

# Who is Your Role Model?



# Who is Responsible for Such Tragic Incidents?



In Loving Memory of



*Shreya Yadav*



*Nivin Dalvin*



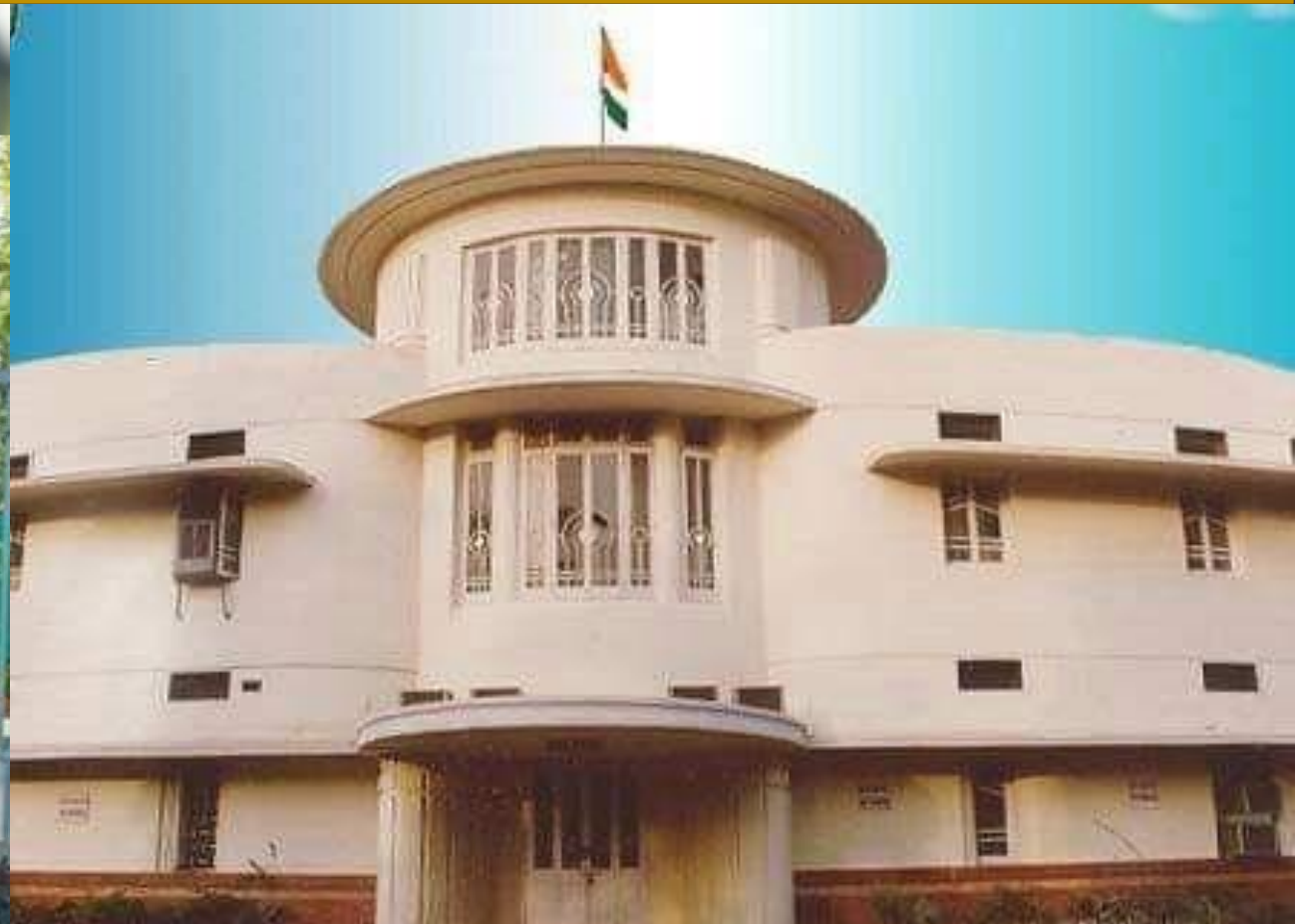
*Tanya Soni*



*Nilesh Rai*



# What can be Expected from the Commission(s) and DoPT?



**Civil Services (Main) Examination**

**General Studies – IV**

**Ethics, Integrity, and  
Aptitude**

**By – Rajkumar Mone**

# Why did UPSC include this Subject in the Syllabus?

# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Addressing Corruption and Ethical Decline**

- There has been growing concern over corruption and ethical decline in public services.
- Introducing Ethics in the syllabus aims to address these issues by cultivating a new generation of ethical and honest civil servants.

# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Aligning with Global Standards:**

- Many countries have incorporated ethics training in their civil services examinations.
- UPSC's move aligns with global best practices, ensuring that Indian civil servants are on par with their international counterparts in terms of ethical standards.

# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Responding to Public Demand:**

- There has been a public demand for greater accountability and integrity in public administration.
- By introducing Ethics, UPSC responded to this demand, aiming to build a more accountable and transparent governance system.



# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Promoting Good Governance:**

- Ethics and Integrity are foundational to good governance.
- Including these subjects in the examination syllabus promotes the principles of good governance and ensures that future administrators are committed to these values.

# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Adapting to Changing Administrative Needs:**

- The challenges faced by civil servants today are complex and multifaceted, requiring a strong ethical compass.
- By including Ethics in the syllabus, UPSC is adapting to the changing needs of administration, ensuring that civil servants are equipped to handle modern challenges.

# **Why did UPSC Introduce this Subject?**

## **For Holistic Assessment of Candidates**

- To evaluate not just the intellectual abilities but also the moral and ethical qualities of candidates.
- To ensure that future civil servants are not only knowledgeable but also principled and ethical in their conduct
- To promote the values of integrity and transparency, which are essential for good governance
- To ensure that future civil servants are more accountable in their actions and decisions by understanding ethical principles and moral dilemmas

# **The Study of Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude**

- Develops aptitude for problem-solving especially in scenarios involving ethical dilemmas
- Encourages empathy and compassion towards citizens by focusing on the human aspect of administration
- Strengthens the moral fibre of administration and builds a morally sound administrative machinery
- Enhances the credibility and effectiveness of the public service

# **The Study of Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude**

Enables Future Civil Servants to:

- handle complex situations with a balanced and ethical approach
- resolve ethical dilemmas they may face in their careers
- deal with challenging situations where moral and ethical judgments are required

Civil servants with these qualities are better equipped to serve society and address the needs of vulnerable populations.

It's a win-win situation for everyone!



# Syllabus

1. Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
2. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
3. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
4. Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
5. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
6. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
7. Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
8. Case Studies on above issues.

# Dissecting the Syllabus

1. Ethics and Human Interface: Ethics & Human Values
2. Attitude
3. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service
4. Emotional intelligence & EQ
5. Thinkers and Philosophers from India and world
6. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration:  
dilemmas, laws, rules, regulations and conscience,  
accountability, ethical governance, corporate governance
7. Probity in Governance
8. Case Studies

# **Paper Pattern**

## **Section A**

- 13 Questions (1-6: a, b, c)
- 150 words: Descriptive, Concept-based, Theoretical Questions
- 10 Marks each
- Not more than half the time (1.5 hours)

## **Section B**

- 6 Questions (7-12: a, b, c)
- 250 words: Case Studies
- 20 Marks each
- Half the time (1.5 hours)

# Marks?

- Highest: 164 (2019)
- 2023: 143 (Rank #1)
- Average: 120
- Target: 150/250
- It's a rewarding paper.
- It can determine selection, rank and service.
- Although the syllabus is not precise, with clear basics and an understanding of how to analyse and answer case studies, one can get good marks with less efforts.
- You can check most of the preparation checklist.

# Approach to the Case Study

You are the Chairman of an Enquiry Commission tasked with investigating a devastating fire at a coaching institute, which resulted in the deaths of several students. Preliminary findings indicate that the institute was operating without adequate fire safety measures and emergency exits. Complicating matters, the owner of the institute is your former teacher who provided you with both educational and financial support during your preparation, and the officer who approved the institute's operation despite the safety violations is your friend and your sister's fiancé.

During the enquiry, you meet with the victims' parents and other students at the institute. They recount harrowing experiences and highlight the institute owner's indifferent and negligent attitude towards safety.

As the Chairman of the Enquiry Commission, your role is to conduct a fair and thorough investigation and make recommendations to ensure justice for the victims. This scenario places you in a complex ethical dilemma, balancing personal relationships with professional duties.

## Questions:

1. What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
2. Discuss the principles of ethics that you would apply to resolve the dilemma.
3. What steps would you take to ensure an impartial investigation and justice for the victims?
4. How would you address the revelations from the victims' parents and students about the institute owner's attitude?

