

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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RANK - 14

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Urgent
Online

Roll No. _____

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

Remarks

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Name Karishma Pair ~~57+59 May~~

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Knoi1. Invigilator Signature SAP

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Equality is the soul of liberty.
2. Ethical is what the people in power make it to be.
3. Tomorrow is arriving faster than it ever did in human history.
4. Humanity suffers when science becomes only business and politics only a means to get power.

SECTION - B

1. Population needs to be stabilized for sustainable development.
2. Smart cities cannot be smart until people become smart.
3. Bureaucracy is a Giant Mechanism Operated by Pygmies.
4. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.

Critical is what the people in power make it to be.

"Power does not corrupt people, people corrupt power."

We have often come across concerns and suspicions against people wielding power, about how they choose to ^{use} it. The same power of various pests is seen both, to be put to productive use and at times corroding the very morals of organisations and systems. The difference lies in the personal ethics of such people and the ethics they guide people towards as well.

In this essay we try to examine how people in power effect ethics, why ethics is needed in such people, why unethical means are often resorted to, and lastly the significance of ethical leadership and how it can be imbibed.

Setting the Benchmarks

People in powerful positions act as leaders to their subordinates and as a guiding light for the entire organisation. When such people show exemplar ethics, it becomes a part of

the work culture. Ethics for such leaders could mean different things based on their morals, organisational objectives, social role awareness, etc., and the values they choose to honour becomes the acceptable norm for others to follow.

For example, the colonial bureaucracy valued secrecy as a virtue due to the directions received from their leadership, whereas, the modern civil servants find transparency to be a foundational value due to such ethos being shared by the public and the political leadership.

On the flip side, if powerful people are loose in ethics, the moral fabric is in a dire position - "When Gold meets, what can you do?"

This is visible in the politician-bureaucracy nexus unearthed in many scams, where unethical behaviour became rewardable rather than scorned at.

People in power have the ability to formulate the Code of Ethics, thus they get to choose the ethical percepts that others have to follow.

Remarks

The absence of such codifications is often a challenge to ethics as was observed by the 2nd ARC as well. Thus, people in power have potential to define what is ethical and also guide and motivate for these ethics to be followed using the spillover effect and lighthouse effect.

Need for ethics in powerful positions

Apart from the ^{reason of} impact that powerful people have on workers, that we examined above, ethics is needed in such position because the scope for discretion in decision-making is very high. Such discretion is breeding ground for corruption if not used ethically. Powerful people are also responsible for resource allocation. Ethical values in this case could be a solution to the rampant diversion of funds, that may have ultimately have inequality reducing capacity. There is also a huge information asymmetry between these people and others, which can only be bridged through ethical inclinations.

Remarks

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... for their improvement

and certain promises
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of both our
as the first

Ethical standards or the absence of it showcased by powerful people guides people's trust & faith in institutions as well: Indian discourse is replete with such examples.

The recent case of allegations against the CJI, and how the case was handled raised questions about the fairness of the entire judicial system. The tiff between the two most powerful officers

of the CBI, causing the attrition of its image is a case in point.

We do assign a lot of importance to ethical background check for posts in higher judiciary and bureaucracy. It is time to ensure that such percepts are valued and even extended

to people in politics, which should ideally have been a consideration of every voter.

Although we've established the need for ethics in powerful positions, it is seen that following ethical principles is not always possible/viable.

The difficulty in ethics.

It is easily gauged that organisations may have competing ethics. Resource-use efficiency and steps for social equity could be at times

contradictory. The ethics towards organization may be at loggerheads with ethics towards environment!

further the perceived dichotomy between employee consideration and organisation rules/structure consideration will warrant certain decision-making which will not be viewed ethical by every lens.

At times during contingency certain decisions may be taken that could be ethical from point of view of leader but need not be for others. e.g. imposition of AFSPA is deemed ethical by the State for security purposes, but is rebutted as unethical for by Human Rights Activists.

Thus, there is fine line between ethical & unethical decision as powerful positions that is often blurred. However, certain people are more inclined to follow unethical means as a rule as well. This could be due to multiple reasons, the most crude one being an unstable moral compass at an individual level.

A predilection to easy gains, selfishness and lack of clear guidelines to be followed are other reasons for such inclinations. With such disposition becoming a reality there is a growing need for ethical leadership.

Ethical Leadership and its prospects

It entails a leadership grounded in the principles of fairness and equity within organisations. It also views organisation as part of a larger system, thus is cognisant of its negative and positive externalities. It upholds the commonly held social values as well.

For example, the Tomato CEO's reaction against religious bigotry was widely appreciated and called to be emulated.

It also involves organisational awareness about competency, position, possibility of the work force. A consensus-oriented decision making process is expected.

