

General Knowledge Today



suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

Ethics & Integrity-2: Human Values

[Integrated IAS General Studies:2016-17](#)

Last Updated: August 16, 2016

Published by: GKTODAY.IN

GKToday © 2016 | All Rights Reserved

GKToday has authorized the download by you of an unrestricted number of copies of this document in PDF format. GKToday grants you a nonexclusive, non-transferable license to use this document for your personal use only. The document is a property of GKToday and is protected by India and international copyright and other intellectual property laws. Unauthorized duplication, redistribution and resale of this document and content herein is not permitted.



Contents

Human Values and Value Theory	3
Why Values are needed?	3
What are Intrinsic and Extrinsic Values?	3
What are Basic Human Values?	3
How values are different from norms?	4
How values are different from Morals?	4
What are key features of values?	4
How values are different from Ethics?	5
How values are different from beliefs?	5
How Values, morals and ethics are inextricably tied together?	5
Values versus Traits	6
Assertiveness	6
Locus of control	6
Future orientation	6
Self-esteem	6
Gender Egalitarianism	7
Humane orientation	7
Collectivism	7
Self-Monitoring	7
Risk Taking	7
Role of Families & Society in Inculcating Values	7
Importance of Family values in life	8
Role of Indian Culture in inculcating Human Values	8
Influence of Indian Culture on Values	9
Vedas	9
Bhagawad Gita	9
Manusmriti	9
Ramayana	9
Kamasutra	9
Jataka-tales	10
Dhammapadda	10
Role of Education & Education Institutions in cultivation of values	10
Importance of Value Education	10
Objectives of Value Education	11
Value Education and India	11
Ways to make value education more effective	11
Inculcation of values in Educational Institutions	11
Teaching Accountability	12



Playing Role model	12
Teaching Basic morals and values	12
Appreciation	12
For Children with weaker moral development	12
Value Education through Schools	12
Various Values and their General Meaning	13

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies



Human Values, Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Human Values and Value Theory

Values are the guiding principles of our lives. They are essential for positive human behaviour and actions in our daily lives. They are formed on the basis of interests, choices, needs, desires and preferences. They have played important role in not only sociology, but also psychology, anthropology and related disciplines.

Why Values are needed?

We encounter several circumstances every day which test our patience, our character and peace of mind. We have to make tough decisions each day. What guide us in these circumstances are our values. Our values serve as markers to tell if life is heading in the right direction.

When our actions and words are aligned with our values, life feels good and we feel content, confident and satisfied. But when our behaviours don't match-up with our values, we sense an uneasiness that grows inside us. This uncomfortable feeling tells us that not all is good right now. We feel out-of-sorts. These feelings can be a source of anxiety and unhappiness. We need value in our lives to:

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

- Guide us in the right path.
- Learn the importance of certainty, goodness and beauty.
- Give direction to life and bring joy.
- Learn satisfaction towards life.
- Attain peace in life.
- Develop character.
- Preserve our culture and heritage
- Bring changes in behaviour towards positive thoughts;
- Promote the peace and harmony in the society

What are Intrinsic and Extrinsic Values?

The term intrinsic means “in itself” or “for its own sake”. Intrinsic values are those values which have an eternal property without any reference to any end. For example, happiness or peace or joy or truth is an intrinsic value. Extrinsic values are those whose property or value depends on how much it generates the intrinsic values. Having a family is an extrinsic value because its value depends on how much happiness or joy it creates.

What are Basic Human Values?

Basic human values refer to those values which are at the core of being human. The values which are



considered basic inherent values in humans include truth, honesty, loyalty, love, peace, etc. because they bring out the fundamental goodness of human beings and society at large. Further, since these values are unifying in nature and cut across individual's social, cultural, religious and sectarian interests; they are also considered universal, timeless and eternal applying to all human beings.

How values are different from norms?

Values and norms are different. Norm refers to a relatively specific behaviour as per social customs and it is obligatory. On the other hand, values are matter of choice. For example, honesty cannot be a norm because it may not be chosen to be followed. Further, once a particular value is internalized by an individual, it becomes a norm for him / her for making decisions, judgements, preferences and choices.

