

Q.1) What do you understand by this quote? Bring out its significance in the present context of ethical governance. (150 words, 10 Marks)
"In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." – Immanuel Kant

Introduction

Kant's quote shows that laws punish only actions, but ethics cares about what people think too. This idea is important for making sure leaders do what is right, not just what is legal.

Body

Immanuel Kant's Insight on Law and Ethics

1. **Legal Accountability:** Guilt arises only after rights are violated.

Example: An official is legally guilty only when proven to have embezzled funds.

2. **Ethical Responsibility:** Thinking of wrongdoing itself is morally wrong.

Example: A leader contemplating biased decisions is ethically culpable even before acting.

3. **Inner Morality:** Ethics governs intentions, shaping conscience and behavior.

Example: A civil servant avoids favoritism because they recognize its ethical implications.

Significance in Ethical Governance

1. **Integrity in Governance:** Ethical awareness prevents harmful intentions.

Example: Whistleblowers expose plans of misconduct, stopping corruption early.

2. **Corruption Prevention:** Mindful ethics discourages unethical schemes.

Example: Transparency initiatives make corrupt intentions less likely to develop.

3. **Public Trust:** Ethical intent builds confidence in leaders.

Example: Honest politicians gain voter trust through genuine motives.

4. **Proactive Ethics:** Emphasizing thoughtfulness helps prevent wrongdoing.

Example: Ethics training helps officials align their mindset with public duty.

5. **Accountability Expansion:** Responsibility includes both thoughts and actions.

Example: Codes of conduct highlight the importance of ethical thinking alongside laws.

Conclusion

Kant's insight reminds us that ethical governance requires attention to both intentions and actions. True justice involves cleansing the mind as well as the deed, fostering trustworthy administration.

Q.2) What do you understand by this quote? Bring out its significance in the present context of social justice and governance. (150 words, 10 Marks)
"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved." – B.R. Ambedkar

Introduction

B.R. Ambedkar's quote highlights that the true progress of any society is reflected in how much women have advanced. This idea is crucial for social justice and fair governance today.

Body

Ambedkar's View on Measuring Progress

1. **Women's Empowerment:** Society's growth is tied to women's status.

Example: Higher female literacy rates indicate social development.

2. **Equality Indicator:** Women's progress shows reduction in discrimination.

Example: Increased women's participation in politics reflects social inclusion.

3. **Holistic Development:** Women's welfare benefits families and communities.

Example: Better maternal health improves overall public health outcomes.

Significance in Social Justice and Governance

"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and building good governance."

— Kofi Annan

1. **Inclusive Policies:** Women's advancement ensures policies address all citizens.

Example: Reservation for women in local governance increases their voice.

2. **Economic Growth:** Empowering women boosts the economy.

Example: Microfinance programs for women entrepreneurs reduce poverty.

3. **Social Equity:** Women's progress reduces gender-based violence and bias.

Example: Laws against domestic violence protect women's rights.

4. **Education and Awareness:** Focus on girls' education promotes equality.

Example: Campaigns like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' improve girl child survival.

5. **Strengthening Democracy:** Equal participation leads to balanced decision-making.

Example: Women leaders advocate for social welfare and justice reforms.

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Conclusion

Ambedkar's quote teaches that true progress depends on women's advancement. Social justice and good governance must prioritize women's rights for a just and thriving society.

Q.3) Discuss the major teachings of Swami Vivekananda and analyze how these teachings can address the social, cultural, and ethical challenges of the contemporary world. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda's teachings centered around strength, service, and spiritual unity. In today's fragmented world, his ideas provide timeless solutions to ethical, social, and cultural challenges.

Body

Major Teachings of Swami Vivekananda

1. Selfless Service: Serving humanity is the path to divinity.

Example: He founded the Ramakrishna Mission to institutionalize service to the poor.

2. Faith in Oneself: Inner strength is the foundation of transformation.

Example: He inspired youth by declaring "You are the creator of your own destiny."

3. Character-Building Education: Education must shape the heart and mind.

Example: He promoted "man-making" education during his travels and speeches.

4. Religious Tolerance: All religions are valid paths to the same goal.

Example: His 1893 Chicago Speech emphasized universal acceptance and respect.

5. Women's Empowerment: Women must be uplifted for national progress.

Example: He praised the strength of women in ancient India and supported their education.

Addressing Contemporary Challenges

1. Fighting Social Division: His vision of oneness bridges caste and communal rifts.

Example: His call for universal brotherhood inspires harmony initiatives today.

2. Cultural Preservation: He revived pride in India's spiritual identity.

Example: Cultural exchanges and yoga diplomacy carry forward his legacy.

3. Youth Engagement: He energised the youth to be fearless and duty-bound.

Example: National Youth Day motivates programs aimed at youth empowerment.

4. Moral Public Life: He emphasized integrity and fearlessness in leadership.

Example: Ethics training in civil services mirrors his stress on righteous action.