(Answer in 250 Words)



# 7-Steps to Resolve an Issue



```
graph LR; 1[1. Understanding the Issue] --> 2[2. Finding Facts]; 2 --> 3[3. Identifying the Stakeholders]; 3 --> 4[4. Determining Causal Factors & Agents]; 4 --> 5[5. Assessing Moral Dilemmas & Conflict of Interest]; 5 --> 6[6. Considering Available Alternatives]; 6 --> 7[7. Evaluating Alternatives on MEL scale];
```

**1.  
Understanding  
the Issue**

**2. Finding  
Facts**

**3. Identifying  
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**4. Determining  
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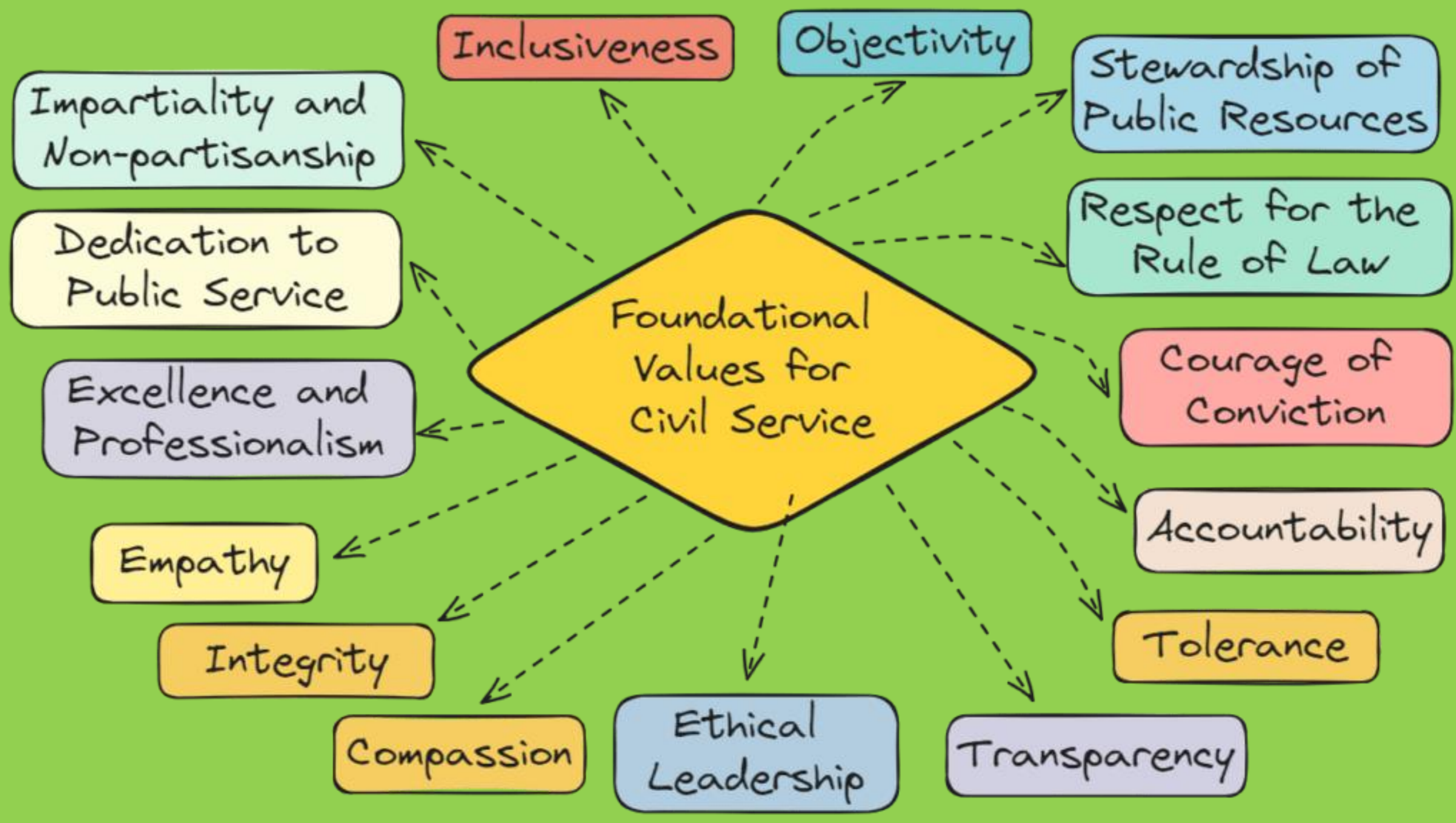
**6. Considering  
Available  
Alternatives**

**7. Evaluating  
Alternatives  
on MEL scale**

The alternative selected at the end of the 7-step resolution process, should:

- be legal, moral, ethical and adhere to the principles of justice
- reflect the qualities of *selflessness, empathy, integrity, accountability, duty* to the state & public
- pass the litmus test of **Gandhian talisman**





**The Solution should ensure that all the  
Foundational Values for Civil Services are adhered to:**

1. Accountability
2. Integrity
3. Empathy
4. Compassion
5. Transparency
6. Professionalism
7. Dedication to Public Service
8. Impartiality & Non-partisanship
9. Respect for the Rule of Law
10. Courage of Conviction

List of Ethical Dilemmas

Alternatives with Pros & Cons

Ideal, Working Solutions

Specific solutions

Balance Conflicts

# Answer Writing Framework

1. Mention the ethical dilemmas in the case study.
2. List down all the alternatives along with their pros and cons.
3. Try to provide practical solutions, not just ideal solutions. Solutions that do not work on ground will not fetch you marks.
4. Out-of-the-box yet practical solutions will be appreciated.
5. Provide specific solutions not general directions.
6. Balance the conflicting alternatives as much as possible.



## 1. Ethical Issues Involved:

- **Conflict of Interest:** The close personal relationships with both the owner and the responsible officer create a potential conflict of interest.
- **Accountability and Justice:** Ensuring that those responsible for the lack of fire safety measures and the apathetic attitude are held accountable, regardless of personal relationships.
- **Integrity and Impartiality:** Maintaining your integrity and impartiality as the Chairman of the Enquiry Commission.
- **Public Trust:** Upholding public trust in the investigation process by taking transparent and fair actions.
- **Duty to Victims:** Ensuring that the victims and their families receive justice and adequate compensation.



## 2. Principles of Ethics:

- **Integrity**: Adhering to moral and ethical principles, ensuring that personal relationships do not influence your professional responsibilities.
- **Impartiality**: Treating all individuals involved in the case fairly and without bias.
- **Accountability**: Holding all parties accountable for their actions, regardless of personal connections.
- **Justice**: Ensuring that justice is served for the victims and their families.
- **Transparency**: Maintaining transparency in all actions and decisions to uphold public trust.



" IF YOU SALUTE YOUR DUTY,  
YOU NO NEED TO SALUTE ANYBODY  
BUT IF YOU POLLUTE YOUR DUTY,  
YOU HAVE TO SALUTE EVERYBODY "  
- APJ ABDUL KALAM

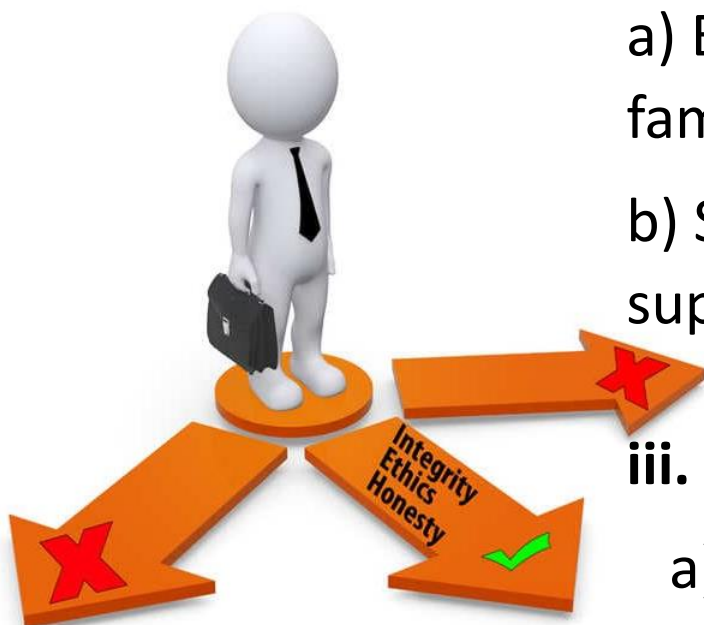
### 3. Steps to Ensure an Impartial Investigation and Justice:

**i. Recusal and Delegation:** Recuse yourself from directly handling the investigation to avoid any appearance of bias. Appoint a trusted and impartial deputy or sub-committee to lead the investigation.



#### **ii. Immediate Actions:**

- a) Ensure that emergency services are provided to the victims and their families.
- b) Set up a helpline for the victims' families to get information and support.



#### **iii. Establish an Independent Investigation Team:**

- a) Form an independent investigation team comprising experts with no personal connections to the case.
- b) Ensure the team has the authority and resources to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation.

**iv. Full Disclosure:** Disclose your personal connections to the involved parties to the public and the commission, reinforcing your commitment to impartiality.

**v. Thorough Investigation:**

- a) Ensure the investigation covers all aspects, including the lack of fire safety measures, emergency exits, and the apathetic attitude of the institute owner.
- b) Collect and analyze evidence meticulously, including witness statements, documents, and expert opinions.

