

General Knowledge Today



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Ethics and Integrity -9: [Exam Oriented] Ethical Issues Questions-2

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

Last Updated: August 19, 2016

Published by: GKTODAY.IN

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Minimum Qualification Criteria in elections and Ethics

1. "Governing a Panchayat requires the knowledge of the area, an understanding of people, having ethical values and being easily approachable." To what extent, you support the idea of fixing minimum educational standards for choosing panchayat representatives? Discuss.

Part IX-A of the Indian Constitution spells out entire provisions for constitution of Panchayats and its functions. They provide grassroot level democracy and are the closest to people. Democratic decentralisation can be totally achieved through the constitution of panchayats.

Recently, there had been issues with respect to prescribing educational standards for panchayat representatives as in the case of state of Rajasthan and Haryana.

However, in my opinion it is unfair to expect candidates at India's most basic grassroots- level of electoral politics to meet eligibility criteria when we don't expect it from those contesting elections to Parliament and the state assemblies.

Undoubtedly education is a desirable quality, but by imposing these conditions, the government is denying voters a choice. An uneducated person can also be honest and hard-working. The low levels of education in the rural areas especially amongst the women and backward classes would only lead to exclusion of this class of people from contesting elections. Educational qualification is no guarantee and has any relation for performance of duties with integrity. Such requirements only lead to further corruption such as forgery of educational certificates by the candidates to protect their political career.

Therefore, the solution should be to rather conduct personality development classes in villages and moral values must be imparted such as integrity, importance of ethics at work and honesty.

Digital Copyrights and Ethical Issues

2. What are the ethical considerations around digital copyrights? While taking various stakeholders in loop, critically examine if there is any public service angle also to digital copyrights. Give examples to support your answer.

Digital Copyrights is associated with digitized content (such as music or written works) published and/or distributed online over internet or other computerized communication networks.

There are new computer technologies for gathering, storing, manipulating, and communicating data which are revolutionizing the use and spread of information. However, they are also creating ethical dilemmas.

Electronic systems now reach into all levels of government, into the workplace, and into private lives to such an extent that even people without access to these systems are affected in significant ways by them. Therefore, new ethical and legal decisions are necessary to balance the needs and rights of everyone.



Items of information, which in the 'old' economy had little or no economic value, such as factual data, personal data, genetic information and pure ideas, have acquired independent economic value in the current information age, and consequently become the object of property rights making the information a tradable commodity. 'Commodification of information', is occurring on a large scale and therefore there is the need for digital copyrights.

Network's Globalization and Ethics

3. **What have been the ethical fall outs of the democratization of informatics access and the network's globalization? Discuss.**

The "information revolution" has altered many aspects of life significantly such as commerce, employment, medicine, security, transportation, entertainment, etc. Consequently, information and communication technology (ICT) has affected – in both good ways and bad ways – community life, family life, human relationships, education, careers, freedom, and democracy. Information is the power of a progressive society. Without availability of information, people cannot interact with the world around them. Informed citizens can judge what is correct and what is not.

However, there are certain perils of democratization of information access and networks globalisation. There is the possibility that people will use information to harm others. Anyone can open up a website tutorial about how to make a bomb. The other greatest peril being is losing ourselves because of too much information. We are losing ourselves to this technology addiction. Lastly, the Internet has many flaws in accurate and reliable information. You can literally search for any topic online and the information is not necessarily accurate.

To conclude, democratization of information can help people around the world. Education will be easier to access. Human rights will be protected since information will be easily transmitted and received. Internet is the easiest way to share information but there are cons attached to it as well which must be borne in mind.

Ethical Ramifications of GPS and Geolocation

4. **"In recent times, discourse around GPS tracking devices and geolocation technologies and this contemporary technology's ethical ramifications on privacy is growing." Analyze the issue from an ethical viewpoint.**

In the modern society, GPS tracking is becoming more and more common. It can be found in many areas of our lives, such as cell phones and cars. GPS is a powerful tool.

There are three areas where GPS creates ethical issues:

- **Privacy-** The data that a user's GPS device receives is transmitted through satellites which store location data on physical databases on earth. This data shows the current location of a user, and their history of locations. Law enforcement is then able to a GPS to track an



individual's whereabouts without them knowing.

