

Ethics_JG Class 04

8th July, 2024 at 1:00 PM

[1:11 PM] Continuation of Ethical Values:

- **Integrity:**
- **Moral Integrity:**
- It refers to the quality of being honest and having strong ethical principles and constantly adhering to them.
- It's doing the right thing even when no one is watching and maintaining one's moral values irrespective of the situation.
- **Examples, are Edward Snowden and Satyendra Dube.**
- **Intellectual Integrity:**
- It is a commitment to truth and the pursuit of knowledge ensuring that one's beliefs and statements are based on evidence and reason.
- A person with intellectual integrity should be willing to consider new evidence and change one's beliefs accordingly.
- In other words, applying rigorous standards of reasoning (critical thinking) and logic to one's views and opinions.
- **The difference with respect to the scope of Intellectual Integrity and Moral Integrity:**
- Moral Integrity focuses on ethical behavior and moral principles whereas Intellectual Integrity focuses on the pursuit of truth.
- MI applies to all areas of life whereas Intellectual Integrity primarily applies to academic and intellectual pursuits
- **For example**, an officer refusing to engage in corruption despite the pressure from peers and superiors **shows moral integrity**.
- **Intellectual integrity** - a scientist who objectively presents evidence about his/her research and informs the world about the shortcomings in the same. He/she would not let personal biases in his/her research.
- **[1:39 PM] Importance of Integrity for Civil Services:**
- Civil servants with Intellectual integrity **would be aware of the ground reality and would learn from his/her mistakes** and not live under false presumptions.
- A civil servant can **address the stereotypes and preconceived notions** that may cloud his/her thinking.
- Civil servants need to be **just and fair in their public dealings** which can only be ensured by adhering to integrity.
- Civil servants committed to integrity are **less likely to engage in corrupt behavior**.
- It would help in **building greater credibility for the govt.** in the eyes of the people.
- Civil Servants are **role models for society** and without integrity, they would not enjoy the respect of others.
- It would help them **prioritize the public welfare/good** over personal interest.
- Policies would be aligned with long-term sustainable goals rather than short-sighted gains.
- Civil servants with integrity are **more likely to own or take responsibility for their actions**.
- An environment of integrity would lead to more efficient and effective administration.
- **[1:49 PM] The definition of Integrity as per 2nd ARC:**
- Civil servants should be guided solely by the public interest in their official decision-making and not by any other financial or other consideration either for themselves, their families, or their friends.
- They must be responsible for their duties and obligations and try to make optimum utilization of public money, deal impartially with the public, comply with laws, and show transparency in their actions.

- **Inculcating Integrity:**

- **1. Education and Training:**

- Assigning mentors to young civil servants so that they can learn to deal with adverse situations with utmost integrity.
- The curriculum of training academies should be revised to include a significant amount of course material on ethical dilemmas and decision-making.
- Using real-life case studies of exemplary civil servants to illustrate the importance of integrity.

- **2. Institutional Refors:**

- Enacting public service code as recommended by the 2nd ARC to outline acceptable and unacceptable behavior.
- Introducing various transparency measures for recruitment, promotions, and transfers.
- Implementing robust RTI mechanisms to ensure greater transparency in govt functioning.

- **3. Recognition and Reward Mechanism:**

- Providing awards and incentives for honest civil servants and ones who exhibit outstanding integrity.
- Highlighting and publicizing success stories of integrity to create a positive example for others.

- **4. Accountability:**

- Ensuring strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws.
- Swift action should be taken against unethical behavior.
- Confiscation of disproportionate assets from civil servants found guilty of corrupt activities.

[2:12 PM] Anonymity:

- Civil services should work from behind the scenes and stay away from the limelight.
- Civil services should understand the differentiation between the permanent and the political executive.
- Since the political executive is accountable to the people they should be the ones gathering the attention and not the civil services.
- Civil services are meant to be a tool for the political executive to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

- **Importance of Anonymity:**

- It allows the civil servants to work without fear and favor.
- It avoids unnecessary scrutiny of personalities and focuses on institutions.
- It inhibits populist thinking.
- Prevents victimization of individuals after the change of the govt.
- Insulates civil servants from the lure of money and power.