How values are different from Morals?

Morals are taught by the society to the individual while values can be cultivated from within. Morals act as motivation for leading a good life, while values act as intuition. Further, while morals are deep rooted, values may keep changing from time to time and as per needs.

What are key features of values?

There are six main features of values as per the value theory of Schwartz. These are:

Values are beliefs linked to affect

This implies that when values are activated, they become infused with feeling. For example, *People for whom independence is an important value become aroused if their independence is threatened*, despair when they are helpless to protect it, and are happy when they can enjoy it.

Values refer to desirable goals that motivate action

People for whom social order, justice, and helpfulness are important values are motivated to pursue these goals.

Values transcend specific actions and situations

Obedience and honesty, for example, are values that may be relevant at work or in school, in sports, business, and politics, with family, friends, or strangers. This feature distinguishes values from narrower concepts like norms and attitudes that usually refer to specific actions, objects, or situations.

Values serve as standards or criteria

Values guide the selection or evaluation of actions, policies, people, and events. People decide what is good or bad, justified or illegitimate, worth doing or avoiding, based on possible consequences for their cherished values. But the impact of values in everyday decisions is rarely conscious. Values enter awareness when the actions or judgments one is considering have conflicting implications for different values one cherishes.



Values are ordered by importance relative to one another

People's values form an ordered system of value priorities that characterize them as individuals. Do they attribute more importance to achievement or justice, to novelty or tradition? This hierarchical feature also distinguishes values from norms and attitudes.

Relative importance of multiple values guides action

Any attitude or behaviour typically has implications for more than one value. For example, *attending prayer* might express and promote tradition, conformity, and security values at the expense of *hedonism and stimulation values*. The trade-off among relevant, competing values is what guides attitudes and behaviours. Values contribute to action to the extent that they are relevant in the context (hence likely to be activated) and important to the actor.

How values are different from Ethics?

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that used to study ideal human behaviour and ideal ways of being. What is ethical and unethical is judged by social standards and vary from person to person. Values are the embodiment of what an individual stands for, and they are basis for the behaviour which forms the basis for ethics. Both ethics and values are situational and changeable in relevant circumstances.

How values are different from beliefs?

A belief is an internal feeling that something is true, even though that belief may be unproven or irrational. For example, I believe that if I see a black cat crossing the road, it indicates a bad luck. On the other hand, a value is a measure of the worth or importance a person attaches to something. Our values are often reflected in the way we live our lives, for instance, we value freedom of speech, or we value our families etc.

All of us have a constant internal battle between our beliefs and values. Sometimes, we mistake our beliefs as values or vice versa. Beliefs are internal, while the values are external. This implies that we can pick up a value from an external source or experience, person or thing and start living with that value inculcated in us. But belief is an internal energy that is created on what we absorb and then it builds itself within us further creating our thoughts, words and actions.

Our beliefs create thoughts; thoughts create emotions; emotions create actions – actions of positive values or negative values which depend on the quality of the Belief itself. These then become internal Values.

How Values, morals and ethics are inextricably tied together?

The moral values in our lives hold great importance from the point of personal, social and spiritual development. Values, morals and ethics are inextricably tied together. The preservation of human life is the ultimate value, a pillar of ethics and the foundation of all morality.

Values are what we learn from childhood; the 'stuff' we acquired from our parents and immediate



surroundings. Values are the motive power behind purposeful action. Moral values are meant for making the quest to find the higher self an easier. Many amongst us may find it difficult to follow values such as truthfulness, honesty, forgiveness in our lives because we have not perceived the subtle gains that come to us by following these values. Or, maybe, we are careless to realize the importance of values in life.

Ethics, on the other hand, are how we actually do behave in the face of difficult situations that test our moral fiber. Ethics are *the code or principles on which one's character depend*. Ethics and character are closely related. **Values are essential to ethics to develop** at an early age and can be instrumental to building character.

Whereas, morals are the *intrinsic beliefs developed from the value systems of how we 'should' behave in any given situation*. Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behaviour and choices.