- **Accessibility**- A consumer who uses a GPS product only interacts with the device, however the databases the store data are not owned by the user. Therefore it creates an issue as to who owns the location data, and who has access to it.
- **Risk**- The most common application of GPS is used in automobiles for navigation. A GPS device does require human interaction in order to function properly. There is a risk presented when a driver puts his/her attention to the programming of the GPS instead of the road. A driver also needs to look at the GPS display to know when and where to turn and at this time the driver is oblivious to the cars and world outside the vehicle.

A Global Positioning System (GPS) has many different functions, such as tracking criminals and parolees, watching spouse who may be cheating, tracking children and teens, employers watching over employees, spying strangers etc.

GPS tracking is a double edge sword. It can be a valuable asset when it is used to maximise the general welfare of the society. However, many people choose to use it for their own selfish means. In my opinion, we can use GPS tracking, but only for emergency cases.

Ethics Around GMOs

5. Discuss the ethical issues around Genetically modified organisms. Do you see any conflict of law and ethics in the case of GMOs? Discuss.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs), are organisms in which genes from another organism are inserted into the targeted organism's DNA, have the potential to both positively and negatively affect the environment and human health.

There are a number of ethical concerns over genetically modified (GM) foods and these have all affected public support of the products. Concerns largely range from the environment to risks to our food web or issues concerning disease, allergies and contamination.

A key ethical concern about GM foods is their potential to trigger allergies or disease in humans. Disease is a major health worry with regards to GM foods.

Damage to the environment is another ethical fear with regards to GM crops. Unfortunately, the technology is still new enough that there is much we do not know about the effect of GM crop production on the environment.

There is a conflict between law and ethics with respect to GMOs. Law approves for manufacture of GM crops and therefore there are companies which produce such modified products. However, from an ethical perspective, this is not the way out as it harms the environment and is risky to human health.



Technoethics

6. What do you understand by Technoethics? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one issue from the viewpoint of technoethical ethics.

Technoethics (TE) is an interdisciplinary research area that draws on theories and methods from multiple knowledge domains (such as communications, social sciences information studies, technology studies, applied ethics, and philosophy) to provide insights on ethical dimensions of technological systems and practices for advancing a technological society.

Technoethics views technology and ethics as socially embedded enterprises and focuses on discovering the ethical use of technology, protecting against the misuse of technology, and devising common principles to guide new advances in technological development and application to benefit society. Technoethics denotes a broad range of ethical issues revolving around technology – from specific areas of focus affecting professionals working with technology to broader social, ethical, and legal issues concerning the role of technology in society and everyday life.

Technology is a means for developing or maintaining the economy, which in turn is, or should be, at the service of society at large. Everything in the world today is technologically driven. However, it is very important to maintain ethics in technology that maximum good is met out to the public without any spillovers in negative terms.

Ethical Management versus Management of Ethics

7. Differentiate between Ethical management and Management of ethics. How this difference matters to you as a public servant?

Ethics Management is a managerial function to regulate the conduct or behaviour of the employees from top to bottom through written code or unwritten code. Ethics Management is a managerial tool to enforce integrity of employees through a set of codified rules and regulations and in the grey areas where such codified rules and regulations are absent, the company or the government has to follow reasonable ethical standards or well-founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do. Whereas Management of ethics implies being ethical in your day-to-day life.

As a public servant, both these axioms of ethical management and management of ethics holds great importance. It is very important for a public servant to be ethical in his day to day life as s/he is holding a dignified position and can act as a role model for subordinate employees. Public Servants have an obligation to the Community. They are responsible for managing resources entrusted to them by the community. They provide and deliver services to the community. Lastly, they take important decisions that affect all aspects of the community life.



The Patriotism Debate and Ethics

8. Many opine that every Indian must have right to critique his / her country. Keeping in focus the recent debate on patriotism; critically present your views around the same.

Freedom of speech and expression has been explicitly spelt out as a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (a). Therefore, to form an opinion to the extent of criticism of even one's own country is no bad. However, it must just not be to that extent that it causes unrest and disorder in the society.

Going by the standard dictionary definition of patriotism, it reads as "love of one's country." This in my opinion is a very vague definition. An individual may definitely love his/her country but at the same time may be critical of certain issue or thing prevailing in his country such as poverty, illiteracy, safety issues with respect to women, politicians, etc.

However, one must understand that when one criticizes the country, the country is not a 'person' who does something right or something wrong. It is the people (your countrymen), who are doing the right and wrong things and not the country. For example, when you say that India is 'corrupt' or 'intolerant', it is absolutely wrong. The fact is that some people 'who happens to be Indians' are corrupt or intolerant.