Ethical leadership can be harnessed through sensitivity training, grievance redressal, participative decision-making etc.

The Vice President's and Speaker's call for

Code of Ethics for political parties and Parliamentarians will go a long way in realising ethical leadership. 2nd ARC recommended a Code of Ethics & Civil Services Bill to strengthen ethics in bureaucrats who wield immense power and information.

Gandhi's Talisman on Antyodaya, views of other ethical leaders, can be fallen back up in times of ethical dilemma. POD

Lastly, the society must accept responsibility as people in power are from amongst them by all, is bound to even nullify the prospects of unethical behaviour in the people with power.

Thus, it is clearly unfair to blame erosion of ethics on 'power', rather the responsibility needs to be owned up by the people, so as to bring about a positive change. 57

So also deal CORRUPTION. This is a big problem in India. Politicians, bureaucrats, business people, and the people in power become corrupt. They take money & bribes. The interests of the politicians are to win the elections again, all their time. ... to not let the honest & independent institutions to do their

the middle class, which is very much important to develop a country.

- they also built number of dams across river and now it's become a culture, we have 5,600 dams - both big and small - at present there 300 dams under ~~and~~ construction. This type of culture is absent.
- All the planning is to win the election & after 5 yrs. of power

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✓

B.4 Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely."

"The tyranny of a prince is an oligarchy is not as dangerous as the apathy of a single citizen in a democracy." - Montesquieu.

Democracy is a form of government that is aspirational and responds to people's will. The real strength and the biggest weakness of democracy depends on how engaged people are, and what is the basis of their engagement. Democracy often slips to what is known as 'low-intensity democracy', which follows the percepts of democracy only when convenient. Yet, the situation can be changed, we just need to get our choices and the basis of our choices right.

In this essay we shall examine what entails the success of democracy, how the expression of choices drives this success, the wise and unwise choices, the steps to enhance wise choices and new considerations for enriching democracy.

The Success of Democracy

In the crudest of interpretation, the success would mean its survival even against fascist

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electing
people
participa-
tion
in poli-
tics

tendencies. Such survival means periodic elections and the smooth transition of power. For example, sceptics claimed that Indian Democracy was certain to fail, but the elections in 1957 that were free and fair allayed such fears.

The success also entails respect for rights and liberty of the citizens. It prevents the usurpation and abuse of power by a few. In a democracy, power is considered to be upwardly delegated by the people for their convenience and smooth living. Thus, democracy strives on a healthy principal-agent relationship.

The concept of 'Rule of Law' is safeguarded by democracy with enough checks and balances in place, to prevent arbitrariness. 'Constitutionalism' is an expression of this check & balance. A vibrant civil society and an independent judiciary also become manifestations vital for the success of democracy.

The list of what entails a successful democracy appears endless, as a people's state responds to people's demands and evolves accordingly.

Participative governance has become a new addition along with fulfillment of the principle

Remarks

of subsidiarity.

A comparison of different democracies (eg. Democracy Index) suggests that their success varies, even though theoretical basis of Government formation remains the same. This variance is due to choices of people and the quality of such choices.

The choices in a Democracy

We often comprehend democracy as providing a choice to citizens only during elections.

This conflation of elections to democracy has dangerous implications as it reduces civic engagement and political responsive to a one-time affair. While elections are definitely the most explicit form of giving people a platform to express their choices, a democracy provides much more.

Citizens have the choice of expressing dissent and agitating against the Government. Such a choice is a core right and liberty is a

democracy. Citizens have a choice for quality civic engagement by monitoring how their elected representatives perform, holding them accountable, providing feedback, suggestions,

consultation to the government to enhance credibility of democratic policy making.

We have a choice to challenge decisions in the Court and with the advent of PIL, even a choice to stand up for those who are often unheard. *well argued*

Each one of us also has the choice to directly be a part of Government by contesting elections, which is a choice that needs wisest of all considerations. It may lead to the tragedy that, "We all want the best person to win, but he never wins". *honest people's motivation*

All these actions are termed "choices" because firstly it is not dictated upon us by the Government, and secondly, not all of us take such actions.

The unwise Choices

Woodrow Wilson lamented about the flaws in public opinion by terming it a 'multitudinous monarch'. Similarly, Caplan Study (2007) found out that democracy often leads to inconsistent goals. If people look for public welfare how can this be so? The answer

Lies in the unwise choices we take in a democracy. Elections are won based on arena factors (eg religion, caste, etc) rather than on policy issues and debates. People make such choices as they feel a misguided sense of loyalty towards their depts even while taking choices that could be harmful for themselves.

Convenience and status quo orientation is another such hindrance to wise choices. People do not see merit in spending time and energy in sourcing the information needed to take decisions. They downplay the importance of one individual making the right choice as opposed to a majority who do not make such efforts.

