

1. Why is it important to have synergy between one's words and actions from the Ethical standpoint?

Introduction

If your actions do not prove the truth of your words, then your words nothing more than lies. People say things and make promises they have no intention of keeping on a daily basis. It often happens in public service, organization, in family. Sometimes things cannot be expressed in mere words; they require actions to speak for them. Words are cheap, anyone can tell someone they love them, but they will not feel the immensity of these emotions until they are acted upon.

Body

It is very much important to have synergy between one's words and actions

- **Government:** here government means elected representatives, we often happen to see, before coming to power different political parties make so many promises like they will make the country free from corruption, generating employment, in their manifesto but once they got elected they hardly care about the promises made by them .this leads to losing of confidence on politicians and sometimes it may paves the way to civil wars, eventually people may not elect them again.
- **Organization:** in this atmosphere, your actions speak more than your words. For instance famous e-commerce giant amazon, their main principle is customer obsession, when somebody placed an order then they will get an assurance that the ordered product will be reached on particular date but in the process that product will be delivered to customer with long delay or even it may get cancelled. Then it leads trust deficit, consequence will be loss of profit to the company.
- **Relationship:** This concept applies to almost every situation in a person's life. In relationships, if one partner is consistently coming home late from work and not answering his or her phone, the other will probably think this person is cheating. This is a valid concern, since the partner's actions are running contrary to how a relationship should be. This concern will only grow as the actions contradict the faithful promises that were once made. No protests of love will be able to convince otherwise because the actions are looked at over the words. .“Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day.”

Conclusion

Promises mean nothing without proof. People lie all the time and say things just to appease others. You can only learn about a person's true character by watching their behaviors toward you and toward others. Actions should meet verbal commitments, not conflict them. If you promise something, people might not believe you until they see you actually do it. If we give off two contradictory messages, verbal and nonverbal, people will have the tendency to believe the nonverbal over the verbal.

2. Do marriages have an ethical backdrop? If yes, illustrate the instances where one's ethical Standards are put to test in a marital bond.

Introduction

Marriage has been an important social institution. It is the basis for the family. It is a relationship between individuals which has formed the foundation of the family for most societies. Marriage can include legal, social, and religious elements. In some societies, marriage has traditionally been understood as a social contract between a man (husband) and a woman (wife).

Body

Yes, marriages have an ethical backdrop

- According to Hinduism Marriage was considered sacred because Union (between man and woman) was considered indissoluble and irrevocable; and Emphasis was on chastity of the woman and faithfulness of the man. Even today, the sanctity of the marriage is recognized by Hindus in spite of the fact that marriage is performed for companionship and not for performing duties, and when-ever found a failure, it is dissolved by divorce. Mutual fidelity and devotion to partner are still considered to be the essence of marriage.
- According Kant marriage is private matter, it is matter of right, and it is properly a contract subjected to government regulations.
- Morals like love, compassion, faith, trust, mutual respect, respecting each other views, tolerance for each other and social harmony have ethical backdrop for marriage

Instances where one's ethical standards are put to test in a marital bond.

- **Commitment:** marriage involves a commitment. External social status of marriage need not bring with it any corresponding internal commitment; at best, marriage provides a social form for expressing commitments, and creates pressure to keep commitments. Anyway, the value of a commitment depends on the value of whatever it is that the individual is committed to. There is, for example, no value in being committed to a mutually harmful abusive relationship. So the appeal to commitment does not by itself explain the ethical significance of marriage.
- **Trust:** There is an element of faith operating with trust, because we can never truly know what our partner might do or say before the fact. Having faith in your partner—meaning you believe they will do right by you before they do it—is considered to be a strong indicator of a trusting relationship is under test. But when you are doing things which creates trust deficit then ethical standard faith on partner is put under test.

- When there is no synergy between words and actions then one's ethical standard is put under test. For example husband says he is very helpful but when wife doing house chores he is watching television this shows husband's ethical standard is under test.

Conclusion

Marriage is a very important rite in life, and as such, should have the utmost respect of all, especially of the two partners concerned. The main essence of a marriage in traditional and religious settings is to procreate and have children to fill the world and continue ones generation.