**vi. Legal and Disciplinary Recommendations:**

- a) Based on the investigation's findings, recommend appropriate legal and disciplinary actions against all responsible parties, including your former teacher and friend.
- b) Ensure the recommendations are fair and transparent to maintain public trust.



## **vii. Support for Victims:**

- Recommend immediate financial and emotional support for the families of the victims.
- Advocate for a compensation fund for the victims' families, ensuring they receive adequate support.

## **viii. Communication and Transparency:**

- Communicate openly with the public about the steps being taken to address the situation and ensure justice.
- Provide regular updates on the investigation's progress and the actions taken.



## **ix. Long-term Measures:**

- Recommend a review of all coaching institutes in the district to ensure compliance with fire safety and legal norms.
- Advocate for the development of a comprehensive safety protocol for educational institutions to prevent similar incidents in the future.



## 4. Addressing the Revelations from Victims' Parents and Students:

- i. **Documenting Experiences:** Ensure that the testimonies of the victims' parents and students are thoroughly documented and included in the investigation report.
- ii. **Assessing Accountability:** Investigate the claims of apathetic attitude and negligence by the institute owner. Ensure that these revelations are given due weight in the overall investigation.
- iii. **Legal Consequences:** Recommend appropriate legal action against the institute owner for any demonstrated negligence or misconduct contributing to the tragedy.
- iv. **Public Communication:** Communicate the findings and actions taken in response to the victims' testimonies to the public, demonstrating that their voices have been heard and acted upon.



# Ethics in Human Behaviour

**Why should we be good, moral and ethical?**

**1. Personal Well-being:**

- Inner Peace and Happiness
- Self-Respect and Integrity

**2. Social Harmony:**

- Trust and Cooperation
- Conflict Reduction

**3. Moral and Ethical Principles**

- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- Act according to universal moral laws – **Immanuel Kant**



## Let's Recall...

**Why should we be good, moral and ethical?**

Human beings are 'good' by nature!

Summum bonum → A Latin phrase that means "the highest good."

In Philosophical and ethical contexts, the phrase refers to:

- the **ultimate end** or the **greatest good** that men should strive for
- the **supreme objective** and the **most desirable outcome** in life

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

Why should we be good, moral and ethical?

## 4. Consequentialist Views:

- **Utilitarianism** - the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people
- **Long-Term Benefits** – social stability, prosperity, and collective well-being

## 5. Religious and Spiritual Reasons:

- Divine Command
- Spiritual Growth

## Ethics in Human Behaviour

**Why should we be good, moral and ethical?**

"आत्मनः प्रतिकूलानि, परेषां न समाचरेत्॥"

जो कुछ खुद के लिए विपरीत है, वैसा दूसरों के लिए आचरण नहीं करना चाहिए।

Just as you do not wish others to treat you in a way that you find undesirable, so too should you avoid treating others in such a manner."

This shloka emphasizes treating others as you would wish to be treated yourself, aligning with the ethical principle of reciprocity.

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

## The Golden Rule

The shloka encapsulates a principle similar to a verse from **Holy Bible** but with a slightly different emphasis.

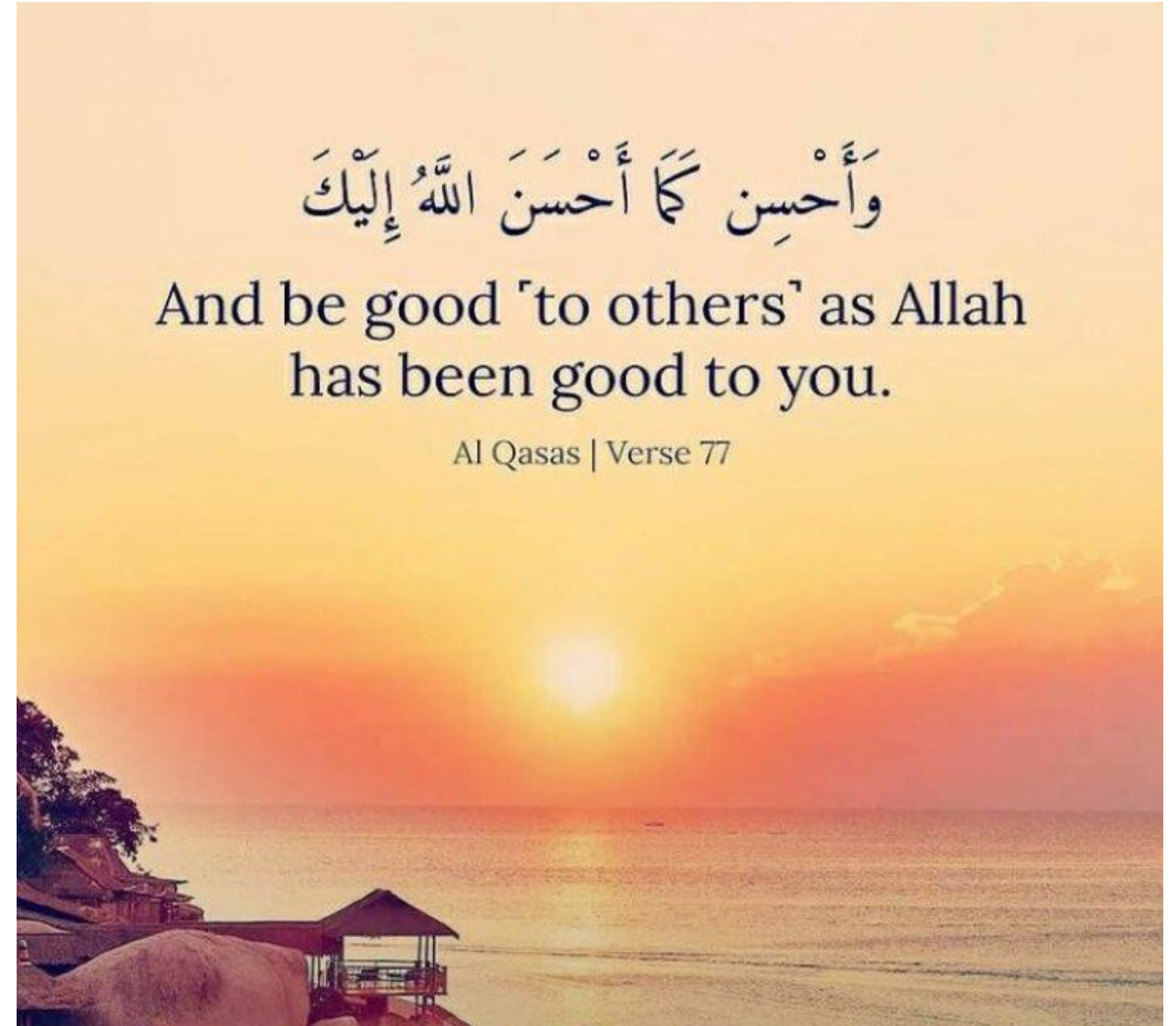
*So in everything, do to  
others what you would have them  
do to you, for this sums up the  
Law and the Prophets.  
Matthew 7:12*

**Heavenly Father, forgive me for the  
times I fall short and do not treat  
others in the same way I want to be  
treated. Help me to do better by loving  
others as Christ has loved me. Amen**

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], **do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you.** And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, **Allah does not like corrupters.**

(28:77)



وَأَحْسِنَ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ

And be good 'to others' as Allah has been good to you.

Al Qasas | Verse 77

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

Why should we be good, moral and ethical?

## 7. Legal and Professional Obligations:

- **Rule of Law:** Adhering to ethical principles is often aligned with following the law. Laws are designed to promote order, justice, and the common good.
- **Professional Standards:** Many professions have ethical codes that guide behavior and decision-making, ensuring that professionals act in the best interests of their clients, patients, or the public.



# Ethics in Human Behaviour



Islam: “None of you believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.” (An-Nawawi’s Forty Hadith 13)

Christianity: “Do to others what you want them to do to you.” (Matthew 7:21)

Judaism: “That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary.” (Talmud, Shabbat 31a)

Buddhism: “Do not hurt others in ways you yourself would find hurtful” (Udanavarga 5:18)

Hinduism: “This is the sum of duty: do nothing to others that would cause you pain if done to you.” (Mahabharata 5:117)

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

## Branches of Ethics

- **Meta-ethics:** origin & meaning of ethical concepts; meaning of moral language and the metaphysics of moral facts
- **Normative Ethics:** Prescriptive ethics; how people ought to act; standards that regulate right and wrong conduct; suggests punishment
- **Descriptive Ethics:** Empirical investigation of values, morals and ethics of different cultures; history & evolution of ethics in a society
- **Applied Ethics:** Analysis of controversial moral issues, such as euthanasia, abortion, animal rights, right to self-determination etc.



# Ethics in Human Behaviour

## **How does ethics determine human behaviour?**

Ethics plays a crucial role in shaping human behavior by providing a framework for distinguishing right from wrong and guiding individuals in making moral decisions.