Hence, any sort of criticism must be a constructive criticism and must not be able to draw a stereotype of the nation.

Faith versus Belief versus Religion

9. Differentiate between faith, belief and religion. What role can they play in Public Service Delivery?

Belief is an opinion or judgement in which a person is fully persuaded. Beliefs are things that we are thoroughly convinced of. Beliefs are ideas, concepts that we gather through acquiring information and experience. Because of that, our beliefs can change over time as we gain more knowledge and experience throughout our lives.

On the other hand, Faith is Belief + Action + Confidence. Faith includes our beliefs. Broadly speaking, faith is the internal emotion.

With respect to religion, religion is the external expression or observance, especially if it follows a specific structure. A person may have faith, but not be religious. This might be someone who believes but chooses not to attend worship services. At the same time, a person may be religious but not have faith. This is someone who follows the ritual and observances of their religion but doesn't deeply believe.

In public service delivery, religion should not be holding any criterion for delivery of services. People have faith and hold a belief in the system which takes care of public service delivery. This faith and belief must not be tarnished by the holders of public office which public bestows on them.



Media Ethics: Need of a News Ombudsman

10. Do you think that India needs a news ombudsmen to help create ethical and responsible news organisations? Discuss.

An ombudsman is someone who handles complaints and attempts to find satisfactory solutions to it. They can be founded in universities, government, hospitals, corporates, etc.

India lacks any sort of news ombudsman. And in my opinion, it is very important for India to have one due to the number of newspapers, radio channels and news channels which are flourishing in India.

It is necessary to have a news ombudsman due to the following reasons:

- To improve the quality of news reporting by monitoring accuracy, fairness and balance.
- To help his or her news provider to become more accessible and accountable to readers or audience members and, thus, to become more credible.
- To increase the awareness of its news professionals about the public's concerns.
- To save time for publishers and senior editors, or broadcasters and news directors, by channelling complaints and other inquiries to one responsible individual.
- To resolve some complaints that might otherwise be sent to attorneys and become costly lawsuit

Eminent Personality of my choice

11. Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.

Swami Vivekananda is the eminent personality who inspires me the most. One of his eminent idea which stands out is doing good to others. The guiding motive of mankind should be charity towards men and all animals. His other teachings include strength and manliness are virtue; weakness and cowardice are sin. Independence is virtue; dependence is sin. Loving others is virtue; hating others is sin. Faith in god and ones own self is virtue; doubt is sin.

Swami Vivekananda is one of the best thinkers of his times and all his idea hold relevance even today. If one is able to observe his ideas with full faith, one can definitely achieve success and peace in life.

I have been very aptly been able to apply his ideals in my day to day life and have been able to experience bliss. His idea about charity to mankind is one ideal which I have adopted in my life. As humans we are greedy and never satisfied with what we have. We want more and more. I would like to quote Gandhiji's thought here, "there is enough to satisfy man's needs but not man's greed". We can never be accomplished in life as our wants will keep multiplying. But since I built in the habit of



doing charity, I have become more of a satisfied individual and been able to live peacefully.

Criteria to Judge Human Actions

12. What are the principal ethical standards used to assess whether human actions are right or wrong?

The primary focus of ethics is on human actions in different situations. They are thus concerned with deliberate actions of humans and not the ones which are taken up in ignorance. Thus, as per philosophy the distinction is made on the following basis:

- Actus humanus (deliberate human action)
- Actus hominis (undeliberate human action)

Human actions are measured by the following scales and criteria:

- Knowledge: It is essential to every action taken by humans. The extent and depth of knowledge varies in every situation.
- Presence of voluntariness: The presence of 'human will' is essential for the correct performance of human actions.
- Freedom of action: This refers to presence of choices with humans.

All three are important for any action to be deemed as human and be eligible for being examined ethically. In addition, there are other factors which make qualify various actions as being human like some intense emotions like passion, fear, violence, habit etc.