3. Do religious beliefs interfere with ethics in public life? Critically examine. (Hint: Is it ethical to burst firecrackers near hospitals or offering prayers on loudspeakers near a school?)

Introduction

A person's religious beliefs are an integral part of his/her identity which influences all aspects of his/her life including interactions in public sphere. Ethics in this public life of an individual is based on multiple sources, of which religion is an important source. This interaction has historically seen great variations with religious and secular ethics contesting for space in public ethics.

Body

- Religious belief refers to attitudes towards mythological, supernatural, or spiritual aspects of a religion. Religious beliefs are usually codified have been a stable and wide-reaching force in human culture.
- All religious traditions believe that their faith represents a path to enlightenment and salvation. By contrast, ethics are universal decision-making tools that may be used by a person of any religious persuasion, including atheists.
- While religion makes claims about cosmology, social behavior, and the "proper" treatment of others, etc. Ethics are based on logic and reason rather than tradition or injunction.
- Ethics in public relationship are governed by power. They comprise contradictory values and influence ethical decisions in public relationships. Seven principles of public life are selfless, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Ethics in private relations helps in humanizing public relations and play an important role in forming the base for moral values of a person.

In this regard, religious beliefs play the following role in ethics involved in public life:

- Religion helps in establishing ethical conduct in individuals which is reflected in public life of individuals as summation of individuals is public. For example,

Buddhist religious ethics has helped in harmonising public life in Bhutan where happiness of everyone is emphasised over material possession.(Gross National Happiness)

- Religious belief is at the root of charity efforts which is present even in capitalist countries. Such efforts help alleviate sufferings of people on a larger societal scale. For example, efforts of Warren Buffet and Bill Gates.
- Struggles for justice and downtrodden in public life are generally inspired from religious beliefs of individuals. For example, Mahatma Gandhi's efforts during India's struggle for independence have religious basis like Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya(Truth), etc.
- Religious beliefs can be great motivators for bringing in social changes in the country. For example, Sant Gadge Baba in Maharashtra inspired many towards cleanliness drives at local level using religious symbolism.

Though religious beliefs play many a positive role in ethics in public life, there is other side of the coin too. Certain religious beliefs have an adverse bearing on ethics in public life which can be seen as below:

- Burning of fire crackers during Diwali has grave impact on health of citizens as well as environment. This religious belief has a bearing on others in public life where vulnerable sections like disabled, patients are more affected. It hampers ethical conduct of an individual in society where individual religious beliefs overpower public responsibility.
- Uncontrolled use of loudspeakers during both festivals and prayers calls have an impact on the well being of individuals in the society. It is aggravated in sensitive zones like hospitals and schools where normal functioning is hampered. Here, religious belief and practice out of it overpowers societal responsibility.
- Demands arising out of religious beliefs affecting regular functioning of society and impacting individual choices. For example, demands for ban on non veg food during jain festival of paryushan and demands of halal food by muslims.
- Various religious processions affecting normal traffic flow and leading to obstructions where religious belief is overpowering civic duty in public life.
- Grants for certain religious functions by government affecting the secular nature of government functioning where religious doctrine dominates secular values.

Conclusion

Religion is a means towards attaining individual spiritual enlightenment where percepts within it for public functioning should be understood in the context of the development of the religion at the same time, the secular ethics developed through human history should be prioritised over religious beliefs in public life.

4. The best ethical action in one's public life is to follow the rules and regulations like a responsible citizen. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction

Gandhiji has given the concept of swarajya where he observes "it is not the duty of a government to collect taxes, but it is the duty of a citizen to pay the taxes". Thus, a citizen should be self-guided to follow rules and regulations to be ethical in his/her public life.

Body

Every good citizen adds up to the strength of the nation. As a citizen, one must appreciate, acknowledge and act on our rights and responsibilities in all spheres of life and work. E.g. keeping the surroundings clean, following traffic rules and so on.

Also, it is a part of every citizen's social responsibility in which individuals are accountable for fulfilling their civic duty which is beneficial not only for them but also for the entire society. E.g. farmer around Delhi following stubble burning rules which will reduce air pollution.