1. Establishes Moral Standards
2. Guides Decision-Making
3. Influences Social Interactions
4. Promotes Accountability and Responsibility
5. Shapes Cultural Norms and Values
6. Encourages Self-Reflection
7. builds personal integrity and trustworthiness
8. Affects Legal and Institutional Policies

## **Food for Thought!**

*Would you ever kill a child?*

## Food for Thought!

Would you  
KILL  
this child?



## Food for Thought!

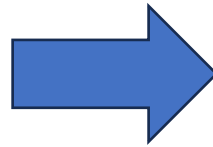
Would  
you kill

— — — —

Hitler?



# Food for Thought!

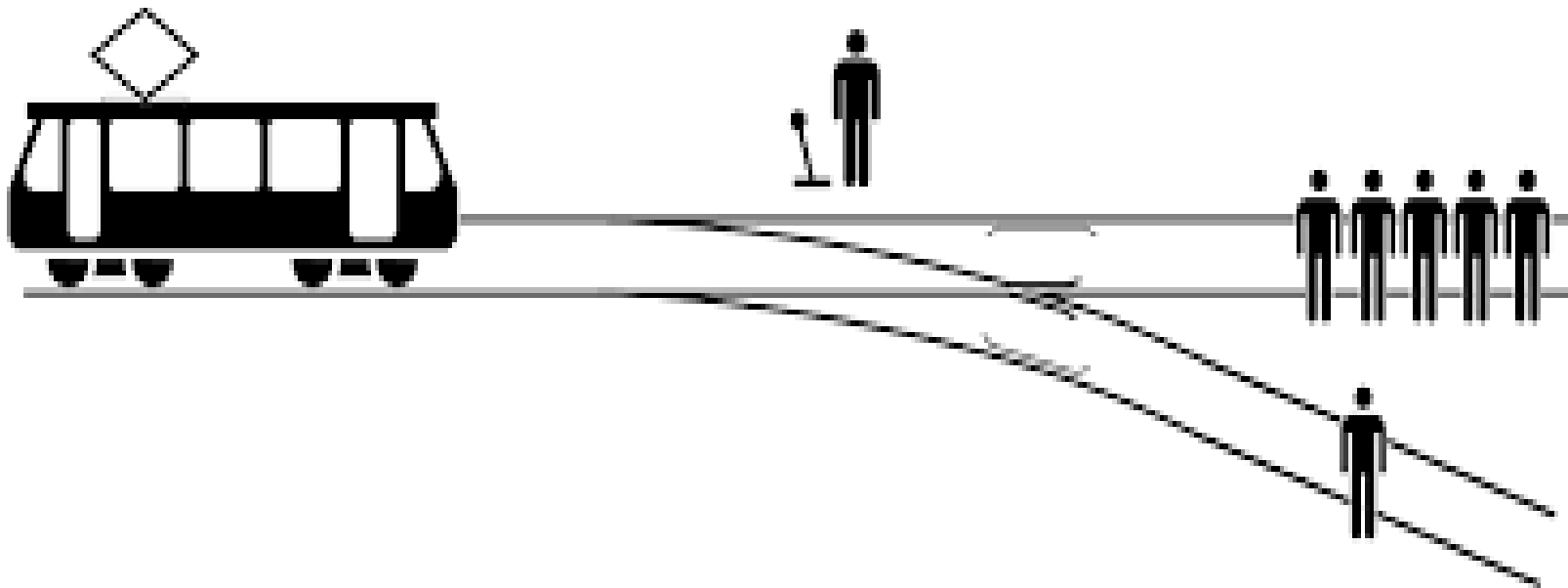


## Food for Thought!

Would you  
still **NOT** kill  
b a b y  
Hitler...?

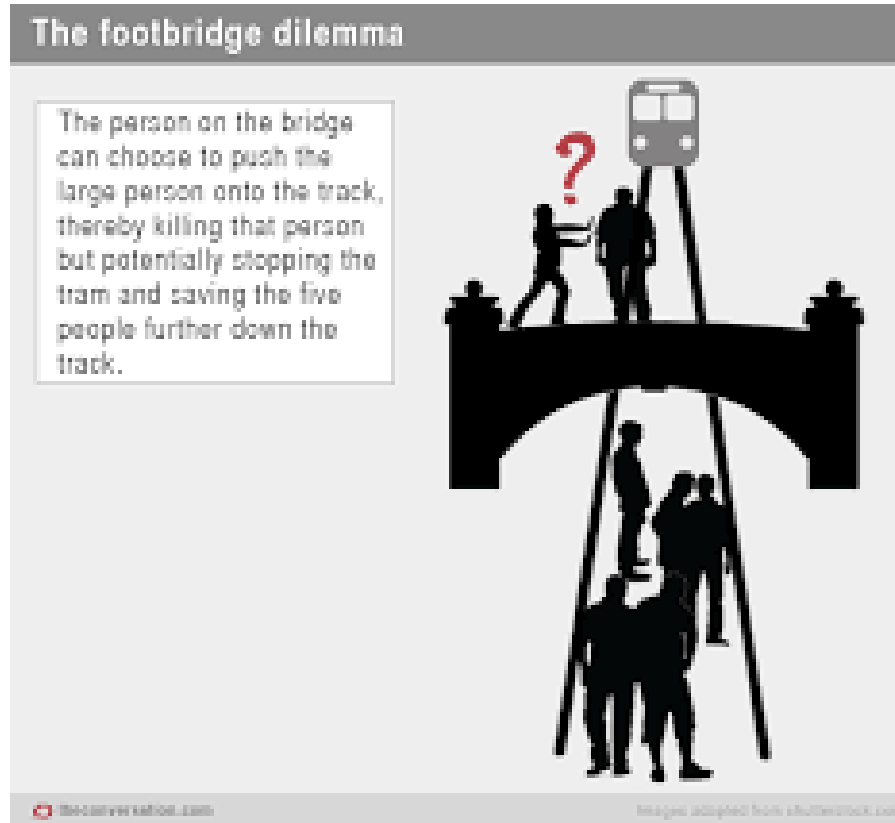


# Food for Thought!



## The Trolley Problem

# Food for Thought!



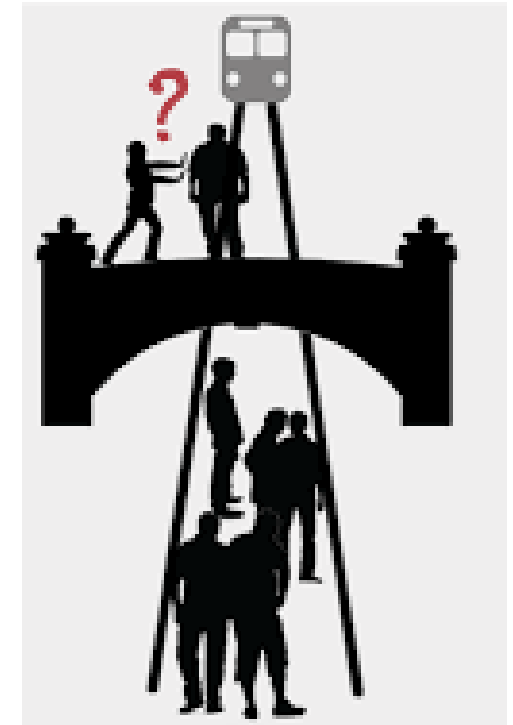
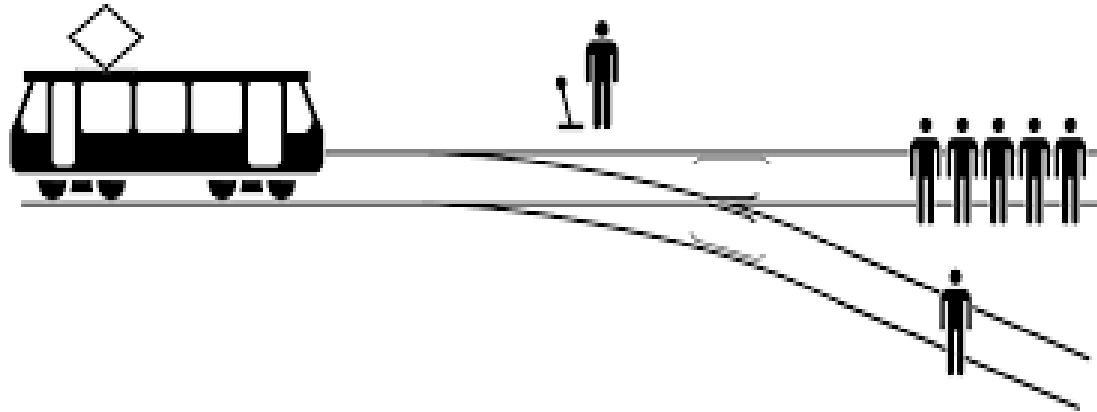
## The Footbridge Dilemma



# Food for Thought!

**What if you had the opportunity... would you:**

- **Pull the lever?**
- **Push the Boss?**





# Let's Start!

- Introduction to Ethics
- What is Ethics?
- Examples and Non-Examples
- Comparison with Law and Morality

# What is Ethics?

- A branch of philosophy
  - Originates from simple questions
  - What makes honest actions right and dishonest ones wrong?
  - Should I keep a wallet found on the road or find the owner and return it to him/her?
  - Should I help an accident victim or proceed to my job interview?
  - Should I help the innocent victim or save my friend / relative?
  - So many simple but confusing questions in everyday life.
- ➔ It's a study where we reflect upon similar questions and distinguish good action from bad.