The wise alternative

A well-informed citizenry will take the right decisions. Public Choice Theorists ask for harnessing such choice-making ability in the people to safeguard against unwieldy Governments.

An informed citizenry should also be involved to make wise choices. There must be a sense of ownership towards the government.

When wise choices are made, it reduces the scope of blame-game in the country, from people to other people, people to government, and government to people.

Definitely people may need assistance in making wise choices, which is provided by the Govt and other institutions. *(This depends on an elected system)*

The Court mandated NOTA option has widened the scope of choices for the people. Similarly, the independent judiciary provides an avenue for citizens to choose to question Government's actions and the laws made.

The Election Commission has been a torch bear to inselate informed choices in elections. The disclosure of assets, incomes, criminal records

for candidates help people in making their choices. The SVEEP programme (Systematic Voter Education & Electoral Practices) aims to enhance quality of elections (rather than quantity) by showcasing performance of candidates as well.

PRS is seen providing data about performance of legislators in session with questions asked,

replies given, etc. being disclosed to the public.

The RTI, 2005 has led to democratisation of information such that wise choices have become a much more convenient option.

The judiciary has recently upheld Right to Protest as a fundamental Right which safeguards the citizens' choices. ✓ Good point ✓

e-governance mechanisms like MyGov Portal has provided avenues for an involved and informed citizenry.

Way forward

The Indian discourse is mooting many suggestions to give teeth to citizens' choices and scope to review the same. Reconsideration of First Past the Post System (FPTP), Right to Reject and Right to Recall are some of the suggestions. A public debate and consensus for such decisions is due.

~~To a nutshell,~~ In conclusion, democracy does provide each one of us with ~~many~~ ^{the right to} choices, but its success lies in, how many of us consider it a duty to be fulfilled responsibly.

→ will argue

- choice of the people in making but participation in political process.
- petition to a minister or an office to participation in politics/democracy.
- leading a group of people for a political procession.
 - in participation in democracy in politics
- funding a political party.
- participation in voting, by choosing the candidate or representative.
- raising voice or dharna (APIC court recently held that right to protest is not a fundamental right)
- media/TV can also participate in politics/democracy by giving their opinion etc.
- APIC court, a safeguard of the democracy
- Election Commission and Law Commissions

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* Ethical is what the people in power make it to be.

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~~"Power doesn't corrupt people, people corrupt power"~~

~~How~~ of world view of people in power acting ~~&~~ unethically.
why ethics needed in powerful positions.

12

~~20~~

* People in power guide ethical work culture

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~~6~~

- Spillover effect. leadership

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~~12~~

- e.g. political culture affecting adm. culture. what ~~will~~ rondo

* Are responsible to formulate code of ethics

thus define what is ethics for the institution.

work ethics differs from inst. to inst.

People in power make norme

* Guide resource allocation.

discretion.

+ Gandhi's
Talicharai

* Decisions have high scope for corruption

+ Civil
services
Bill

- Ethical background check for adm. & judges.

+ VP Code of
ethics for
political p.
polit.

We need the same for politicians.

→ Training

Ethical leadership (last)

- Based on fairness, equity.

Views org. as part of a sys

- Organisational awareness, competence assessment

- New ethics of transparency, accountability.

* Consensus

can't be ethical at all times.

Rent case
of allegations

- situations arise.

against

- competing goals (eg profit v/s env.)

CJI

- perception of dichotomy of org. concern &

& how
it was
handled.

employee concern.

why unethical behavior is followed.

- to earn easy gains.

Ethics
in society

- Moral compass itself is faulty.

- Lack of guidelines to handle situations.

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices are prepared to choose wisely.

"The tyranny...". The success depends on people, on their expressions of their choices.

* What is success of Democracy?

A smooth functioning of election. (direct exp. of choices)

A periodic review.

Respect for rights & liberty, rule of law.

Prevention of usurpation of power.

Endless dict. because. Democracy = desp. govt. → fulfills ppl's needs.

A comp. of most D'craies suggests not all of them fare equally. Success must depend on parameters.

The exp. of ch. drives the success

• choice of rep.

• choice to respond to situation - participate in agitation

• fight for the rights of fellow citizens (PIL)

• choice of monitoring & holding them afc. consultation

• choice of participation - providing feedback → govt. doesn't dictate.

All of these are choices b'coz

not many take such actions.

Choosing wisely

Unwisely

arena factors

informed decisions

convenience

involved citizenry.

choice of apathy.

State helps • EC → SVEEP disclosure of criminal.

• RTI.

• Periodic review of choices

My Gov APP

• Right to Protest + = FR.

• Ind. Judiciary for every citizen

Way forward

• Use of ICT to monitor p. on metrics.

• Right to Recall & Right to Reject

• FPTP system!

"Low Intensity Democracy".