This is not only as a part of civic duty, but also as an ethical duty. E.g. paying taxes in time which will be used by the government for inclusive growth and hence every citizen would be contributing in Sarvodaya. Another instance where by reporting child marriage, one is not only following rules but also saving the life of a kid which is ethical.

Further, as per deontology philosophy, 'don't do unto others what you don't want others do unto you'. E.g. not smoking in public is as per rules and also ethical, because, it would irritate others as much as it would irritate you as a passive smoker. Similarly, not taking dowry, not paying bribe are instances where one would not like to be in place of the person suffering or being victimised.

However, following rules and regulations blindly is legal but not always ethical. As Gandhiji said "Don't forget, everything that Nazis did was legal". A responsible citizen has to apply his conscience under certain situation as well. For e.g. a good samaritarian doing first aid after an accident than standing aside only because it is against rules and regulation.

Doing what you have the right to do – as in doing something that is not illegal – is not always identical to doing what is right. Throughout history we also have instances where laws that are considered unjust are disobeyed in an effort to change them. This occurred with civil rights activist Rosa Parks and the racial segregation laws in the US.

Conclusion

“The law sets minimum standards of behaviour while ethics sets maximum standards.” Ethics provides us with guides on what is the right thing to do in all aspects of life, while the law generally provides more specific rules so that societies and their institutions can be maintained. Thus, a good citizen has to follow rules and regulations, but at times has to go beyond or even disobey just because the rules and regulations are unethical.

5. How does time and space affect ethics in private and public relationships?

Illustrate.

Introduction

“The field of ethics, also called moral philosophy, involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior”. Definitions of ethics normally have in common the elements of requiring some form of systematic analysis, distinguishing right from wrong, and determining the nature of what should be valued. In the public relations discipline, ethics includes values such as honesty, openness, loyalty, fair-mindedness, respect, integrity, and forthright communication.

Body

- Each private and personal relationship has its own irreplaceable value. The governing factors for ethics in private relationships include individual virtues, universal human values, religion, social norms and law. Even with imperfections and problems they're relatively permanent.
- On the other hand, Public relationships are governed by many aspects. They may or may not be inherited. One begins public relations to get respect, attention, power, authority and materialistic benefits.
- In private and public relationships trust is an important factor for instance trust on family members, public trust on the government machinery etc. So transparency, emotional intelligence are the factors which strengthen the relationships.
- At times, Public servants play conflicting role due to conflict in private life and public life. The private relationships demand individual's responsibilities towards the role played in private life such as father, mother, husband, etc. These are self-imposed and voluntary and are backed by sanctions of one's obligations towards self, family and society since ancient times. For example, in our country, the Dharmashshtras provide moral codes to regulate the private relations.
- However, in public relationships, the public servant needs to cope with several roles altogether. This includes – role in private life, role in personal and family sphere, role as a professional, role for job, role towards his/her area of jurisdiction, role towards seniors and society and humanity at large.
- When one is confused between ethical issues in private and public relationships, the personal conflict of interest is bound to arise. A public

servant must also endeavor to avoid conflict of interest by avoiding situations where he/she either benefits personally.

- If there is inconsistency in the public life and private life of a person, it leads to disastrous outcomes. Example Kesab Chandra Sen opposed child marriage but married his own underage daughter to Maharaja of Cooch Bihar. Consequently, his followers abandoned him and founded Sadharan Brahma Samaj (1878).
- The public service role also invokes legal and constitutional obligations, which when violated invite legal sanctions and penalties. Thus, a public servant needs to cope with these different roles which many a times conflict with each other.
- Most common challenges faced by officers in public life revolve around aspects such as: Discretion, Nepotism-will lead to the downgrading of the quality of the public service and Public accountability.

In the modern society there is more importance given to material means like money but the way it is achieved is not considered. The challenge in public life is to do the right thing through the right set of values and right path.

Conclusion

Most codes of ethics provide no enforcement monitoring or recourse for their infringement, leaving them impotent other than the occasional revocation of association membership. These problems with codes of ethics are not new and they are not limited to the field of public relations This debate mirrors the rationale of Plato, as quoted in Parsons (2004): “Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws”.