Laws and Rules as Determinants of Ethics

13. Critically examine the role of law and rules as determinants of ethical behaviour.

Ethics maybe defined as principles which should govern the behaviour of an individual in a civilised society but there are many legal aspects too which define the same and also help monitor the extent of compliance. Constitution is the supreme and fundamental law of a nation. The document is the reference for the elementary ethos of a nation which are also known as the Constitutional values. Latter have been briefly delineated in both the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy. However, law has well-spread connotations and associations in ethics. Law is said to impose an obligation on people by making people act in a manner and prohibiting them from acting in other way. Thus, it is highly important for any law to be for common good and reasonable. Furthermore, it should lie between possible limits of physical and psychological domain. Usually this moral law is the outcome of centuries of philosophical and ethical speculation. Advantages and disadvantages should be equitably allocated amongst all members of society. E.g. the Code of Hammurabi, was one of the earliest law codes developed had made bribery a crime in the then society of Babylon during the 18th century BC. Many ancient societies share same ethical codes against common vices like murder,



injury to anyone, even attacks on honour and reputation of an individual etc.

Country / Culture and Ethics

14. What is the influence of country / culture on ethical behaviour of any individual? Discuss.

Both these factors have lasting influence on ethical behaviour of any individual. They form the basis for many choices they make in everyday lives and also in special situations. The norms which define these are different for different countries. E.g. calling seniors by first name maybe considered normal in American culture, it is seen as a rude gesture in Indian ethos. Some factors determine these primarily. These are: social norms, religious beliefs, general upbringing, etc. All these may sound trivial but have marked influence on ethical behaviour of individuals. Social norms even differ within different parts of the same country especially in a nation like India. Likewise, children who are brought up in loving and non-abusive households tend to exhibit more socially acceptable behaviour. Likewise, different organizations have some specific codes of conduct which are essential for smooth running of the same. All these have to be abided by all employees religiously.

Consequential Approach Review

15. Elucidate the consequential approach of ethics in human actions while throwing light upon its importance.

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Consequences are the effects which are caused by an action and the intensity of these consequences are based on the amount of goodness of action. Various moral conjectures upon which the consequences are based on are:

- **Utilitarianism:** Any action is said to be right when it is done to maximise welfare for larger number of people in the universe.
- **Hedonism:** All individuals should always work to bring maximum pleasure which is completely devoid of any suffering or pain.
- **Egoism:** It is an idea which strives to bring maximum benefit to self as against others. It also implies that the good can be detrimental to others.
- **Asceticism:** It aims to shun all egoistic pleasures for larger spiritual goals in life.
- **Altruism:** It means an absolute self-less existence in which one lives and works for the welfare of others without any personal goals.

The consequences of ethical behaviour enumerate the link between various factors like ethical philosophy, ethical decision ideology, decision history, individual factors, organizational factors, external environmental factors etc. which help in understanding the steps involved in decision making. It gives direction as to how the behaviour can be controlled.



Absolutism and Relativism

16. How absolutism and relativism are different from each other? Why the relativistic approach became highly attractive to the general populace.

As per Immanuel Kant the moral absolutism stands for no ethical issues can be seen relative to any individual's circumstances but are clear in their implications. Likewise, cultural absolutism stands for the idea that all universal truths about morality are applicable at all times and in all circumstances. Thus, absolutism stands for the ideology that anyone who believes in ethical standards should be able to take a clear stand on moral issues irrespective of the religious or cultural connotations.

Relativism on the other hand, believes in the fact that ethics and morality are relative terms and keep varying with culture, time and circumstances. Many factors help determine the ethical extent of situations like personal conviction, cultural characteristics, opinion of the majority, religious beliefs and rituals, scientific theories etc. All these keep varying with time, place and culture so therefore it is impossible to define a clear protocol for ethical actions and conduct.

As per Ryan Dobson, in his book, "*Be Intolerant*", relativism took birth as people were out-rightly rejecting the absolute morals practiced during the enlightenment period of 1700s. It came to be believed that Orthodox Church had been sticking to very rigid principles and intolerant beliefs. People were thus looking for a way to be able to grasp common traditions, values, and experiences to thus develop a relative view on morals. It was the sensitivity of relativistic approach which made it highly attractive to the general populace.

Ethical Egoism

17. Elucidate the meaning of term "ethical egoism".

Ethical egoism stands for the thought that everyone should satisfy his/her own best interests or welfare. Thus, every individual has a goal of his or her own and it is the diversity of these goals which may invite conflict. Latter is however, not an objection to the egoism. Egoism is quite a consistent theory as compared to other competing theories. There are three basic versions of egoism: hedonistic egoism, preferentialist egoism and perfectionist egoism. Although, there have been objections raised against egoism, egoism suggests that one should not be moved by far-reaching consequences and should not make any interpersonal comparisons of welfare. It is only the welfare of the agent which finally counts. However, egoism too makes strict demands on the agent as it suggests that one makes a grave moral mistake when one does not work to maximise his own best interests. This means that it is wrong when one sacrifices future pleasures for inferior present ones.

