

1. Can code of ethics strengthen ethical and moral values in governance? Critically examine.

Introduction:

A code of ethics document may outline the mission and values of the business or organization, how professionals are supposed to approach problems, the ethical principles based on the organization's core values and the standards to which the professional is held.

Body

The main purpose of a code of ethics is to guide all managerial decisions, creating a common framework upon which all decisions are founded. This can aid to create a unified understanding of the boundaries within an organization and the standards set for interacting with external stakeholders.



Limited role of code of ethics:

- The one who has to ensure that the code isn't violated, may be corrupt or unethical.
- A code of ethics may be defined exhaustively but its **implementation** may not be that effective.
- **Loopholes**- Not everything can be defined by a code.
- Code of ethics may not be **updated** as per the needs of the present society.
- A code of ethics can tackle corrupt mind but not corrupt heart.
- It is **not binding**. This reduces its effectiveness.

- Other constraints such as cultural and legal challenges exist

Relevance of code of ethics:

Despite its limited effectiveness, the code of ethics is very relevant.

- A code of ethics can help company to show customers that it values integrity, define the terms of ethical behaviour at work and guide decision-making in difficult situations i.e., It helps one **in situations of dilemma**. One may follow the code and function ethically.
- A formal, well-communicated code of ethics can assist to shield a company's status and legal standing in case of a breach of ethics by an individual worker.
- Sets **benchmark for appropriate behaviour**. Provides a framework for reference in case discretionary powers are to be used.
- The relevance is more in present society where values and ethics are on decline either seemingly because of greater awareness or in reality.

Way forward:

- Right ethical training
- Value based education at school level.
- Inducting righteous people in the system

Conclusion:

Overall, it can be said that code of ethics is desired, it acts a guiding beacon. But given its limited effectiveness we need to ensure that the ones who are meant to use the code are themselves righteous because any code can only discipline someone but not transform him/her into an ethical person.

2. From the moral standpoint, comment upon the ongoing pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.**Introduction**

Hong Kong is situated on the southeast coast of China, Hong Kong's strategic location on the Pearl River Delta and the South China Sea has made it one of the world's most thriving and cosmopolitan cities. Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. The interference of the communist regime of China in the internal affairs of Hong Kong and its oppressive policies have led to various pro-democracy protests for autonomy in recent times. Massive protests in Hong Kong have erupted against a government plan to allow extradition to mainland China. Civil unrests and severe economic clampdowns are being witnessed in the region.

Body

- Right to protest and strike are basic human right. Most of the protests by the citizens of Hong Kong have been peaceful, fighting for their rights against the China's growing influence.
- Recently, there emerged a video of the Hong Kong protestors giving way for an ambulance, this shows high morality of the protestors.
- The demand to withdraw the Extradition bill is due to fear of absence of fair trial, inhumane treatment, absence of rule of law in China. This demand is justified on the grounds of humanity.
- The absence of universal suffrage (though mentioned in Sino-Britain agreement), is against democratic principles. This has been the demand of the protestors.
- The Causeway Bay books disappearance case, 2015 is an example of how China can misuse its powers under Extradition law.
- The violent treatment of protestors using police action, undermines the basic human rights.
- Many international human rights organisations, countries like USA, Canada have expressed their concerns over Chinese political coercion. The global community needs to lend its support to the peaceful Hong Kong protestors and ensure basic human rights.
- If China happens to take the control of Hong Kong, it will turn a democratic nation into Authoritarian form of government, with people losing many civil liberties.
- On moral grounds, UK needs to intervene and de-escalate the issue, being a part of Sino-Britain joint Britain agreement.
- However, few sections of the mob should avoid violent tactics, avoid destruction of public property and avoid inconvenience to general public. Their violent steps may justify police action.

Conclusion

The G7 was right to reaffirm the importance of the Sino-British joint declaration – which guaranteed that Hong Kong's way of life would be maintained until 2047 – in its joint statement from the Biarritz summit. Beijing reacted with predictable hostility, but other countries should not be deterred. The risks are real and the people of Hong Kong have very little on their side. They need the international community's attention and support.