Values versus Traits

A trait is characteristic of the person that change over time, but shouldn't change rapidly. They should be stable attributes of the person. It represents a pattern of behaviour, thinking, or feeling that is consistent over a variety of different situations. It is the only difference from person to person.

Values represent a specific mode of conduct or end-state of existence that involves judgement because they represent an individual idea of what is right, good or desirable. Hierarchy of values differ for every individual. There are few important factors that affect the values and traits of an individual in a society, workplace and among peers.

Assertiveness

It is the ability to honestly express your opinions, feelings, attitudes, and rights, without undue anxiety. This behaviour earns the individual respect from others, while the others treat him with love as he is a man of self-respect.

Locus of control

It is the degree to which people believe they are masters of their own fate that they control what happens to them or believe what happens to them is controlled by outside forces.

Future orientation

It is defined as "the degree to which a collectivity encourages and rewards future-oriented behaviours such as planning and delaying gratification. This changes an individual's moral thought process to be flexible, adaptive and attain spiritual fulfilment.

Self-esteem

An individuals' degree of liking or disliking themselves and the degree to which they think they are



worthy or unworthy has an influence in the change of their moral values and traits.

Gender Egalitarianism

Men and women often think differently and would react to moral dilemmas in different ways. Women would favour care reasoning, need and sacrifice, while men incline to favour fairness and rights, which is known as justice reasoning.

Humane orientation

An individual value changes positively and his character is modified by being supportive and considerate to the society and peers, also includes his compassion and generosity.

Collectivism

A highly moral individual gives priority to group rights over individual rights, but his individualistic trait will remind him that each choice has consequences for which he will be held personally responsible.

Self-Monitoring

Individuals high in self-monitoring show adaptability in adjusting their behaviour to external, situational factors. They are highly sensitive to external cues and behave differently in different situations.

Risk Taking

People differ in their willingness to take chances and affects how long it takes to make a decision and how much information they require before making a choice influences the internal trait and ethical behaviour of an individual.

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.suraisingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

Role of Families & Society in Inculcating Values

Family is the foundation on which values are built. Moral values like truthfulness, happiness, peace, justice are instilled in children's thoughts, feelings and actions and they function as ideals and standards that govern their actions in their life.

The value system practised in the family becomes automatic to the young family members if they are taught moral values systematically. The family, shapes the child's attitude towards people and society, and helps in mental growth in the child and supports his ambitions and values. Blissful and cheerful atmosphere in the family will develop the love, affection, tolerance, and generosity.

A child learns his behaviour by modelling what he sees around him. Family plays a major role in helping a child socialize and has great influence and bearing on the progress of the child.

Joint family system, the presence of elders in the family plays the effective role in social and moral development of the children. It also helps young generation of the family to imbibe human values and eradicate their negative mental tendencies when they are among elders.

Children identify themselves with their parents, other family elders and adopt them as their personal



models for emulation and imitation and hero-worship them. The behavioural problems are set correct only by the involvement of family in the child's life as they spend most of their time in adolescence with the parents. Family is the first social organisation that provides the immediate proximity from which the kid can learn his behaviour.

Importance of Family values in life

- A family is a unit of parents and the children. Social standards and customs defined by a family provide the emotional and physical basis for a child.
- Values developed by a family are the foundation for how children learn, grow and function in the world. These beliefs, transmits the way of life a child lives and changes into an individual in a society.
- These values and morals guides the individual every time in his actions. Children turn out to be a good person because of the value taught and given by his family members
- Ideas passed down from generation to generation make up a family values. It answers the basic question of how one want to live the family life. Family values enhance the character and turns the children to be good human being.
- It teaches the individual how to behave and project himself to the next younger generation and the emotional support adds the importance of family values.
- Customs And Traditions followed and taught by the family leads a disciplined and organized life.
- Families values helps the child to stand strong on his views despite others efforts to break through with opposing beliefs. In addition,
- Beliefs and trusts built around a family helps the children to be responsible and conscientious adults.
- A child has a strong sense of what is right and wrong and are less likely to become victims of deviant influences.
- Children who are influenced by strong moral values identify them in others quickly which then produces a new generation with similar beliefs.