5. Global Humanism: He viewed humanity as one large family.

Example: India's global humanitarian efforts echo his call for service beyond borders.

Conclusion

Swami Vivekananda's message is a compass for modern society. *"They alone live who live for others."*

Q.4) Public servants often face situations involving 'Conflict of Interest'. What is meant by 'Conflict of Interest' and in what ways can it influence their decision-making process? How should a public servant handle such situations to maintain integrity? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction

Conflict of Interest (COI) arises when personal interest could improperly influence a public servant's professional duties. In governance, handling such situations ethically is crucial to protect public trust and institutional integrity.

Body

Common Situations of Conflict of Interest

1. Awarding contracts to known parties: A civil servant involved in bidding may favor firms owned by friends or family.

Example: Allegations in BMC contract allocations involved officials related to bidders.

2. Regulatory roles vs. previous affiliations: A retired bureaucrat appointed to regulate a sector they once worked in.

Example: Concerns raised over ex-officials joining private consultancies related to their past departments.

3. Dual roles or assets: Holding stakes in companies while making related policy decisions.

Example: SEBI's crackdown on insider trading involves such cases in regulatory circles.

Influence on Decision-Making

1. Biased Judgement: Personal stakes may distort objectivity in decisions.

Example: Political patronage in bureaucratic transfers, seen in several state administrations.

2. Policy Misuse: Framing rules that benefit connected individuals or entities.

Example: Real estate policy changes allegedly benefiting builders with bureaucratic links.

3. Public Distrust: Even perceived COI weakens citizens' trust in institutions.

Example: Judicial recusals in high-profile cases to avoid perception of bias.

4. Delayed or Skewed Implementation: Fear of exposure may lead to inaction or biased execution.

Example: Delay in action during the NEET paper leak scandal raised COI suspicions.

Handling Conflict of Interest

1. Mandatory Disclosure: Declare personal and financial interests proactively.

Example: IAS officers' asset declarations made public on government portals.

2. Recusal from Decision-Making: Step back from decisions where bias is possible.

Example: RBI officials recusing from decisions on banks they were previously associated with.

3. Institutional Safeguards: Enforce clear ethics codes and independent oversight.

Example: Lokpal and Lokayuktas help investigate cases involving ethical lapses.

4. Ethical Training and Vigilance: Regular sensitisation helps identify and manage COI.

Example: Civil service foundation courses include ethics modules post-Second ARC recommendations.

Conclusion

Addressing conflict of interest is not just about legality but ethical responsibility. Upholding transparency, fairness, and neutrality ensures public servants serve the people, not personal agendas—safeguarding the foundation of just governance.

Q.5) Corruption is indicative of the erosion of fundamental values within society.” In your opinion, what measures can be implemented to reinforce and promote these core values effectively? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction

According to Transparency International, corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. India ranks 93rd in the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, showing how deeply corruption reflects a collapse of ethical and societal values.

Body

Corruption as erosion of core values

1. **Moral compromise:** People justify unethical choices for personal benefit.
Example: Officials demanding money for welfare disbursement show moral lapse.
2. **Weak institutional conscience:** Systems enable wrongdoing by failing in oversight.
Example: The PDS scam in Assam revealed deep-rooted procedural lapses.
3. **Loss of public trust:** Citizens lose faith when fairness is consistently undermined.
Example: NEET paper leak cases fuel public anger and cynicism.
4. **Normalization of dishonesty:** Bribes and favours are seen as a normal way to get work done.
Example: Bribery in municipal clearance processes is considered routine.

“Sanskritization of corruption occurs when corruption is not only tolerated but becomes a status symbol—people strive towards it to gain respect.” - Kaushik Basu

Measures to reinforce core values

1. **Ethical education from an early age:** Cultivates a strong moral compass in youth.
Example: New NCERT textbooks focus on empathy, integrity, and duty.
2. **Use of technology in governance:** Minimizes discretion and improves transparency.
Example: BHIM-UPI has reduced leakages in public transfers and citizen services.
3. **Strengthening whistleblower protection:** Safeguards those who speak out against corruption.
Example: Vigilance officers in Indian Railways have exposed procurement irregularities.
4. **Promoting role-model conduct:** Leaders must model ethical behavior for the system to follow.

Example: Former IFS officer Ruchira Kamboj has been praised for transparent diplomatic work.

- 5. Legal reforms for accountability:** Stronger laws deter wrongdoing and enforce consequences.

Example: The 2018 amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act focuses on bribe givers too.

- 6. Institutional reforms:** Independent bodies and internal audits must be empowered.

Example: CAG audits and Lokpal inquiries strengthen internal checks.

Conclusion

Mission Karmayogi envisions civil servants as selfless, ethical, and duty-driven leaders. Reviving these core values is not just idealistic—it is the foundation for eliminating corruption and fostering a morally upright governance system.