Q3. Should global institutions interfere in the internal affairs of a country if there are allegations of human rights violations? Substantiate your viewpoint.

Introduction:

Humanity & human rights must be at the ultimate end of any international relation. Here ethics comes into play. International ethics offers understandings into how nations and global institutions treat other nations and their people.

Body:

Yes, the international institution must interfere, especially:

- When national/local government fail to protect human rights.
- When an independent institution and the court is failing to safeguard human rights.
- When there is ethnic cleansing and minority are being prosecuted
- When majoritarianism prevails over rule of law.
- When a basic and fundamental right is subverted.

The various tools are:

- UNSC action
- UN peacekeeping force.
- International Criminal Court.

International institution must interfere because:

- Every individual is a global citizen.
- It has global ramifications.
- If not acted it will erode the credibility of international institutions.
- Every Country is under an international obligation to protect the Human Rights of its citizen. This is known as "Sovereign Responsibility". However, when the state fails to protect its citizen's rights, the international community can take steps to protect them. Ex. Rohingya Ethnic cleansing and refugee crisis, Rwanda Tutsi genocide, Syrian Crisis.
- The international community cannot say that it is internal matters, specifically when the internal system and state, itself is involved in Human Rights violation.
- Global institutions provide aid and support in times of crisis. Ex. UN peacekeeping forces in Sudan.
- The transnational nature of the crime. Ex. Human right violation due to Trafficking of humans, especially women and child, is a serious issue.

Example: Countries at G7 meeting raised voice against the prevailing situation in Hong Kong and Amazon fire, where indigenous people are dying due to state inactions.

But, in every case of alleged Human Rights violation global institutions should not interfere, especially when:

- The country has a strong Human Rights institution.

- And independent court to protect Human Rights and Fundamental Rights.
- Where civil society is active and free.
- Where there is a mechanism to deal with such a situation.

Example: The accusations of alleged Human Rights violation in JK levelled by Pakistan did not get international supports, as India has a good record of Human Rights protection, it has a functional democracy, independent judiciary and Shimla agreement with Pakistan to deal any such issue bilaterally.

However, certain challenges are there like:

- Selective intervention: Human Rights are Universal in nature. Hence Black lives are as much important as White Lives.
- UNSC lack of consensus.
- No proactive response.
- No clear cut demarcation.
- Human Rights boundaries transcend Political boundaries.
- The sovereignty of the country is generally violated.

Conclusion:

To tackle violation of Human rights, countries in their sovereign limits and world communities should place humanity above all other small interests and immediate gains. International organizations should have a proactive response and should not breach the sovereignty of the countries in protecting human rights. The world should cooperate to prevent the violation of human rights.

4. What governing standards from the corporate world can be emulated in the government and vice versa? Suggest.

Introduction:

Employment processes and standards in both corporate world and under the government have their own affirmative scopes and limitations. There are numerous standards that can be implemented on both sides to better the employment environment respectively.

Body:

Corporate governing standards that can be emulated in the government:

- **Performance based appraisal:** Private corporate sectors are well-known for their regard to performance and employee motivation. In government employment, promotions are usually time based and performance, though important, is only one of the factors. Senior designations, in government jobs, though almost invincibly powerful, may only come after years of patience.

- **Age, attempts and positions:** Corporate jobs are filled based on demand and recruitment drives happen all year long as long as there is a need. Positions are filled in campus recruitment, referral recruitment, online recruitment, and through other means in usually straightforward and streamlined processes. Most public-sector positions are opened up for a limited period of time and at a nationwide level. The decision-making process can be long-drawn and take upwards of months to arrive at a selection.
- **Individual initiative:** Private jobs have the opportunity to make provisions for innovative and individual initiative by sharp employees. On the contrary, government jobs ensure a monotonous hierarchy and process with fewer provisions for change.
- **Competitive and motivational employee programmes:** Corporate standards ensure timely employee recreational and motivational activity based programmes which help enhance employee performance and interaction with top level and team mates alike.
- **Professional process and no overlapping procedures:** Government standards are known to be a long drawn process, with overlapping processes, lacking professionalism and accountability. Corporate environment prevents this kind of lethargic and time taking norms and working.