Thus, family is important in developing the moral values of child. There is a *close contact between the parents and children*, which determine the personality of child.

Role of Indian Culture in inculcating Human Values

Indian culture plays an important role in inculcating values. There are four main values of life have been highlighted from Vedic periods that have been considered as basic values. They are

- Dharma (righteousness),



- Artha (wealth),
- Kama (enjoyment)
- Moksa (salvation or liberation).

Influence of Indian Culture on Values

Indian culture is complex in nature and with diversity in religion and their customs we live with unity. The two most important tenets of Indian culture are Human Values and Holism. Human values refer to moral, spiritual and ethical values while Holism means oneness or unity. Indian culture is very rich and diverse and teaches us to be tolerant to others. Human values are inculcated from the Vedic teachings to lead a peaceful integrated life. Indian Culture shows us evidences of development of values in life by training and experience. The *Bhagawad Gita* is considered as the essence of the Vedas and Upanishads.

Important values that are ever relevant and unchanging are found in the form of scriptural texts in the Indian culture.

Vedas

A man has duties and commitments in all stages of life. The Vedas teaches how to perform them. It contains entire range of knowledge. Veda is the source of all Dharma i.e. religion, morality, righteousness and good conduct. It has the highest authority over other materials of the past. According to the Vedas, the *nobler virtue is truth*, and then follows other virtues.

Bhagawad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita acts as powerful catalyst for change and renovation in one's life. The verses from this book contribute to improve self-reflection, better the senses and expands one's inner development, makes the life more active and joy at any circumstances, through attitudinal changes in the individuals. It offers us the tools to connect with our deepest insubstantial spirit, and leads us to participate in the battle of life.

Manusmriti

Dharma is essential for the individual's happiness and for the family and the society.

Ramayana

Ramayana contains the universal human values and the sense of morality which can regulate the code of society for the betterment of establishing peace. It is because, through various characters, social and moral values are displayed. There is an explanation in this epic to differentiate the term human value from social value. Rama sacrificed all his pleasures for the welfare of the subjects of his kingdom. He abandoned Sita for the satisfaction of his criticsers.

Kamasutra

This book written by vatsyayana explores the quality of life in general, and how to attain the level of



sattva or goodness in a successful material and spiritual life. It also highlights the importance of personal evolution that culminates in the highest success of human existence.

Jataka-tales

Jataka Tales are an important part of Buddhist literature. Jatak stories represent former incarnations of Buddha and are intended to impart values of self-sacrifice, morality, honesty and other informative values to people.

Dhammapadda

Better known as the *path of wisdom* is concerned with establishment well-being and happiness in the immediately visible sphere of concrete human relations. It pursues a man to go in the path of light, and strengthen himself to fight the temptations of worldly pleasures.

Role of Education & Education Institutions in cultivation of values

The prime concern of education is to **evolve the good, the true and the divine** in man so as to establish a moral life in the world. It should essentially make a man pious, perfect and truthful. The welfare of humanity lies neither in scientific or technological advancements nor in acquisition of material comforts. The main function of education is to enrich the character. What we need today more than anything else is moral leadership founded on courage, intellectual integrity and a sense of values.

Since education is a powerful instrument of social change and human progress, it is also a powerful tool to cultivate values in an individual. Therefore all the educational institutes have greater responsibility to impart learning and cultivation of values through education.

For inculcating values many educationists have suggested different ideas such as

- Provision of value based curriculum
- Designing special orientation program for teachers
- Value based foundation courses
- Publication of literature based on values
- Necessity to develop code of conduct for teachers and students
- Inculcation of philosophical view towards life among teachers and students.

Further to cultivate values among the new generations we are to design a curriculum from out of our accumulated cultural heritage

Importance of Value Education

Value Education awakens curiosity, development of proper interests, attitudes, values and capacity to think and judge about oneself. It helps in Promoting Social and Natural Integration.



Objectives of Value Education

Value education should aim at the development of values of the following type.

- Scientific temper of mind.
- Large heartedness.
- Co-operation.
- Tolerance
- Respect for the culture of other groups.