# Etymological Meaning

- Etymologically, “ethics” comes from the Greek “ethos” meaning “character” which indicates a concern for virtuous people, reliable character and proper conduct.
- The word “ethics” is connected intrinsically with questions of correct conduct within society.
- Ethics is as old as humanity.

# Scope of Ethics

- Ethics asks what we should do in some circumstance, or what we should do as participants in some form of activity or profession.
- Ethics is NOT limited to the acts of a single person.
- Ethics is also interested in the correct practices of governments, corporations, professionals and many other groups.
- To these issues, ethics seeks a reasoned, principled, position.
- An appeal to existing practice or the command of a powerful leader is not sufficient.

# **Ethical Dilemma**

- Ethical questions arise most typically in cases where there is genuine puzzlement about what should be done in various types of situations.
- Involves some practical importance or urgency to such questions.
- Is it ethical for journalists to reveal their sources to the courts, despite their promises of confidentiality?
- Is it ethical of journalists to invade the privacy of politicians to investigate allegations of unethical conduct?
- Is it ethical to conduct sting operations?

## Defining 'Ethics'

- The systemic study of human actions from the point of view of their rightfulness or wrongfulness, as means for the attainment of the ultimate happiness.
- Ethics is a set of standards that society places on itself and which helps guide behavior, choices and actions—2nd ARC Report
- It is reflective study of what is good or bad in that part of human conduct for which human has some personal responsibility.
- A system of accepted beliefs that control behavior, especially such a system based on morals - Cambridge Dictionary



# A Little More Clarity?

A branch of moral philosophy that guides us about the basic human conduct.

The study of ethics helps us determine:

- How we must behave
- How our actions ought to be in society
- How our social and political life must be
- Which behaviour is morally right and which one is morally wrong

**➔ The Rules of Ethics are not binding. There is no punishment for violation of ethics. Hence, it's important to internalise ethics.**

# What Ethics Is: Examples of Ethics

## 1.Honesty:

**1.Example:** A government officer who accurately reports the status of a project, acknowledging delays or budget overruns.

**2.Non-Example:** Falsifying reports to show that the project is on track to avoid scrutiny or repercussions.

## 2.Integrity:

**1.Example:** A judge who remains impartial and makes decisions based solely on the law and evidence, regardless of personal beliefs or external pressures.

**2.Non-Example:** A judge who allows personal relationships or bribes to influence their rulings.

### **3. Accountability:**

**1.Example:** A public official who takes responsibility for a failed policy and works to rectify the situation.

**2.Non-Example:** Shifting blame to subordinates or external factors to avoid taking responsibility for mistakes.

### **4. Transparency:**

**1.Example:** An agency that openly shares information about its operations, decisions, and use of public funds with the public.

**2.Non-Example:** Withholding critical information from the public or stakeholders to avoid criticism or accountability.

**5. Fairness:** A hiring manager who selects candidates based on merit and qualifications without favoritism, nepotism, or discrimination.

## **6. Respect for Others:**

**1.Example:** Treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or position.

**2.Non-Example:** Disrespecting or demeaning others based on their socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or other personal characteristics.

**7. Empathy:** active listening and understanding the needs of the community; providing compassionate support instead of ignoring or dismissing the concerns and needs of vulnerable populations.

## **8. Moral Courage:**

**1.Example:** A whistleblower who exposes corruption or unethical practices despite potential personal and professional risks.

**2.Non-Example:** Remaining silent about unethical practices to avoid personal repercussions.

# What Ethics Is Not: Non-examples of Ethics

## 1. Expediency:

**1.Example:** Cutting corners to achieve a quick result without regard for rules or ethical considerations.

**2.Non-Example:** Adhering to procedures and ethical guidelines, even if it takes longer to achieve the desired outcome.

## 2. Self-interest:

**1.Example:** Making decisions that benefit oneself at the expense of others or the public good.

**2.Non-Example:** Prioritizing the well-being and interests of others, especially those who are affected by one's decisions.

### **3. Corruption:**

**1.Example:** Accepting bribes or engaging in fraudulent activities for personal gain.

**2.Non-Example:** Refusing to engage in corrupt practices and reporting any attempts of bribery or fraud.

### **4. Discrimination:**

**1.Example:** Making biased decisions based on race, gender, religion, or other personal characteristics.

**2.Non-Example:** Ensuring that all decisions are fair and unbiased, respecting the diversity and rights of all individuals.

## **5. Deception:**

- 1.Example:** Misleading others by providing false information or concealing the truth.
- 2.Non-Example:** Being honest and forthcoming with information, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

## **6. Neglect of Duty:**

- 1.Example:** Failing to fulfill one's responsibilities or duties, leading to harm or inefficiency.
- 2.Non-Example:** Diligently performing one's duties with care and attention, ensuring that obligations are met.

## **7. Abuse of Power:**

- 1.Example:** Using one's position or authority to intimidate, exploit, or harm others.
- 2.Non-Example:** Using authority responsibly to protect and serve the interests of the public.

## **8. Unethical Collaboration:**

- 1.Example:** Colluding with others to engage in or cover up unethical activities.
- 2.Non-Example:** Refusing to participate in unethical behavior and reporting it to the appropriate authorities.



# Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

## **Norms:**

- Rules or expectations that are socially enforced.
- Either prescriptive - encouraging positive behavior (Sach bolo!), or proscriptive - discouraging negative behavior (Chori karna paap hai!)
- Govern our lives by giving us implicit and explicit guidance on what to think and believe, how to behave, and how to interact with others
- People learn norms in a different settings and from different agents -- family, teachers, peers, film, media etc.
- 4 key types of norms -- with differing levels of scope and reach, significance and importance, and methods of enforcement

**Folkways | Mores | Taboos | Laws**

## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### **Folkways:**

- ways of thinking, acting and behaving in social groups which are agreed upon by general public and help in maintaining social order
- spread through imitation, oral means or observation
- behaviours learned and shared by a social group, also called (customs)
- not morally significant, but important for social acceptance
- Example: acceptable dress, manners, social etiquette, body language, posture, level of privacy, working hours social customs about drinking (water, tea included!) 😊

**Namaste! Salaam! Handshake! Bowing! Air kiss! Wink!**

## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### **Mores:**

- stricter than folkways; determine moral and ethical behavior
- they help differentiate between right and wrong
- people feel strongly about mores
- violating them results in disapproval or ostracizing
- Mores determine what is considered morally acceptable or unacceptable within any given culture
- **Mores are norms of morality, or right and wrong!**

**Examples: Revealing Clothes; Premarital sex; living in; premarital pregnancy etc. but abortion may be acceptable!**

## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### **Taboos:**

- a very strong negative norm
- a prohibition of certain behavior that is so strict that violating it results in extreme disgust and even expulsion from the group or society
- often the violator of the taboo is considered unfit to live in that society
- Examples: incest; marriage within gotra / village, or outside caste; cannibalism (almost universal)

**Taboos always invite some sort of punitive action by society.**

## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### Laws:

- A codified norm (by state / authority)
- Enforceable by authority, who have the legal right to control people's behavior for the good of society at large
- Punishment is codified; procedural details are laid out
- Purpose: to discourage behavior that would typically result in injury or harm to another person or their property
- Upon violation of a law, a state authority will impose a sanction—as light as a fine or as severe as death sentence

**IPC/CRPC → Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita | Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam | Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**

# Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

## Types of Social Norms



### **Folkway**

Norm that stems from and organizes casual interactions



### **More**

Norm that structures the difference between right and wrong



### **Taboo**

Strong negative norm; violating it results in extreme disgust



### **Law**

Norm that is formally inscribed at the state or federal level

## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### Rules & Regulations:

- **Rules** are specific guidelines or instructions created by an organization or authority to regulate behavior and activities.
  - instructions that tell you what you are allowed to do and what you are not allowed to do... my room, my rules!
- **Regulations** are official rules and directives established by the government or regulatory body, typically with legal binding, to govern specific sectors or industries.