Government working standards that can be emulated in corporate governance:

- **Job Life Balance:** Since job performances are directly related to job growth, the work culture promotes a certain level of competition, often unhealthy, to keep up the pace. Government jobs are relatively relaxed, more stable and routine based ensuring a smooth or planned personal life as well.
- **Avoiding extreme pressure for performance:** Better devolution of work and pre informed work goals ensure comparatively lesser pressure on the individual and thus avoid many health disadvantages born out of pressure and target based corporate environment.
- **Better retirement and additional facilities:** Compared to the standards of government employment governance, corporate work demands a fast paced high growth culture, and sometimes can end up foregoing additional facilities and lack security of job.

Conclusion:

There are challenges and manifold advantages on both sides of work governance. Inculcating the best of both sides with professionalism and ethical standards as a guideline will be the most effective way forward.

5. What are your views on cross border immigration into India? Should India allow cross border immigrants to stay? Substantiate your views.

Introduction

An illegal immigrant in India is a person residing in the country without official permission as prescribed by relevant Indian law. Those who are explicitly granted refugee status do not fall under this category

Body

India's geostrategic location, its relatively sound economic position vis-à-vis its neighbours, and its liberal democratic credentials have long made it a magnet for people in other parts of the region who are fleeing persecution in their countries of origin or looking for a better life. Refugees/illegal immigrants from Tibet, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have found shelter in India. While refugees coming from other areas—including Tibet, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Myanmar—have been dealt with in a somewhat systematic, although ad hoc, manner, the influx of refugees/illegal immigrants from Bangladesh has largely been left unattended.

Background:

- As per the 2001 Census, Bangladeshis form the largest group of migrants in India followed by Pakistanis.
- The total number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India at 1.5 crores, with around 3 lakh entering every year.
- Citizenship claims of over 19 lakh people out of the total 40.7 lakh who had not found a place in last year's draft NRC have been rejected.

India should allow cross border immigrants to stay:

- **On humanitarian background:** Basic amenities and temporary shelter can be provided on humanity basis.
- **From our roots:** India is land of Mahatma Gandhiji, Mother Theresa etc. It is our duty to spread the word of humanity, sympathy and non-violence.
- **Can be a part of development:** Immigrants can be given specific role and take part in growth and development.

India should not allow cross border immigrants to stay:

- **Criminal activities:** Trans boundary drug trade, cattle smuggling, etc is often carried out using such illegal immigrants (Eg Punjab Drug menace and the North East especially Manipur). This can lead to rise in crime.
- **Instability in India:** Many of the illegal immigrants are entering India in order to bring instability in India by terrorism and insurgency. They are helping Naxal movements too.
- **Demography changes:** The demography of many places has been changed after huge influx of Bangladeshi illegal immigrants. Recent Assam crisis is an example.

- **Burden on our resources:** Put more pressure on the already scarce resources available at hand considering India has to support 7 % of world population 2.3 % of world resource.
- **Ghost beneficiaries:** Makes difficult for government to identify true beneficiaries for schemes and benefits.
- **Islamophobic sentiments:** Anti-immigrant and Islamophobic sentiments rage across the world, from North America and Europe to China and India. Both those sentiments merged together in India with the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which sought to offer immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh a path to citizenship, as long as they were not Muslim.

Conclusion

Cross border migration has adversely impacted the interests of local populations in the areas seeing large-scale influxes of illegal immigrants as well as India's national security interests. Further, the absence of national refugee laws has blurred the distinction between refugees and economic migrants, leading to the denial of any assistance to even genuine asylum seekers. It now poses an enormous problem for India and the millions of affected people. Further delay in addressing the problem will only make matters worse.