Value Education and India

Value education is rooted in Indian philosophy and culture and ingrained in every tradition of Indian culture. The Vedas and Upanishads form the source of inspiration for value education. In the Vedic period, in Ashram system of education, the Guru insisted his pupil to follow certain values throughout his life.

University education commission 1948-49 mentioned the various aspects of morality as: loyalty, courage, discipline, self-sacrifice and spirituality.

The **Secondary Education Commission** 1952-53 laid special emphasis on the following values in the formation of character of the students:

suraj_winner | rajwatar.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

- Efficiency
- Good Temper
- Cooperation
- Integrity
- Discipline

Ways to make value education more effective

There are several ways to make value education more effective. Firstly, the moral awareness should be endorsed to orient the progress in science & technology towards the welfare of mankind. Secondly, common values should be re-discovered to unite human beings with the general decline of traditional values. Thirdly, teachers pass values to the students both consciously and unconsciously through their conduct in and out of class rooms. Therefore the need for a consciously planned value education program is obvious to establish a formal learning. Fourthly, students might face more complicated decision making situations about issues involving values. They should be helped in developing the ability to make proper choices in such situations through value education. Fifthly, increase in Juvenile delinquency is a crisis to youth who under goes the process of personal growth. In such situation value education assumes a special significance.

Inculcation of values in Educational Institutions

In school, children are members of a small society that exerts a tremendous influence on their moral



development. **Teachers serve as role model** to students in school; they play a major role in inculcating their ethical behaviour.

At the same time, peers at school may also diffuse boldness about cheating, lying, stealing, and consideration for others. Though there are rules and regulations, the educational institutions infuse the value education to the children in an informal way. They play a major role in developing pro-social behaviour in children.

The most common steps which can be taken in educational institutions to inculcate values include:

Teaching Accountability

The children should be encouraged to be accountable for their own actions and should learn to respect and treat others kindly.

Playing Role model

The teachers are the first role model to the children outside their family. When the children sees the model showing concern for others, motivating them for their good deeds and cooperating and helpful with their academic issues, the children learn them by observing and imitate it with fellow peers.

Teaching Basic morals and values

The children are taught basic morals and values in school. They should be taught by emphasizing the idea through many activities, stories and tales, which will encourage them to engage in more helping behaviours.

Appreciation

The teacher should appreciate the children for developing pro-social behaviour, especially for any specific action they have done to help others.

For Children with weaker moral development

Children's ability to develop a relationship with peers is critical to their wellbeing. These children have difficulty in understanding social or nonverbal cues and they lack the ability to reason. The teachers play a role in helping these rejected children learn to listen to peers and "hear what they say" instead of trying to dominate peers.

Neglected children are helped to attract and hold their attention from peers. They are taught to ask questions, listen, and help them to establish interest groups or clubs where they integrate in a positive way.

Value Education through Schools

School is the basic stage in the process of socialisation and value education takes place at school level as the child is exposed to friends, teachers, syllabus and various extra-curricular activities.

Further, values cannot be taught like abstract subjects like history, science or math. However, they can be inculcated only through situations deliberately planned while teaching the subjects. For



example, National Movement can be taught in such a way that it leads to inculcate the values of patriotism, secularism, universal love and tolerance etc. Similarly, World History can help to inculcate values of Liberty, equality and fraternity {French Revolution}, Fundamental Rights and equality {American Revolution}; Science can help to inculcate values of scientific temper, appreciation towards laws of nature; Indian Civics can help to inculcate values of respect to constitution, respect for democracy, secularism, integrity and unity of the country, social, political and economic justice etc. Further, math can help in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity; Geography and environment can help to inculcate values of respect for other's culture, and world is one family {*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*}.

At the same time, teachings from the biographies of the great and noble leaders also inculcate the inspiring values among the students and people at large. For example, Mahatma Gandhi's insistence on truth, non-violence and satyagraha teaches the basic human values.

Last but not the least, the education about constitution, particularly preamble; fundamental rights and duties gives out what values should be fostered through education.

Various Values and their General Meaning

Here is a glossary of various values Some of the human values explained as follows:

Truth

Truth is that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality. Truth is independent of wish or will of persons and their opinions or desires. It is much harder to sustain a lie than to maintain the truth.