**Rules are related to procedural aspects.**

**Regulations have a broader scope and are legally binding.**

# Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

## **Values:**

- basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions
- help us to determine what is important to us
- describe personal qualities that guide our actions
- provide the general guidelines for conduct

**Courage, honesty, respect**

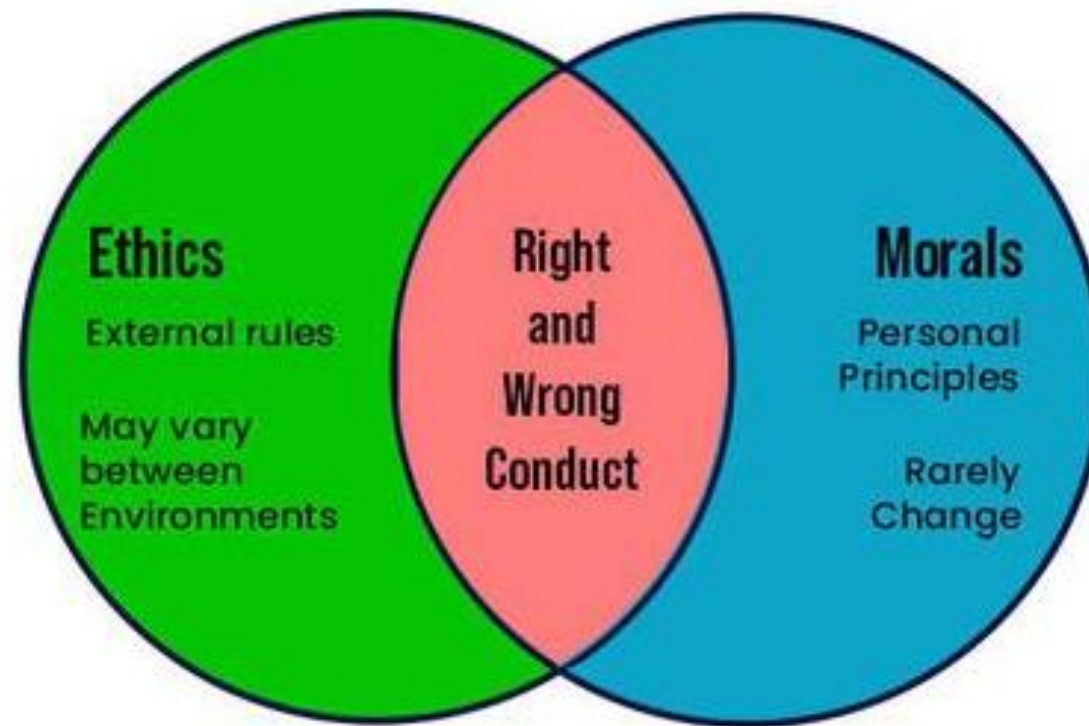


## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

### **Morality:**

- Morality is a person or society's idea of what is right or wrong, especially in regard to a person's behavior.
- Morality is personal and normative, whereas ethics is the standards of good and bad distinguished by a certain community or social setting.
- Morality can be a body of standards or principles derived from a code of conduct from a particular philosophy, religion, or culture.
- Ethics refers to community values more than personal values.
- Ethics applies to groups and organizations, while morality applies to individuals.

# Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper



## Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

1. Ethics are a formal system of beliefs that guide our behaviour, while morality is more personal and can vary from individual to individual.
2. Ethics are usually based on logical reasoning and a shared set of values, while morality is often based on gut instinct or religious beliefs.
3. Ethics tend to be more objective, while morality is often subjective.
4. Ethics are universal, while morality is often culture-specific.
5. Ethics are transcendent; they govern all aspects of life. Morality deals with specific issues such as politics, economics, religion and family matters.

When someone does something immoral, it usually relates to one of these specific areas. In contrast, ethics applies universally to every aspect of life and when someone does something unethical, it has more implications than just in one area.

# Basic Concepts in the Ethics Paper

## Conscience

- the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good
- the part of you that judges how moral your own actions are and makes you feel guilty about bad things that you have done or things you feel responsible for

## Collective Conscience

- common ideas, attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge that are shared amongst a social group, organization, or society

## What Ethics Is

### 1.Honesty:

1. **Example:** A government officer who accurately reports the status of a project, even if it means acknowledging delays or budget overruns.
2. **Non-Example:** Falsifying reports to show that the project is on track to avoid scrutiny or repercussions.

### 2.Integrity:

1. **Example:** A judge who remains impartial and makes decisions based solely on the law and evidence, regardless of personal beliefs or external pressures.
2. **Non-Example:** A judge who allows personal relationships or bribes to influence their rulings.

### 3.Accountability:

1. **Example:** A public official who takes responsibility for a failed policy and works to rectify the situation.
2. **Non-Example:** Shifting blame to subordinates or external factors to avoid taking responsibility for mistakes.

### 4.Transparency:

1. **Example:** An agency that openly shares information about its operations, decisions, and use of public funds with the public.
2. **Non-Example:** Withholding critical information from the public or stakeholders to avoid criticism or accountability.

### 5.Fairness:

1. **Example:** A hiring manager who selects candidates based on merit and qualifications without favoritism or discrimination.
2. **Non-Example:** Choosing candidates based on personal connections or biases, disregarding their qualifications.

### 6.Respect for Others:

1. **Example:** Treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or position.
2. **Non-Example:** Disrespecting or demeaning others based on their socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or other personal characteristics.

### 7.Empathy:

# What Ethics Is Not

## 1.Expediency:

1. **Example:** Cutting corners to achieve a quick result without regard for rules or ethical considerations.
2. **Non-Example:** Adhering to procedures and ethical guidelines, even if it takes longer to achieve the desired outcome.

## 2.Self-interest:

1. **Example:** Making decisions that benefit oneself at the expense of others or the public good.
2. **Non-Example:** Prioritizing the well-being and interests of others, especially those who are affected by one's decisions.

## 3.Corruption:

1. **Example:** Accepting bribes or engaging in fraudulent activities for personal gain.
2. **Non-Example:** Refusing to engage in corrupt practices and reporting any attempts of bribery or fraud.

## 4.Discrimination:

1. **Example:** Making biased decisions based on race, gender, religion, or other personal characteristics.
2. **Non-Example:** Ensuring that all decisions are fair and unbiased, respecting the diversity and rights of all individuals.

## 5.Deception:

1. **Example:** Misleading others by providing false information or concealing the truth.
2. **Non-Example:** Being honest and forthcoming with information, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

## 6.Neglect of Duty:

1. **Example:** Failing to fulfill one's responsibilities or duties, leading to harm or inefficiency.
2. **Non-Example:** Diligently performing one's duties with care and attention, ensuring that obligations are met.

## 7.Abuse of Power:

1. **Example:** Using one's position or authority to intimidate, exploit, or harm others.
2. **Non-Example:** Using authority responsibly to protect and serve the interests of the public.

## 8.Unethical Collaboration:

1. **Example:** Colluding with others to engage in or cover up unethical activities.
2. **Non-Example:** Refusing to participate in unethical behavior and reporting it to the appropriate authorities.

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

## How does ethics determine human behaviour?

Ethics plays a crucial role in shaping human behavior by:

Providing a **framework for distinguishing right from wrong**

**Guiding** individuals in **making moral decisions**

1. Establishes Moral Standards
2. Guides Decision-Making
3. Influences Social Interactions
4. Promotes Accountability and Responsibility
5. Shapes Cultural Norms and Values
6. Encourages Self-Reflection
7. builds personal integrity and trustworthiness
8. Affects Legal and Institutional Policies

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 1. Guidance for Decision-Making

- a compass for making **morally sound decisions**
- distinguish between **right and wrong**
- encourages **actions** that **contribute to the well-being** of the society at large
- provides a framework for decision-making, particularly in moral dilemmas where conflicting values or interests are at play
- a civil servant tasked with allocating resources during a crisis might prioritize the most vulnerable populations, ensuring that aid reaches those in greatest need first



# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 2. Promoting Fairness and Justice

- Ensure **fairness** and **justice**
- **Just** and **equitable** actions, **treating all** parties involved with **respect** and **dignity**
- A public servant responsible for managing a government grant program ensures that all applications are reviewed impartially, without favouritism or bias, to provide equal opportunities for all applicants.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 3. Building Trust and Credibility

- Fosters trust and credibility
- Build a reputation for honesty and integrity, essential for maintaining healthy relationships and social harmony
- A city administrator who is transparent about budget allocations and regularly updates the public on how funds are being used builds trust with the community and stakeholders, enhancing the administration's credibility.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 4. Encouraging Accountability and Responsibility

- Encourages individuals to take responsibility for their actions
- Promotes accountability, ensuring that people own up to their decisions and the consequences that follow
- **Accountability** is crucial for maintaining social order and preventing misconduct
- A city administrator who is transparent about budget allocations and regularly updates the public on how funds are being used builds trust with the community and stakeholders, enhancing the administration's credibility.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 5. Influencing Social and Cultural Norms

- Shapes social and cultural norms
- Societies develop ethical standards based on shared values, which influence the behavior of their members.
- Ethical principles are often reflected in laws, policies, and social expectations.
- a civil servant advocating for policies that promote gender equality helps shift societal attitudes towards more equitable treatment of all genders, influencing broader cultural norms.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 6. Enhancing Professional Conduct

- In professional settings, ethics guides conduct.
- Codes of ethics in various professions (like medicine, law, and business) outline the responsibilities and expected behavior of practitioners
- A public health administrator follows ethical guidelines in distributing limited medical supplies during a pandemic, ensuring that decisions are based on medical need and fairness rather than personal connections or pressure.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 7. Providing a Basis for Laws and Regulations

- Many laws are grounded in ethical principles.
- Ethical considerations help shape legal frameworks that govern human behavior, ensuring that laws reflect societal values and moral standards.
- Regulations that require transparency in government contracts are based on the ethical principles of accountability and honesty, helping to prevent corruption and ensure public trust.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 8. Supporting Personal Growth and Fulfilment

- Contributes to personal growth and fulfilment
- Acting in alignment with ethical principles can lead to a sense of satisfaction and inner peace, as individuals feel they are contributing positively to society and living in accordance with their values.
- A civil servant who consistently acts with integrity and upholds ethical standards gains respect and self-esteem, knowing their actions contribute positively to society and align with their personal values.

# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## 9. Preventing Harm and Promoting Good

- Aims to prevent harm and promote good
- Ethical principles such as non-maleficence (not causing harm) and beneficence (promoting good) guide individuals to act in ways that protect and enhance the well-being of others.
- A public servant responsible for environmental protection enforces regulations that limit industrial pollution, thereby protecting public health and promoting environmental sustainability.



# Role of Ethics in Human Life

## **10. Upholding professional Integrity and Building a better society**

- By integrating ethical principles into their actions, civil servants, public servants, and administrators can contribute to a more just, fair, and harmonious society, ensuring that their decisions and policies serve the public good and uphold the highest standards of integrity.

## Ethical Principles in Action: Civil Servants

- A district collector prioritizes affordable housing projects to ensure that low-income families living in unliveable conditions have access to safe and affordable living conditions. ➔ principles of social justice and equity.
- A police officer upholds the law impartially, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, are treated equally under the law. ➔ principles of justice and fairness helps build community trust in law enforcement.
- A departmental head implements policies that promote inclusivity and prevent discrimination, creating a safe and supportive environment for all employees and public. ➔ principles of respect and care for others' well-being.

# Determinants of Ethical Behaviour

The **determinants of ethical behavior** are **factors influencing individuals' decisions and actions** in line with **moral principles and values**.

- 1. Individual Factors:** personal characteristics and internal values that influence ethical behavior
- 2. Organizational Factors:** elements within an organization that shape the ethical behavior of its members
- 3. Situational Factors:** specific circumstances that can influence ethical behavior in a given context
- 4. Environmental Factors:** external influences that affect ethical behavior (social, cultural & religious)

## Individual Factors

- 1. Personal Values:** Core beliefs and values; The one who values honesty is more likely to act ethically in situations requiring truthfulness.
- 2. Moral Development:** Kohlberg's theory → Individuals progress through stages of moral development, from obedience to avoid punishment to adherence to universal ethical principles. Higher stages = more ethical behavior.
- 3. Personality Traits:** Traits such as conscientiousness, integrity, and empathy can influence ethical behavior. A highly conscientious individual is often more diligent and ethical in their actions.
- 4. Cognitive Moral Development:** The ability to apply moral principles and reason through ethical dilemmas affects behavior.

## Organizational Factors

1. **Organizational Culture:** A strong organizational ethical culture promotes ethical behavior—shared beliefs, values, and practices
2. **Leadership:** Ethical leadership sets the tone at the top and inspire their followers to act ethically demonstrating model ethical behaviour.
3. **Codes of Ethics:** Formal codes and policies that outline acceptable behavior provide guidelines for employees, helping them navigate ethical dilemmas.
4. **Reward Systems:** Organizations that reward ethical behavior and punish unethical conduct encourage employees to adhere to ethical standards.
5. **Training Programs:** Regular ethics training helps employees recognize and address ethical issues, reinforcing the importance of ethical behavior.

## Situational Factors

1. **Job Context:** The nature of the job and its responsibilities can affect ethical behavior. Roles with high autonomy and low supervision might present more ethical challenges.
2. **Pressure:** Situational pressures, such as deadlines or performance targets, can impact ethical decision-making. High pressure might lead individuals to cut corners or engage in unethical practices.
3. **Role Models:** The presence of ethical or unethical role models in the workplace or community can significantly influence individual behavior. People often emulate the actions of those they admire or respect.  
Examples: role models, reference groups, negative reference groups, peer pressure, culture, sub-culture, counter-culture, media, LBSNAA...

## Environmental Factors

1. **Social Norms:** Prevailing **social norms** and **cultural values** influence what is considered ethical behavior. Individuals often conform to the ethical standards of their society or community.
2. **Legal and Regulatory Framework:** Laws and regulations establish minimum standards of behavior. Compliance with these laws ensures that individuals and organizations act within legal and ethical boundaries.
3. **Economic Conditions:** Economic pressures and incentives can influence ethical behavior. People can compromise ethical standards due to financial stress, while a stable economic environment can promote ethical conduct.
4. **Industry Standards:** Specific industries have their own ethical standards and practices. Adhering to these industry-specific norms is crucial for maintaining professional integrity.

## Socio-cultural Factors

**1. Cultural Norms and Values** → acceptable and unacceptable behavior norms - deeply ingrained and influence decision-making

In collectivist cultures -- emphasis on community and group harmony

- **2. Socialization** →

Family - the first sources of ethical teachings, instilling values

- Education reinforces ethical behavior through moral education, character development, and discussions on ethical dilemmas
- Peer Influence particularly during adolescence; individuals seek acceptance and validation

**3. Media and Public Opinion** plays a crucial role in **shaping public perceptions** of ethical behavior by **highlighting ethical and unethical actions**. **Positive media coverage** of charitable acts vs. **exposure to scandals** → **public condemnation** and a push for ethical reforms



# Religious Factors

## **Religious Teachings and Scriptures:**

- provide moral guidelines that define right and wrong
- derived from sacred texts, doctrines, and the teachings of religious leaders
- The Ten Commandments in Christianity; the Five Pillars of Islam; the Eightfold Path in Buddhism;

## **Religious Practices and Rituals:**

- Regular participation in religious practices and rituals reinforces ethical behavior by reminding people of their moral obligations and consequences
- Acts of charity -- Zakat, Tithing, Langar, or Daan encourage generosity;
- Acts of fasting: Ramadan; Lent/Ash Wednesday; Vrat/Upvaas; Sikhs – No!
- Religious Community and Fellowship
- Spiritual Beliefs - karma, heaven, and hell; rebirth; Qayamat;

## Religious Factors

ॐ सह नाववतु । सह नौ भुनक्तु । सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।  
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

- 1: Om, Together may we two Move (in our Studies, the Teacher and the Student),
- 2: Together may we two Relish (our Studies, the Teacher and the Student),
- 3: Together may we perform (our Studies) with Vigour (with deep Concentration),
- 4: May what has been Studied by us be filled with the Brilliance (of Understanding, leading to Knowledge); May it Not give rise to Hostility (due to lack of Understanding),
- 5: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

# Ethics in Human Behaviour

## Branches of Ethics

- **Meta-ethics:** origin & meaning of ethical concepts; meaning of moral language and the metaphysics of moral facts; Determines the validity of the concerned theory
- **Normative Ethics:** Prescriptive ethics; how people ought to act; standards that regulate right and wrong conduct; suggests punishment
- **Descriptive Ethics:** Empirical investigation of values, morals and ethics of different cultures; history & evolution of ethics in a society
- **Applied Ethics:** Analysis of controversial moral issues, such as euthanasia, abortion, animal rights, right to self-determination etc.

## Religious Factors

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः  
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।  
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु  
मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत् ।  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah  
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah |  
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu  
Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet |  
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

May all sentient beings be at peace,  
may no one suffer from illness,  
May all see what is auspicious, may no one suffer.  
Om peace, peace, peace.

# Religious Factors

## **A Buddhist Prayer**

भवतु सॄष मंगलम ।

May all beings be happy & blessed!

## Religious Factors

### **Islamic Prayer to bless the prophet & his family**

Allaahumma salli ‘ala Muhammad wa ‘ala aali Muhammad kama salayta  
‘ala Ibraaheem wa ‘ala aali Ibraaheem, innaka hameedun majeed.

Allaahumma baarik ‘ala Muhammad wa ‘ala aali Muhammad kama  
baarakta ‘ala Ibraaheem wa ‘ala aali Ibraaheem, innaka hameedun majeed

O Allah, send prayers/blessings upon Muhammad and upon the  
family of Muhammad, as in case of Ibraaheem... .. You are  
indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.

# Religious Factors

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## Perspectives in Ethics

**Cognitivism** is the thesis that the function of moral sentences (e.g., sentences in which moral terms such as “right,” “wrong,” and “ought” are used) is to describe a domain of moral facts existing independently of our subjective thoughts and feelings, and that moral statements can accordingly be thought of as objectively true or false.

**Cognitivists** typically try to support their position by seeking out analogies between moral discourse, on the one hand, and scientific and everyday factual discourse, on the other. Cognitivism is opposed by various forms of noncognitivism, all of which have in common the denial of the cognitivist claim that the function of moral sentences is to state or describe facts.

