

Q.1) "There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent." In light of this statement, examine the role of family in shaping values and attitudes in an individual. How can parenting in the modern era balance tradition and change to inculcate ethical behaviour in children? (150 words, 10 marks)

Introduction

The family is a child's first school, where values take root and character forms. In a changing world, parents play a crucial role in balancing timeless virtues with modern realities to nurture ethically grounded and emotionally resilient individuals.

Body

Role of Family in Shaping Values and Attitudes

"Our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House but what happens inside your house." - Barbara Bush

1. First ethical environment : Children absorb values like honesty and empathy through everyday family life.

Example: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam credited his disciplined home for shaping his humility and service.

2. Emotional bonding : Emotionally secure family ties help children internalize ethics.

Example: Mandela's sense of justice was inspired by family stories of dignity.

3. Cultural and moral transmission : Rituals and stories pass on identity and values.

Example: Tagore's humanism grew from his culturally rich household.

4. Parenting style : A firm yet loving approach builds accountability.

Example: Studies show such parenting enhances civic and ethical behaviour.

5. Moral dialogue and reasoning : Open discussions foster ethical thinking.

Example: Montessori homes guide children to reason through moral choices.

Balancing Tradition and Change in Modern Parenting

1. Adapting timeless values : Values must evolve with digital risks of modern times.

Example: Finland blends compassion with media literacy for digital ethics.

2. Encouraging reflection, not blind conformity: Children should question while staying rooted.

Example: Scandinavian schools promote moral autonomy with tradition.

3. Preparing for ethical challenges : Kids need tools to face online and social issues.

Example: UNICEF teaches online ethics through digital citizenship programs.

4. Role modelling ethical adaptability: Parents must live values while embracing progress.

Example: Jacinda Ardern models value-based, empathetic leadership.

5. Open, inclusive dialogue in family settings: Families must balance shared values with respect for differences.

Example: CBSE's "Values Kit" supports pluralistic ethics at home.

Conclusion

A nurturing home remains the most enduring space for early **ethical socialization**. Today's parents must harmonize tradition with context, cultivating children who live with **integrity**, **empathy**, and **moral courage**.

Q.2) "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." In this context, discuss how educational institutions today can go beyond rote learning to shape values, critical thinking, and ethical attitudes among students. Support your answer with recent examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Introduction

The quote by **Plutarch** underlines that Education must not merely prepare students to answer questions but to question answers. In an evolving society, the purpose of schooling should extend beyond grades to the building of good character.

Body

Rote Learning and its Ethical Limitations

- Limits ethical reflection by discouraging questioning and critical thinking.
- Reduces empathy as moral context and lived experiences are sidelined.
- Encourages conformity over integrity and independent judgment.

How Education Can Kindle Ethical Thinking and Values

1. Value-based and ethical content: Courses on ethics and civic duties build moral awareness.

Example: CBSE and NCERT include value education to sensitise students.

2. Interactive teaching methods: Debates and dilemmas sharpen moral reasoning.

Example: Azim Premji University uses ethical case studies to build judgment.

3. Teachers as moral exemplars: Teachers' conduct strongly shapes student character.

Example: Dr. Kalam credited teacher Solomon for his moral foundation.

4. Fostering inclusive environments: Respectful spaces nurture empathy and cooperation.

Example: Delhi's "Happiness Curriculum" includes kindness and mindfulness.

5. Community service : Ground engagement builds empathy and responsibility.

Example: NSS and NCC promote service, teamwork, and discipline.

6. Assessment reforms : Moving beyond rote learning deepens understanding.

Example: NEP 2020 supports critical thinking and application-based learning.

7. Digital literacy and cyber ethics : Students must learn safe and ethical online use.

Example: Schools teach cyber etiquette, privacy, and misinformation handling.

8. Student-led initiatives for moral learning: Peer forums develop shared ethical responsibility.

Example: Ethics clubs and school parliaments enable student-led moral actions.

Conclusion

As Mahatma Gandhi said, *"By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man—body, mind and spirit."* A truly enlightened educational system must spark not just knowledge, but our conscience.

Q.3) A positive attitude is an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person? (150 words, 10 marks)

Introduction

A civil servant's job involves constant pressure, ethical choices, and public accountability. A positive attitude ensures balance, resilience, and people-centric governance. As *William James* said, *"A human being can alter his life by altering his attitude."*

Body

Why a positive attitude is essential for a civil servant:

- **Resilience under pressure:** It helps civil servants stay calm and effective during crises.
Example: Gaurav Goel managed Bihar flood relief with composure.
- **Ethical decision-making:** A positive outlook supports integrity in tough calls.
Example: Ashok Khemka stood against corruption despite transfers.
- **Public service motivation:** It fosters empathy and citizen-friendly behaviour.
Example: Durga Shakti Nagpal's rural work showed service commitment.