Appreciation

Taking a brief moment to say, "thank you," or acknowledging the exceptional job of someone who served us in a restaurant or workplace. This is not only encouraging for the beneficiary to hear; it also fills our soul with more appreciation too.

Belief in others

Belief in others can be a value as well as an attitude. It can be our resolve that can lift someone up when they are down. Belief is contagious – the more we believe in others; the more we will continue to believe in ourselves.

Caring

Caring for others, as well as self-care, allows us to extend a helping hand and to pass along some unexpected grace. When we take the time to demonstrate we care; we demonstrate the fact there are still plenty of good people left in this world.

Commitment

Commitment shows loyalty and it can show bravery and tenacity as well. A commitment is a promise made and an expectation we have created. Honouring our commitments can make the difference



between achieving what's most important to us or feeling disappointed and defeated.

Compassion

A deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering is compassion. No doubt we have different skin colors, religious preferences and political points-of-view, but at the end of the day, we still need to take care of one another.

Cooperation

Even the most complex tasks and assignments can be made simpler when we focus on the solutions – together.

Courtesy

Courtesy is a polite gesture. It can carry much lasting value.

Dedication

No matter how the circumstances may change, unless we are in a physically or emotionally abusive situation, we should stay the course and never give up. We would rather prefer to be called a failure than a loser. Losers give up when things become too difficult. Failures are folks who have just not found success. Failure implies that one has not stopped trying.

Devotion

Things can get unstable at times, but staying devoted to a cause or to a person through the uncertain times is our rock to grasp when our faith and our foundation is shaky.

Effort

No matter the outcome, there is always value in the effort when the effort is authentic and well-intended.

Forgiveness

The purpose of forgiveness is not to absolve someone of the sin(s) committed against us; but to free ourselves from the pain and the anger that is keeping us stuck. When we forgive, we are better able to let go of the past and keep moving forward with our life.

Friendship

Friends support us and they provide an unfiltered view of our actions when asked. Friends sustain us through difficult periods and join us for the events we celebrate.

Gratitude

It is with a grateful heart that helps me to see so much abundance in my life. My value of gratitude reminds me that what I have today can be taken away tomorrow.

Honesty

To live authentically; to live honesty, keeps our hearts and souls pure and our minds free of doubt or uncertainty. When we are honest, we know we are doing the right things.

Hope

Hope is the fuel that keeps us moving forward when we are the most tired. Hope reassures us that



sometimes it's not a matter of if but only when.

Integrity

What defines our character and our integrity is not measured by what happens to us; but rather by how we react and respond to what happens to us.

Listening

As a parent, one of the best gifts one can give his / her children is to listen; to really listen to what they are saying and to be fully present in the moment with them.

Love

The presence of love in our life, the love we have for our families, our friends, our faith and for ourselves, is the single most important source of light and energy we can tap into when we have the need to be filled-up; or when we see the need to fill someone else up with grace, hope and our love.

Optimism

When God hands you lemons, you make lemonade. The value of optimism is clear here – take what you have been given and make the best of it.

Patience

Patience is a value which can also improve productivity because it creates a better state of mind, a clearer state of mind, for better decision making.

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

Respect

We are all different, yet we are all the same in the sense we want to be respected for how we think and believe. When we show the proper respect we are not only validating the other person's dignity, we are also enhancing our own.

Tolerance

There are people who make us angry and we just can't seem to see eye-to-eye with an issue. Rather than showing contempt, tolerance is a better alternative. It shows respects, patience and courtesy – all important values in their own right, too.

Unity

There is indeed strength in numbers. Working together to solve a common problem ensures a greater chance of success. Making the effort to bring people together will always be more effective than finding ways to pull people apart.

Justice

The democratic political systems have embraced justice as one of the highest human values. It is based on fairness, where the equality of every individual before the law is fundamental. As such it is a social value in that it aims to resolve and reduce conflict, guided by the principles of care and non-violence. As such, justice is a major human value that embraces most aspects of social life. This value finds its explicit expression in the Constitution of India. The Constitution through the aspects of its Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties talks about economic, political and social



justice to all.