## Perspectives in Ethics

**Non-cognitivism** is the meta-ethical view that ethical sentences do not express propositions (i.e., statements) and thus cannot be true or false (they are not truth-apt). A noncognitivist denies the cognitivist claim that "moral judgments are capable of being objectively true, because they describe some feature of the world". If moral statements cannot be true, and if one cannot know something that is not true, noncognitivism implies that moral knowledge is impossible.

Non-cognitivism entails that non-cognitive attitudes underlie moral discourse and this discourse therefore consists of non-declarative speech acts, although accepting that its surface features may consistently and efficiently work as if moral discourse were cognitive. The point of interpreting moral claims as non-declarative speech acts is to explain what moral claims mean if they are neither true nor false (as philosophies such as logical positivism entail). Utterances like "Boo to killing!" and "Don't kill" are not candidates for truth or falsity, but have non-cognitive meaning.

## Perspectives in Ethics

**Naturalistic ethics:** A theory of moral behavior according to which ethics is an empirical science. Ethical statements are reduced to the natural sciences (physical or social), and ethical questions are answered wholly on the basis of the findings of those sciences.

Naturalistic ethics is said to be a **non-valuational enterprise**; any "ethical value" is said to be **confirmable** through the **methods of science**.

**Ethical naturalism** is the doctrine that **moral facts are facts of nature**.

According to JS Mill's utilitarianism **action is morally right** to the extent that it **tends to produce happiness** (or pleasure, broadly construed) and **morally wrong** to the extent that **it fails to produce happiness or tends to produce unhappiness**.

# Perspectives in Ethics

**Non-naturalism** is the idea that ethics is fundamentally autonomous from the natural sciences.

G.E. Moore's account of goodness in *Principia Ethica* is a paradigmatically non-naturalist account.

Non-naturalism → knowledge of basic moral principles and value judgements are in some sense self-evident and we do not have to look for them, observe them in the nature.

According to Moore → naturalists were guilty of “naturalistic fallacy.”

Anyone who infers that X is good from any proposition about X's natural properties of having committed the naturalistic fallacy.

If being pleasant is a natural property, and if anything that gives pleasure is good, would you infer that drinking alcohol is good?

# Ethics in Private Relationships

Ethics in private relationships refers to moral principles guiding behavior between individuals in personal settings, such as family, friendships, and romantic relationships.

## Key Concepts:

- 1.Trust:** The foundation of any private relationship. Ethical behavior involves being trustworthy and maintaining confidentiality.
- 2.Loyalty:** Being faithful and supportive to family and friends.
- 3.Respect:** Valuing the other person's feelings, rights, and beliefs.
- 4.Empathy:** Understanding and sharing the feelings of others.
- 5.Integrity:** Being honest & loyal to duty with strong moral principles.

## Ethics in Private Relationships

Example: A businessperson is managing the family business while their brother is pursuing education abroad. (Loss in spouse's business – request for diverting funds)

**Ethical Dilemmas:** Maintaining transparency with the absent sibling about business operations.

**Resolution:** Ensuring fair distribution of profits and responsibilities.

# Ethics in Public Relationships

Ethics in public relationships refers to the standards guiding behavior in professional, civic, and public contexts, including interactions with colleagues, subordinates, and the general public.

## Key Concepts:

- 1.Accountability:** Being responsible for one's actions and decisions.
- 2.Transparency:** Operating in an open and clear manner.
- 3.Fairness:** Treating everyone equally without favoritism or discrimination.
- 4.Responsibility:** Acting with a sense of duty and care towards society.
- 5.Public Interest:** Prioritizing the common good over personal gain.



## Ethics in Public Relationships

Example: An employee discovers that their company is engaging in illegal activities.

**Ethical Dilemmas:** Loyalty to the company versus the ethical obligation to report illegal activities.

**Resolution:** The employee reports the illegal activities to the appropriate authorities, prioritizing the public good over personal loyalty to the company.

# Ethics in Personal Relationships

**Key Ethics for Family Relationships:** Loyalty, support, respect, honesty, and care.

- Caring for elderly parents with dignity.
- Maintaining honesty and openness in marital relationships.
- Balancing fairness and discipline with children.

**Key Ethics for Friendships:** Trust, loyalty, empathy, and confidentiality.

- Being supportive during a friend's difficult times.
- Keeping promises and secrets shared by friends.
- Providing honest and constructive feedback.

**Key Ethics for Romantic Relationships:** Trust, respect, honesty, and commitment.

- Maintaining fidelity and transparency with a partner.
- Respecting each other's boundaries and individuality.
- Working through conflicts with understanding and patience.

# Ethics in Professional Relationships

**Workplace Ethics:** Integrity, accountability, fairness, and respect.

- Avoiding conflicts of interest and favoritism.
- Providing fair and equal opportunities for all employees.
- Maintaining professional boundaries and respect among colleagues.

**Ethics in Client Relations:** Honesty, transparency, confidentiality & responsibility.

- Providing accurate information and realistic expectations.
- Protecting client's confidential information.
- Acting in the best interest of the client without personal gain.

**Ethics aligning to CSR:**

- Providing community services.
- Lending support to the employees and their families in the times of need.
- Extending a hand to the local communities for immediate help and capability building.

# Ethics in Social Relationships

**Key Ethics to Community:** Civic responsibility, respect, fairness, and cooperation.

- Participating in community service and social initiatives.
- Respecting cultural and social diversity. Acting fairly and justly in community decision-making.

**Ethics towards Public Figures:** Transparency, accountability, public interest, and integrity.

- Public officials avoiding misuse of power and corruption.
- Maintaining honesty and transparency in public communications.
- Prioritizing public welfare over personal interests.

# Ethics in Environmental Relationships

**Key Ethics towards Nature:** Sustainability, stewardship, respect for nature, and responsibility.

- Practicing sustainable living and reducing environmental footprint.
- Supporting and participating in conservation efforts.
- Educating others about the importance of environmental preservation.

**Key Ethics towards Future Generations:** Responsibility, sustainability, fairness, and foresight.

- Making decisions that consider long-term impact on future generations.
- Promoting policies that ensure a sustainable future.
- Educating and empowering the next generation to make ethical decisions.

## The Seven Principles of Public Life

The **Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL)** was established by John Major as an advisory non-departmental public body of the UK Govt. in 1994 to advise the PM on ethical standards of public life.

It promotes a code of conduct called the *Seven Principles of Public Life*, aka the *Nolan principles* after the first chairman of the committee, **Lord Nolan**.

## The Seven Principles of Public Life

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- **Integrity:** Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- **Objectivity:** Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

## The Seven Principles of Public Life

**Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**Openness:** Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

**Honesty:** Holders of public office should be truthful.

**Leadership:** Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.



# Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

## 1. Integrity:

- Private: Being honest and having strong moral principles in personal interactions, such as being truthful with family and friends.
- Public: Upholding honesty and moral principles in professional duties, ensuring that one's actions are consistent with ethical standards.
- Private: A spouse being honest about financial matters in the household.
- Public: A government official disclosing potential conflicts of interest.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 2. Respect:

- Private: Valuing the feelings, rights, and beliefs of family and friends, showing consideration and appreciation for them.
- Public: Treating colleagues, subordinates, and the public with dignity and respect, acknowledging their contributions and perspectives.
- Private: Listening and valuing a friend's opinion during a disagreement.
- Public: A manager valuing and considering the input of all team members during decision-making.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 3. Trust:

- Private: Building and maintaining trust in personal relationships by being reliable, keeping promises, and being supportive.
- Public: Establishing trust in professional relationships through transparency, accountability, and consistency in actions.
- Private: Keeping a friend's secret and supporting them in a time of need.
- Public: A public servant being transparent with the public about policy decisions and outcomes.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 4. Responsibility:

- Private: Fulfilling personal obligations towards family and friends, such as caring for dependents and maintaining relationships.
- Public: Being accountable for one's actions in a professional setting, taking responsibility for decisions and their impacts on others.
- Private: A parent fulfilling their duties towards their children by providing care and guidance.
- Public: An employee taking responsibility for a mistake and working to rectify it.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 5. Fairness:

- Private: Ensuring equitable treatment within personal relationships, avoiding favoritism, and being just in resolving conflicts.
- Public: Implementing impartial and equitable practices in the workplace, ensuring equal opportunities and justice for all.
- Private: Treating all siblings equally when making family decisions.
- Public: Ensuring all employees have equal access to opportunities and resources.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 6. Empathy:

- Private: Understanding and sharing the feelings of family and friends, providing emotional support and compassion.
- Public: Demonstrating empathy in professional settings by considering the impact of decisions on colleagues and the public.
- Private: Comforting a friend who is going through a difficult time.
- Public: A leader considering the potential layoffs' emotional and economic impact on employees.

## Common Ethics in Public & Private Relationships

### 7. Loyalty:

- Private: Being faithful and supportive to family and friends, standing by them in times of need.
- Public: Showing dedication and allegiance to one's organization and its mission, while maintaining ethical standards.
- Private: Standing by a family member during a challenging period.
- Public: Advocating for one's organization and its ethical mission while addressing any internal issues.