

Ethics_JG Class 08

15th July, 2024 at 1:00 PM

IMPROVING THE WORK CULTURE OF THE CIVIL SERVANT: (1:13 PM)

- **1. Strengthening Ethical frameworks:**
- and ensuring that they are communicated effectively to all public servants.
- **2. Training and Development:**
- Providing training and development opportunities by organizing workshops on ethical decision-making, leadership, and new technologies.
- **3. Transparency and accountability:**
- Strengthening mechanisms for transparency and accountability by establishing independent oversight bodies to monitor compliance with ethical standards.
- Examples:
- Lokpal and Lokayukta, Citizen Charter, RTI, etc.
- PRAGATI platform.
- Gati Shakti Yojana.
- **4. Promoting a supportive work environment:**
- Implementing flexible working arrangements and providing support to maintain, a work-life balance.
- **5. Promoting flexibility and Innovation:**
- Encouraging the Civil servants to test new approaches, and technologies even if it involves enduring failures.
- **6. Demonstrating commitment to the Organisational values through actions and decisions leading by example.**
- **Example:**
- Civil Services from across the world like:
- 1. Singapore Civil Service
- It is known for efficiency and Professionalism, fostering a positive work culture through meritocracy, continuous learning, and innovation.
- Promote performance-based records and recognition.
- 2. Australian Civil Services:
- Promote innovation and creativity, and foster a culture of professionalism.
- 3. Norwegian Civil Services, which promotes flexible working conditions for Civil servants.
- It promotes work-life balance through various incentives.

PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE: (1:35 PM)

- Probity in governance refers to adherence to the highest standards of ethics, and integrity in Public life and governance.
- It involves being honest, transparent, and accountable in all actions and decisions.

Significance:

- 1. Improves Public service delivery.
- 2. Enhances social equity.
- Probity ensures that government schemes and programs are implemented fairly, benefiting all sections of society.
- 3. It promotes economic growth.
- It creates a favorable environment for economic growth, by reducing corruption and enhancing investor's confidence.
- Example:
- Effective implementation of anti-corruption laws, and integrity pacts can improve the ease of doing business.
- 4. It helps in enhancing public trust in institutions.
- It helps in ensuring that democracy survives.

Challenges:

- 1. Corruption.
- 2. Lack of transparency.
- 3. Complacent attitude of Civil servants.
- 4. Resistance to change.
- 5. Red tape.
- 6. Weak accountability mechanism.

Measures to Promote Probity in Governance:

- RTI.
- Service Delivery Guarantee Act.
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act.
- Various e-governance initiatives.
- JAM trinity.
- Technological initiatives.
- Ethical training of Civil servants.

UTILISATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS: (1:55 PM)

- *The effective utilization of public funds is crucial for the success of government schemes, especially in a country like India where resources are limited.*

Principles:

- *Legal Compliance.*
- *Public Purpose.*
- *Outcome-Driven Approach.*
- *Accountability and Transparency.*
- *Efficiency and Economy.*
- *Timely Release of Funds.*
- *Inclusive Approach.*

Challenges:

- *Funds going unspent.*
- *Example: MPLADS scheme,*
- *Mis-allocation of funds: The funds are not utilized for the purpose they are allocated for.*
- *Example:*
- *Misappropriation of funds.*
- *Example: Adulteration in PDS.*

Issues Associated with the Utilization of Public Funds in India:

- **1. Underutilization of Funds:**
- *a) Delayed fund disbursement due to bureaucratic procedures, lengthy approval processes, and inefficiencies in financial management systems.*
- *b) Rigid Guidelines. For example: funds allocated for specific components or activities may not be permitted to be reallocated for other pressing needs, even if the original activities face challenges or are no longer relevant.*
- *c) Inefficient fund flow mechanisms. Example: Local officials may struggle to understand scheme guidelines or adapt to changes in eligibility criteria, resulting in funds remaining unspent.*
- *d) Inadequate capital expenditure by state governments to improve implementation capacity is another factor contributing to underutilization.*
- **2. Misallocation of Funds:**
- *a) Public funds are sometimes misallocated for political purposes, such as funding political advertisements or distributing freebies to garner electoral support.*
- *b) Instances of large corporate entities defaulting on bank loans despite receiving substantial funds highlight misallocation risks.*
- *c) Government priorities may sometimes be misplaced, resulting in the allocation of funds to less critical activities while neglecting urgent needs.*
- **3. Misappropriation of Funds:**
- *a) Misappropriation of public funds through corruption, embezzlement, or leakage is a persistent challenge in India.*
- *Example: A government stationery bill of Rs 10,000 is misappropriated as Rs 15,000 per month.*
- *b) Inefficient implementation processes, characterized by bureaucratic red tape, lack of accountability, and weak oversight mechanisms contribute to fund misappropriation.*