Contractualism in Ethics

18. What do you understand by Contractualism in Ethics? How it helps in moral reasoning?



Timothy Scanlon is a well-known contractualist and he believes that Contractualism is a unique account of moral reasoning. Contractualism says that an act is considered wrong if its performance under any kind of circumstances is disallowed by any set of principles for general behaviour regulation.

Contractualism as per Scanlon is also concerned with the justifiable reasons and forms of reasoning. Scanlon's version thus offers both the authority of moral standards and the constituents of rightness and wrongness in any act. It seeks to enumerate the fact that distinct value of humans rests in the capacity of human beings to assess reasons and justifications. Thus, appreciating the importance of any person involves recognising her capacity to appreciate and act on reasons. The basic way to do the same is to treat the person as per the principles they cannot reject reasonably.

Socialisation: Meaning and Agents

19. What do you understand by socialisation? What are agents of socialisation? Discuss the key aspects of socialisation.

Socialisation is the preparation of newcomers to become members of a group and to be able to act in ways the group considers right and appropriate. It is thus the means by which cultural continuity is attained. Socialisation which was initially seen as civilisation later started to be considered as internalisation which meant imbibing social norms, roles and values on one's mind. It was Talcott Parsons who used the term 'internalisation', for the tendency of people to accept specific norms and values and conform to them in their conduct. Many sociologists have outrightly rejected Parson's views about the same and have put forth interpretive perspective of socialisation. Both the views are complete in some aspects and incomplete in others. It was Wentworth who gave a combined view which clarifies that socialisation occurs in families, schools, groups, sports teams, organizations and societies.

Agents of socialisation

There are many groups which come in contact with an individual during his or her lifetime. All these act as agents of socialisation. Thus, socialisation is seen as a lifelong process and has involvements of many agents like:

- **Primary socialisation:** This is the fundamental socialisation which takes place between a child and group of persons with whom the former has intimate contact. It generally happens in the childhood and involves child and the family as the peer group.
- **Secondary socialisation:** This happens in formal situations which are not personal. Some of the most powerful agents of this are school, mass media, workplace and society. It is also referred to as adult socialisation as an individual discards old ways for new ideas, attitudes, perceptions, priorities and objectives.



- **Anticipatory socialisation:** This happens when an individual tends to anticipate some future roles.

There are three major aspects of socialisation:

- **The context in which it occurs:** This mainly refers to the biological, psychological and social contexts.
- **Biological Context:** Many biological features are suggested sources of human behaviour. There is huge potential in the subject to determine general tendencies to seek social interaction and use language. However, it does not determine the specific form which the development takes.
- **Psychological Context:** The prime factor in psychological context is the psychological state of the person which is being socialised. The states which are included are fear, anger, grief, love and happiness. However, strong feelings of any of these emotions will either inhibit or promote socialisation of a particular kind. Likewise, there is great emphasis laid on the series of various stages through which human beings progress. The cognitive development occurs in a systematic and universal sequence through a series of stages.
- **Social Context:** Many social and historical events are highly instrumental in socialising an entire generation. The ancient, medieval and modern history of India has had great impacts on the socialisation of all individuals of the country.
- The actual content and processes used in socialisation.
- The outcomes of these contexts and processes.

Ethics and Encounters

20. Do you justify the encounter killings of terrorists and naxalites?

Encounters are said to killing of the accused or suspects when the latter are not in custody by the armed forces of the country as an act of self-defence. However, the truth of the matter lies in the fact that all the evidence is planted and in essence these encounters are cold extrajudicial killings of unarmed men who are presumably guilty by the police or other armed personnel without any due process of law. The case of self-defence is a hoax as there is no exchange of fire. They are not authorised by the judiciary and are challenged by the National Human Rights Commission.

