

Ethics_JG Class 01

5th July, 2024 at 1:00 PM

ETHICS IN GOVERNANCE (1:11 PM)

- **Topics to be taken:**
- i. Foundational values of civil services.
- ii. Code of conduct and code of ethics.
- iii. Corruption and associated issues.
- iv. Utilization of public funds.
- v. Public service delivery in India.
- vi. Corporate governance.
- vii. Ethics in International Relations.
- viii. Various dimensions of ethical governance.
- ix. Work Culture.

Sources (1:35 PM)

- i. PYQs (2013 onwards).
- ii. Topper copies.
- iii. Value Added Material of VisionIAS.
- iv. 2nd ARC report on Ethics in Governance.
- v. Examples/Case studies:
 - a. Padma Awards citations (selectively related to child welfare, women, gender equality, inequality, etc.).
 - b. PM Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
 - c. Indian Express Governance awards.
 - d. Portals like Better India.
 - e. Nexus of Good
- vi. Lectures by Michael Sandels.

FOUNDATIONAL VALUES OF CIVIL SERVICES (1:52 PM)

- They are intrinsic beliefs of individuals or groups that guide and motivate one's behaviour, actions, and attitude.
- Every individual or community gives more importance to one set of values over the other, yet, some values are considered as universal in nature and are held in high regard by different communities across the world.
- For example, truthfulness, courage, helpfulness, compassion, etc.
- Values may have spatial and temporal variation.
- Values may vary from one place to another and across time.
- For example, it may not be considered inappropriate to wear underwear printed with the national flag in the USA.
- But such an act would be considered as objectionable and disrespectful in India.
- In general, people are pre-disposed to adopt the values they are raised with and they also believe that those values are right because they are the values terminating from their particular culture.
- But they may not necessarily apply to other cultures.
- Making ethical decisions often involves weighing values against each other and choosing which value should be elevated.

Foundational Values: (2:20 PM)

- Foundational Values are those values and principles that form the very basis of the functioning of any organisation.
- In other words, they form the core identity of an organisation.
- They permeate the entire work culture from the top to the bottom and are usually determined by the senior leadership of the organisation.
- They guide the internal as well as external behaviour of an organisation.
- **Examples:**
- a. Indian Armed Forces have core values like discipline and punctuality.
- b. Tata Group has a core value of employee-centric policies.
- c. Google Inc. has a core value of innovation.

Sources of foundational values of civil services: (2:29 PM)

- *i. The Constitution of India: Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policies.*
- *ii. Conduct Rules: AIS conduct rules, Central Civil Service conduct rules.*
- *iii. Historical events of freedom struggle.*
- *iv. Court Judgements.*
- *v. Spiritual and religious texts.*
- *vi. Laws made by the legislature.*
- *vii. Nolan Committee on Public Service values.*

Significance of foundational values for Civil Services: (2:45 PM)

- i. Discretionary Powers:
- Civil servants enjoy wide discretionary powers and by following these foundational values they can limit the misuse of these powers at the expense of public interests.
- ii. Ethical Dilemmas:
- Civil servants often face a dilemma during the course of their work and relying on foundational values can help them in resolving these dilemmas in a speedy and effective manner.
- iii. To overcome prejudices:
- Often civil servants have their own preconceived notions and values and one must know how to overcome them while prioritising the public interests.
- In such situations, foundational values can come to help.
- iv. Re-establish the trust:
- By following and adopting the foundational values we can re-establish the lost trust between the citizens and the government.
- v. Consistency and uniformity:
- They can help ensure consistency and uniformity in the decision-making of the civil servants.
- Stating the foundational values can help in achieving the desired objectives of civil services and good governance.

Questions from the topics that could be asked:

- *i. Importance of foundational values.*
- *ii. List of important*
- *iii. Give examples from your own life.*
- *iv. Lives of public servants.*
- *v. Rate the given values.*
- *vi. Specific value-based question:*
 - *a. Definition.*
 - *b. Examples.*
 - *c. Significance for civil services.*
 - *d. Difficulties in adhering to those values.*
 - *e. Recommendations to inculcate such values.*

1. Sympathy, empathy, and compassion: (3:20 PM)

- **Sympathy:**
 - It refers to a situation where an individual recognises the pain and suffering of other individuals.
- **Empathy:**
 - An individual engages himself/herself cognitively rather than only recognising the pain superficially.
- **Compassionate:**
 - Being compassionate means taking action to relieve the pain and suffering an individual is experiencing.
 - Being compassionate is a **4-step process**:
 - i. Being aware of someone's feelings or sufferings.
 - ii. To be moved emotionally by someone's sufferings or feelings.
 - iii. Developing a desire to resolve someone's sufferings.
 - iv. Taking necessary steps to resolve someone's sufferings.
 - Compassion shows the highest level of kindness where a person is ready to endure pain for the sake of others.
 - It requires a person to be self-aware and attentive to the needs of others and to be committed to the same.
- **"Love and compassion are necessities and not luxuries and without them, humanity cannot survive" by Dalai Lama.**
 - **Significance of compassion for civil services: (3:43 PM)**
 - All the other values are meaningless without compassion.
 - In fact, the very purpose of civil services is to relieve the pains and sufferings of others which cannot be achieved without compassion.
 - To maintain people's trust showing empathy and compassion is of utmost value.
 - Civil servants are often victims of stereotypes that can prevent them from effectively helping others.
 - In such a situation, empathy and compassion can come to the rescue.
 - Over a period of time, public servants may become armchair advisors and such attitude can be kept in check by inculcating empathy and compassion.
 - It can provide a purpose to go to any length to address the problems of people.
 - It can play a crucial role in ensuring citizen-centric administration and civil servants become more aware of the changing environment and willing to adapt to the same.

Issues that emanate from the lack of compassion:

- It promotes the tendency to blame the victims.
- Examples: accusing the rape victim of inappropriate clothes etc.
- It promotes intolerance towards marginalised sections of society like minorities, women, old-age population, children, etc.
- It may lead to crimes such as cyberbullying, trolling, etc.
- A lack of empathy may lead to immoral behaviour.

Inculcating empathy and compassion among the civil servants: (4:02 PM)

- Conducting surprise field visits.
- Cultivating interests in the culture of others through activities such as Bharat Darshan, India Day, etc.
- Organising roleplay activities. such as the one conducted at the National Police Academy in Hyderabad.
- Organizing activities such as Janta Durbar to get a first-hand perspective of the problems of the people.
- Organising sensitivity training for civil servants throughout the course of their careers.

2. Objectivity: (4:12 PM)

- It refers to making decisions on the basis of careful analysis of facts and figures and not as per an individual's preconceived notions and prejudices.
- A person should not be influenced by one's feelings and opinions.
- The opposite of objectivity is subjectivity which means making decisions on the basis of one's biases.
- Lacking objectivity may result in wrong policy decisions and justifications of the same would become very difficult.
- **Question:**
- It is often said that objectivity does not often lead to ethical outcomes. Do you agree? Provide logical justification. (150 words, 10 marks)

NEXT CLASS:The topic of the **Significance of different foundational values for civil services** will be further discussed.