in difficult times :

In the Mahabharata, Arjuna receives sacred knowledge only when his heart is humble and surrendered. When Draupadi was humiliated she surrendered fully to Krishna.

PRESENT APPLICATION OF SHRADDHA:

Bharath's fight against COVID-19.

During the pandemic, doctors, nurses and volunteers worked with faith and duty. Millions prayed with hope. Despite fear, Bharath emerged strong because of Shraddha in science, God and unity. Just like Draupadi's faith saved her, our faith guided our nation through crisis.

unnecessary fear, hatred and Violence. Just like Shakuni's whispers destroyed Hastinapur, misinformation can destroy modern society. When jealousy replaces teamwork, companies collapse. When cooperation grows, success multiplies. The Mahabharata teaches us to get rid of ego and envy and to celebrate others' achievements.

True love Vs Lust: Understanding relationships. Kunti's love for her children was pure and sacrificial. Duryothana's bonds were based on ego. Draupadi's faith in Krishna shows love as trust not desire. Families of soldiers wait patiently while their loved one protects the nation.

Love based on sacrifice heals  
Love based on selfishness harms.

Moreover every character offers a leadership lesson that is ever applicable.

The first social activist:

Lord Krishna is the first social activist. He drove away Kaliya and saved the Yamuna river from pollution. In the same

spirit, our Prime minister Sri. Narendra Modi is giving importance on protecting Bharatheeya rivers through the programs Namami Gange and Yamuna rejuvenation. He is encouraging our society to value and clean the water bodies. It shows that safeguarding nature is a duty across time.

Smt \* Draupadi Murmu

Smt \* P.V. Sindhu.

Smt. Sudha Murthy

Their courage, dignity, humility and strength mirror Draupadi, Kunti and Subhadra of the Mahabharata.

### CONCLUSION:

Lord Krishna says,

"यथैच्छसि तथा कुरु"

The freedom of choice is always ours!

The Mahabharatha guides us, enlightens us and shows the path of Dharma, but it never forces us. In every situation of life, we stand at the same crossroad as Arjuna.

BHAKTHI : Devotion that gives strength.

The Mahabharata teaches that devotion is inner power. Arjuna's devotion to Krishna transformed confusion into clarity. Draupadi's devotion brought divine grace during her darkest hour.

### PRESENT APPLICATION OF BHAKTHI

ISRO Scientists and Bhakthi:

After Chandrayaan-3's success, ISRO scientists visited temples to thank God. Their devotion reflects the balance of science and spirituality — a unique Bharatiya value.

Bhakthi strengthens the mind, giving courage during challenges.

VIVEKA : Clear discrimination between the good and the bad.

Jealousy blinded Duryodhana making him ignore wise counsel from Vidura and Krishna. Sakuni's constant gossip triggered hatred and war.

### PRESENT APPLICATION OF VIVEKA

Social Media Rumours:

Rumours spread on social media create

We must choose (?)

Dharma over Adharma  
Truth over Falsehood  
Compassion over Cruelty  
Courage over Fear.

When our actions reflect these values, we honour our culture and shape a brighter future for ourselves and for society.

SELECT YOUR PATH -  
FREE WILL