Encounters can be ethical only in few circumstances like:

- Self-defence by the armed forces
- Potent threat to national security
- Potential loss to state

Encounters in other situations are planted and completely unethical:



- Fake encounter killings to save the hassles of establishing links between the suspect and terrorist outfits.
- To settle personal rivalries or old scores

Encounters have to be taken seriously. Supreme Court of India has also taken a serious stance on the same and has issued some mandates like FIR must be registered, an independent inquiry should be conducted in all the cases of police shooting and also the concerned officer should not get promotion till the encounter is proven genuine. Indian Constitution guarantees Right to Life to all and does not approve of such non-judicial killings. Every accused person has the right to free trial, fair trial and a chance to reform. Grave injustice is done if someone who is the sole bread-winner of the family is killed in such a manner without any explicable cause.

Leadership qualities

21. Why having good leadership qualities are imperative for public servants? What are the qualities of a good leader? Discuss.

Leadership is essential to attain the desired public service objectives. It is the key for effective governance. As a public servant, one is usually involved in policy formulation and implementation. Only a good leader can foresee that success of any policy rests not only on its own advantages but also on the way it is conceptualised, articulated and delivered. Implementation plays the deciding factor in making and breaking of any policy. In any public organisation, leadership serves as the critical link between organisational effectiveness and people performance. However, there is no defined framework for public leadership. Good and sound judgment by the policy-makers has no parallel and can be matched by every leadership style. There are four possible ways of leading by the government. These are:

- **Leading from front:** Government sets the directions via policies which are prescriptive. The government is the primary provider of all the needs of the people.
- **Leading from side:** Government works in tandem and in active collaboration with the stakeholders. Decisions are consensual and taken after continuous engagement. E.g. the PPP model which has given successful results in many ventures.
- **Leading from behind:** Government provides a strong backing to all the steps taken by public and private sectors. Government supports the initiatives taken by people by reducing the legal hurdles and providing a strong infrastructural support. E.g. the Start-up India campaign recently launched by the government to encourage people to come forward and start up their own ventures.
- **Leading from within:** This is achieved when there is strong and reinforced communication



from the government which gets reinforced in the minds of the masses. The common citizens become people advocates to make the governmental vision a reality. E.g. the Swachh Bharat mission has been correctly internalised by the masses and people have become aware of keeping the surroundings clean.

A good leader often exhibits the following qualities:

- He or she leads by example i.e. does not merely believe in empty rhetoric.
- They try to bring out the best in their employees and people. They have the capacity to motivate and channelize the energies of the youth in the right direction.
- Other essential qualities include-objectivity, integrity, vision, perseverance, tolerance and compassion etc.

Ethical Committees of Parliament

22. What led both the houses of parliament to set up their ethics committees? While comparing their functions, discuss to what extent they have been successful in carrying out their mandate.

The unruly behaviour of our legislators in the Parliament has warranted the creation of special Committee on ethics to formulate, enforce and even oversee the ethical conduct of the members. The Committee was first created in Rajya Sabha in 1997, followed by Lok Sabha in 2000. The latter got the status of Permanent Standing Committee in 2015. The primary functions of these Committees are:

- To form a Code of Conduct for all the members and also amend the same regularly.
- To monitor conduct of the members on ethical basis
- To look into the cases which are referred to it. The cases usually pertain to breach of the Code. The cases also concern allegations of members on each other.
- It also gives advice to members on matters of common ethical interests.

Recent years have seen a growing emphasis on division of the private and public interests of the MPs. This involves the primary obligation of MPs to reveal their 'personal financial interest' in the Parliament. This information will be made public under the 'Registers of members' interests'. The Committee has varied rules in both Houses especially in matter of declaration of financial interests of members.



Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee	Lok Sabha Ethics Committee
It maintains a 'Register of Members' Interest' in which the MPs are obligated to declare their interests under 5 categories, namely: i. Remunerative Directorship ii. Remunerative Activity iii. Majority Shareholding iv. Paid Consultancy v. Professional Engagement	The Upper House does not maintain such a registry and the MPs are only required to disclose their assets and liabilities.
The Committee takes up complaints and other issues <u>suo motu</u>	The Committee only acts on complaints made by any other MP or public.
The Registry is not freely available on website but can be accessed by RTI	Not applicable

The other democracies in the world have very elaborate committees with more vast and active role.

Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Maintenance of 'Register of Interests'.
- Inquiry and action into all complaints of misconduct
- Investigation and adjudication follows two models: self-regulation and hybrid. In former model, there are no external inputs. All investigation and adjudication functions are carried by Parliamentary Committees. While in hybrid model, external bodies are involved like Commissioners in UK, Australia and Canada or Office of Congressional Ethics in USA etc.