Effect/Implications:

- **1. Economic implications:**
- *Example: The purpose of attracting investment did not take place, as the basic power supply was not available, due to lack of underutilization of funds.*
- **2. Social Implication:**
- *Example: People losing faith in government institutions.*
- *It again promotes further social inequality and violates citizens' rights, adversely impacting the well-being of the marginalized.*
- **3. Politico-administrative Implications:**
- *Unequal development, loss of public trust in government institutions, and inter-state disparities threaten national unity and integrity, necessitating reforms to enhance governance effectiveness.*

Reforms required:

- 1. Technological Integration.
- 2. Capacity Building.
- 3. Decentralized Planning, for understanding the priorities of the community.
- 4. Social Audit and Awareness in an effective manner is very crucial to conduct, by training and empowering the citizens. *Example: MGNREGA.*
- 5. Financial Empowerment. Local agencies, implementing schemes and programs for the government should be provided with a certain level of financial autonomy, such as in the case of the Mid-day meal scheme.
- 6. Ethical Governance. The public officials must be ethically trained in integrity, honesty, etc. Continuous reinforcement of values is important.
- *Example: Sweden's Open Government Initiative allows citizens to access comprehensive financial information through online portals, ensuring transparency and accountability in public finances.*

QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY: (3:35 PM)

- *It refers to the mechanisms & processes through which the services are provided by the government to the citizens which are in the nature of Welfare Services for the citizens.*
- *Examples: Law and Order enforcement, water supply, electricity, etc.*

Key Principles for Quality Service Delivery:

- **1. Transparency and Accountability:**
- *Transparency: Ensuring that processes and decisions are open and accessible to the public enhances trust and allows for scrutiny.*
- *Accountability: Public officials are responsible for their actions and decisions, which must align with the public interest.*
- **2. Efficiency and Effectiveness:**
- *Efficiency: Optimal use of resources to achieve the best possible outcomes.*
- *Effectiveness: Achieving the intended outcomes and meeting the needs of the public.*
- **3. Ethical Standards:**
- *Upholding high ethical standards ensures that services are delivered fairly, not objectively, and without corruption or favoritism.*
- **4. Public Participation:**
- *Greater involvement of citizens in decision-making processes to ensure that services meet their needs and expectations.*
- **5. Continuous Improvement:**
- *Continuously seeking feedback and addressing the shortcomings.*
- *Regularly evaluating and improving processes to enhance service delivery.*

Need for Efficient Public Service Delivery:

- Quality of service delivery is very important for the marginalized section of society, apart from the rich sections.
- 1) The citizens have become more aware today, due to a number of factors such as globalization and the growth of technology, and are therefore demanding better service delivery from the government.
- 2) In the present time the citizens have more choices to avail the services provided by the government from alternate service providers.
- 3) Public sector reforms are the need of the hour & to cater to it, Public Service Delivery reforms are a must.
- 4) India suffers from a shortage of resources therefore the government needs to be efficient in Public Service Delivery.
- 5) The role of the media and social activism have combined to create a greater demand for accountability and transparency.
- 6) Attracting investment to fund economic growth.

Challenges Associated With Public Service Delivery:

- 1) Shortages of funds and resources.
- 2) Lack of basic infrastructure that is required to deliver public services.
- Examples: Hospitals without power supply, lack of basic roads to connect a school in villages, etc.
- 3) Complexity arising from diversities of languages, demographics & infrastructure across the country.
- Most of the time, the central schemes are drawn on a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Many services of the government are either English or Hindi and lack any regional languages.
- 4) Most of the government departments work in silos leading to a lack of cohesive strategy.
- Coordination and Collaboration between departments is necessary.
- 5) Lack of awareness among citizens with respect to their rights & entitlements.
- And, lack of awareness reduces their questioning power to the government.
- 6) Shortage of skilled manpower in service delivery like, schools, hospitals, etc.
- 7) The speed of execution of projects is very slow.

Various Reforms Required To Improve Public Service Delivery:

- 1) Technological reforms for availing basic services, grievance redressal mechanisms, etc.
- 2) Capacity building of government officials.
- 3) Introduction of contract-based employment.
- 4) Empowerment of local communities by providing them greater control over the service delivery institutions.
- 5) Enforcing stricter accountability mechanisms.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.