[2:34 PM] Corruption and Related Issues:

- World Bank defines corruption as abuse of public funds or public office for private gains.
- According to the **Prevention of Corruption Act 1988**, no specific definition of corruption has been provided but **certain activities are termed corrupt such as -**
 - 1. Acceptance of illegal gratification as a motive for doing or not doing an official act.
 - 2. Obtaining a valuable thing without consideration.
 - 3. Favoring or disfavoring a person without consideration of merit.
 - 4. Obtaining resources or property disproportionate to income.
 - 5. Obtaining a monetary advantage from a person without serving any public interest.
- According to the above law, the focus is largely on gratification and pecuniary advantage.
- However, **there is a range of activities that are detrimental** to the public interest which need to be included as corrupt acts under this law.
 - 1. Use and abuse of confidential information for private purposes.
 - 2. Favours the relatives and friends in awarding the contracts.
 - 3. Accepting outside employment while working in the civil services.
 - 4. Wasting public money by spending exorbitantly for private purposes.
 - 5. Gross perversion of constitutional provisions and democratic values.
 - 6. Interference in decision-making to secure positions and promotions for one's supporters.
 - 7. Manipulation in purchase of machinery, property, equipment, etc.
 - 8. Protecting the incompetence of the subordinates due to favoritism.
- **"Corruption is akin to cancer, how a cancer cell spreads and destroys the entire body, corruption destroys the society".**
- **"Corruption is more like AIDS, as it weakens the immune system".**
- **"People's indifference is the best breeding ground for the corruption to grow".**
- **"Corruption is the enemy of development and of good governance".**
- **"If a country is to be corruption-free, three key societal members have to make a difference, the father, the mother, and the teacher",**

[3:27 PM] Factors responsible for Corruption in India:

- **A. Historical Factors:**
- The British Administrative system was excessively corrupt and its legacy continues to have an effect on the operating system in India
- **B. Societal Factors:**
- Corruption has become an acceptable phenomenon with no resistance.
- Breakdown of family and societal values.
- Prevalent economic inequality in the society is also given as a justification for the corruption.
- Increased emphasis on materialism in society has led to an overall decline in morals and ethical standards.
- Ethics have been severely compromised in the field of education for example, copying in examinations has become a standard practice.
- **C. Institutional Factors:**
- The concentration of vast discretionary powers in the hands of the state is a legacy of the license raj era.
- Civil Servants often carry a low image of themselves and therefore make peace with corrupt behavior as it suits their self-image.
- Honest civil servants are often served with adverse consequences, therefore demoralizing them significantly.
- Government procedures are extremely complicated, therefore making it difficult to avail the govt services, as a result, citizens try to find easy ways to get around the system.
- Corruption is a low-risk and high-reward activity, primarily due to an **ineffective criminal justice system**.
- **D. Political factors:**
- The increased role of money and muscle power in elections.
- Politics has become a business and politicians try to recover the money spent on elections after assuming power.
- Retaining power has become the most important factor in politics and political parties do not refrain from indulging in horse trading for the same.
- Q. What do you understand by collusive and coercive corruption? Which of the two is more harmful to the society and the economy?

- **Effects of Corruption:**
- **A. Economic Impact of Corruption:**
- Tax collection suffers
- Discourages foreign investment since the ease of doing business is directly affected as a result of corruption.
- Crony capitalism distorts the level playing field and adversely affects small businesses.
- Low compliance with regulations therefore reducing the quality of govt services and infrastructure.
- **B. Societal Effects of Corruption:**
- Drains the society of moral, ethical, and mental energy including the willpower of the honest to stand up against the wrongs in society.
- Destroys social capital and people end up becoming more distrustful of each other.
- Welfare schemes and programs suffer and benefits do not reach the intended beneficiaries.
- **C. Effects on National Security:**
- Terrorism and extremism get legitimacy in the eyes of the people.
- Leads to various security problems such as terrorist attacks.
- Delegitimizes the authority of the state.
- **D. Effects on Politics:**
- Promotes the criminalization of politics as well as increases the role of money and muscle power in the elections.
- Leads to the erosion of faith in institutions of democracy.
- **E. Effect on Administration:**
- Establishes a vicious cycle of secrecy and corruption
- Reduces the accountability of the govt officials to the citizens
- Loss of credibility for the administration
- Public administration becomes inefficient and ineffective resulting in the diversion of funds meant for the poor and the marginalized.

Next Class Topics - Ways to Tackle Corruption