Despite the broadly outlined role, the Committee has not delivered effectively. There have been increasing incidences of ethical irregularities by the honourable members of the Parliament. It has been reduced to the state of a toothless tiger. As per global standards, major shortcomings on part of the Committee are:

- There is no mandate on MPs to maintain register of financial interest.
- All the potential causes of conflict are hidden from public eye and get influenced by legislation and policy.
- Even the Register of Interest of Rajya Sabha includes only 5 categories as against 10 done globally.
- No list of enquiries or complaints is maintained by Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha thus there is



bad data management ability.

Until these shortcomings are overcome and the committee becomes active and take up cases *suo motu*, there will always be questions on its authenticity.

Social Values versus Economic Values

23. “Social values are more important than economic values.” Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (150 words)

Inclusive growth refers to the economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity both in monetary and non-monetary terms. It is multidimensional.

–OECD

Although Indian economy has managed to stay afloat when world economic outlook is grim, it has not scored well in terms of social indicators. There are glaring gaps in our social indices even in comparison to countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan etc. Even Sri Lanka which has been mired in years of civil war is the best performer in terms of human development in South Asia. Even Bhutan has performed well in terms of many parameters of human development. This proves the laxity in attitudes of our successive governments to address the social developmental indicators. Economic progress is incomplete if living standard of the masses is not improved and people have to deal with inadequate social facilities like sanitation, healthcare, housing, education, respect for rights of all etc. All these are defined by the importance a government places on social values in addition to economic values. Every great leader has stressed the empowerment of masses. Any nation which believes social values should precede economic values will be able to truly utilise the potential of the masses. This will mean inclusive growth in real sense. {This question was asked in exam}

Truthfulness

24. What is the importance of truthfulness in personal and professional life? Discuss.

It takes great courage to stand up for truth as it has the power to set one free. It comes loaded with problems but all fade with time. Facts cannot perish even if they are ignored or hidden. Thus, one who hasn't been able to truthfully state his own wrong-doing, will not be able to pick them in others with confidence. Truthfulness in deed and purpose both on personal and professional fronts gives courage to face any challenge.

- Personal Life: The nation is facing many issues which are huge but have to be tackled on personal levels by the citizens. E.g. saving water, saving electricity, cleanliness, building toilets etc. All these have to be taken care at personal level to make a difference at national scale. If one is not doing his/her duty as a citizen and is not taking onus for one's actions, he/she cannot point fingers at others. It also implies that if one has made a mistake one should be



honest enough to admit it. This will not only send a positive message to the people who matter but also raise one's stature as a person of integrity.

- **Professional Life:** The professional duty demands honesty, integrity and dedication for the common purpose of larger good of the nation. However, there are still incidences where professionals indulge in malpractices for making monetary and other gains. Such individuals who themselves are not able to truthfully abide by their duty cannot point fingers at others for doing so.

Thus, the true meaning of the quote is enumerated by the fact that there is no greater power than truth as there is nothing which can keep it hidden for long.

Fair Selection; then why corruption?

25. Despite of a transparent selection process, some civil servants tend to corrupt when they are in service. In your view, what are the reasons for the same? Discuss.

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.-Sir John Acton

Most civil servants begin their career with strong commitments towards the nation and its citizens. They are put through a strenuous and grinding selection process which is meant to shape them as responsible citizens of the nation. However, corruption is very deeply rooted in our system and it requires a very strong will to not get carried away by the allure of power. The primary causes why officers get distracted from their basic goals are as follows:

- **Over-ambitiousness:** This is the main cause why young and intelligent officers get distracted and indulge in acts which stand in contrast to the values and ethos of the nation. The rapid growth of the private sector has attracted huge salaries which is a big turn-off for the public sector employees. This usually pushes many officers to indulge in acts of corruption.
- **Pretence of honesty:** It is seen that not all officers are honest and just. Some have just crossed the exam, training and initial years of service under pretence of honesty just to remain in good books of the seniors. As old habits die hard, so an instant transformation of a person after an exam is not possible. These officers are usually seen to get swayed by money or other incentives in return for some work.
- **Pressure from seniors:** It is seen that the whole political system in India is corrupt to different extents. At times, young honest officers indulge in corruption due to mounting pressure from their corrupt political masters. They are forced to do so to keep their job, appraisal and posting intact.



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