Dignity

In day-to-day inter-relationships, individuals are expected to behave in a dignified and honest manner with one another. This is another value that regulates the behaviour of individuals. Dignity is a relative term with regulatory nature; it prescribes the norms and ethical standards which need to be followed and adopted. This concept dictates that every one of us has to exercise due caution and care in our relations without undermining the capacities of other persons. Furthermore, it teaches us not to create a situation wherein others are made to undergo either emotional, psychological, physical, tense situations, or to harm their personality.

Since dignity plays a vital role, in regulating the human relations and for the furtherance of human rights, (especially, the basic rights of liberty, equality, and freedom), the UDHR has declared that all individuals are equal in the eye of law. All human beings deserve to be treated with utmost respect without harming the dignity of others at all times. If people across the world follow the ethical norm of dignity without any deviance, the realisation of right would be easy. This fundamental norm applies to individuals and states to follow with strict adherence.

Liberty, Freedom

Liberty is one of the most important values for human beings. Freedom cannot have any expression and meaning without liberty. The Constitution of India thus enlists this value in its Preamble: *Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship*. Liberty is an ancient concept, with its roots in political philosophy. A number of philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau among many others have articulated liberty in different contexts. In simple terms, liberty means that human beings are free to regulate their relations and are able to govern their relations, behave at their own will, and be responsible for their acts. According to Hobbes, every individual is empowered to enjoy their freedoms freely without an interference of any other person. In his social contract theory, he argued that the divine will of kings to regulate the relations and to restrict the freedoms of individuals is antithesis to liberty of individuals. The enlightenment of liberty by various political and legal philosophers, led to a number of political revolutions across the world. This in turn led to establish democratic societies on the basis of liberty of individuals to choose their leaders.

Equality

Equality proposes to bring all the people into one category, and apply the principles of law, and justice without any distinction, whatsoever it may be among the individuals. Equality is a relative concept which may be distinguished basing on a number of factors, and the enjoyment of rights on an equal footing. The aim of the UDHR and the Constitutions of the various countries, including India, is to treat all the people on an equal footing without any kind of discrimination. As the



Preamble to the Constitution of India states: *Equality of Status and opportunities*. The value of equality is also enshrined in the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties of the Constitution and its various provisions.

Further, we should also look at the Value Theory of Schwartz.

The values theory (**Schwartz**) defines **ten broad values** according to the motivation that underlies each of them.

Power

Power takes value from social status and prestige. The ability to control others is important and power will be actively sought through dominance of others and control over resources.

Achievement

Value in achievement comes from setting goals and then achieving them. The more challenge, the greater the sense of achievement. When others have achieved the same thing, status is reduced and greater goals are sought.

Hedonism

Hedonists simply enjoy themselves. They seek pleasure above all things and may, according to the view of others, sink into debauchery.

Stimulation

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies

The need for stimulation is close to hedonism, though the goal is slightly different. Pleasure here comes more specifically from excitement and thrills and a person with this driver is more likely to be found doing extreme sports than propping up a bar.

Self-direction

Those who seek self-direction enjoy being independent and outside the control of others. They prefer freedom and may have a particular creative or artistic bent, which they seek to indulge whenever possible.

Universalism

The Universalist seeks social justice and tolerance for all. They promote peace and equality and find war anathema except perhaps in pursuit of lasting peace.

Benevolence

Those who tend towards benevolence are very giving, seeking to help others and provide general welfare. They are the 'earth mothers' who nurture all.

Tradition

The traditionalist respects that which has gone before, doing things simply because they are customary. They are conservatives in the original sense, seeking to preserve the world order as is. Any change makes them uncomfortable.

Conformity



The person who values conformity seeks obedience to clear rules and structures. They gain a sense of control through doing what they are told and conforming to agreed laws and statutes.

Security

Those who seek security seek health and safety to a greater degree than other people (perhaps because of childhood woes). Though they may worry about the potential of military force, they welcome the comfort that their existence brings.

suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies



suraj_winner | rajawat.rs.surajsingh@gmail.com | www.gktoday.in/upsc/ias-general-studies