Factors Contributing to a Positive Attitude:

1. **Ethical foundations:** Core values like honesty and justice anchor one's mindset.
Example: T.N. Seshan's reforms stemmed from moral conviction.
2. **Emotional intelligence:** Managing emotions helps stay balanced under criticism.
Example: Kiran Bedi led Tihar reforms with sensitivity.
3. **Growth mindset:** Viewing failures as lessons builds optimism.
Example: Kalam turned early setbacks into lifelong motivation.
4. **Supportive environment:** Mentors and peers boost morale and self-belief.
Example: Young IAS officers gain from senior guidance.
5. **Wellness practices:** Mindfulness and fitness strengthen mental resilience.
Example: Rajni Sibal used meditation to manage stress.

Conclusion

A positive attitude is not innate — it is cultivated through ethical grounding, emotional maturity, and continuous reflection. For civil servants, it becomes the compass that ensures service with humility, empathy, and unwavering commitment to the public good.

Q.4) In the digital age, how do social media and internet platforms shape public attitudes, and what ethical challenges arise from their influence? Suggest measures to promote positive and responsible behaviour through these platforms. (150 words, 10 marks)

Introduction

In today's digital world, social media shapes public thinking and behaviour. While it can inform and empower, it also spreads bias, misinformation, and unethical norms. As Lange said, "Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master."

Body

Influence of social media on Public Attitudes:

- 1. Voice Amplification:** Social media platforms give visibility to marginal voices, shaping discourse and mobilising collective action.
Example: The #MeToo movement empowered survivors and shifted social norms.
- 2. Echo Chambers:** Algorithms feed users content they agree with, reinforcing biases and deepening polarisation.
Example: US political radicalisation has grown through isolated online communities.
- 3. Normalising Hate:** Constant exposure to trolling and abuse makes unethical behaviour seem acceptable.
Example: Celebrities and activists are often targeted through coordinated hate campaigns.
- 4. Consumerist Culture:** Influencers promote aspirational lifestyles that distort youth values and self-worth.
Example: Many teenagers report anxiety linked to curated lives on Instagram.

Ethical Challenges:

- 1. Fake News:** Unverified content spreads rapidly, undermining truth and public trust.
Example: COVID-19 rumours worsened panic and vaccine hesitancy.
- 2. Anonymity:** Hidden identities enable abuse and misinformation without accountability.
Example: Troll accounts incite communal hatred and personal attacks.
- 3. Data Misuse:** Tech companies harvest personal data to influence choices, harming privacy and autonomy.
Example: The Cambridge Analytica case showed manipulation of electoral preferences.

Promoting Ethical Behaviour:

- 1. Digital Literacy:** Teaching critical thinking and empathy helps users navigate online spaces responsibly.
Example: UNESCO's curriculum promotes safe and ethical digital participation.

2. **Regulation:** Stronger laws and moderation ensure accountability and ethical tech governance.
Example: India's IT Rules (2021) hold platforms responsible for content and redressal.
3. **Design Nudges:** Ethical platform design can prompt reflection and prevent impulsive sharing.
Example: Twitter's "read before retweet" feature encourages informed engagement.
4. **Role Models:** Ethical influencers can inspire responsible online conduct and civic values.
Example: IAS Armstrong Pame uses social media to engage youth and serve communities.

Conclusion

Social media is not inherently good or bad — it reflects and amplifies what we feed into it. By aligning digital practices with ethical principles, we can harness it as a force for collective empathy, awareness, and informed citizenship.

Q.5) "Attitude shapes our behaviour". In this context, examine the relationship between attitude and behaviour. What factors can lead to divergence between them? (150 words ,10 marks)

Introduction

Attitude reflects one's **internal disposition** towards **people, situations, or ideas**, while **behaviour** is the **external expression** of that disposition. The relationship between attitude and behaviour is often influenced by situational and psychological factors.

Body

Relationship between attitude and behaviour:

1. **Guides Action:** A positive attitude promotes proactive and constructive responses to challenges.
Example: An empathetic officer ensures timely welfare delivery during disasters.
2. **Cognitive Consistency:** People act in ways that align with their core beliefs to maintain internal harmony.
Example: Gandhi's belief in non-violence shaped his peaceful resistance movement.
3. **Value Reflection:** Strong, deeply held attitudes often show up in consistent, habitual behaviour.
Example: A teacher valuing equality ensures inclusive classrooms without reminders.

Causes of Divergence:

1. **Social Pressure:** People may act against beliefs to conform or avoid conflict.
Example: Ashok Khemka resisted corruption, unlike peers who stayed silent to fit in.

2. **Fear of Consequences:** Concern for safety or career may override moral conviction.
Example: Some civil servants followed unethical orders fearing political backlash.
3. **Weak Conviction:** Superficial attitudes collapse under pressure or convenience.
Example: Youth who support sustainability may still choose fast fashion for ease.
4. **Dissonance:** People justify actions that contradict their beliefs to reduce inner conflict.
Example: Dominic Cummings broke lockdown rules but justified it as necessary.
5. **Practical Limits:** Situational barriers may prevent action aligned with one's values.
Example: Some whistleblowers stayed silent fearing job loss or retaliation.

Conclusion

The attitude-behaviour link is central to understanding **moral agency**. To bridge divergence, one must cultivate **moral courage**, deepen self-awareness, and build **ethical resilience**. As Aristotle said, "We are