

MAINS
365



ETHICS

A SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT TO MAINS 365, 2023

ETHICS

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A NOTE FOR THE STUDENTS

Dear Students,

- We are pleased to announce a **new document- Mains 365 Ethics**. This document aims to aid your Ethics preparation by deconstructing **ethical issues of recent times**, giving a **standardized approach**, and providing usable **definitions and examples of ethical values**.

The document is broadly organized into 3 parts:

Value Analysis Blocks:

These blocks include definitions, explanations, dimensions and examples of key Civil Services Values.

Analysis of contemporary ethical issues:

A standardized approach dividing the issue into – key stakeholders and their interests, associated ethical issues and potential solutions for the same.

Appendix on Competency Framework for Civil Services:

The framework can help the students in approaching problems from the Civil Servant's perspective.

We sincerely hope Ethics 365 will guide you effectively in your preparation and aid you in scoring better in your Mains examination.

"Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can. There will always come a time when you will be grateful you did."

All the best! Team VisionIAS

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1. KEY ETHICAL VALUES AND THEIR APPLICATION

1.1. HONESTY

HONESTY



Meaning: Honesty, speaking and acting truthfully, is more than not lying, deceiving, stealing, or cheating.

- ↳ It entails showing respect towards others and having **self-awareness**.
- ↳ Honesty is the **foundation for trust** and is key in social relationships.

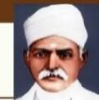


Honesty in classical ethical frameworks:

- ↳ In **Aristotelian virtue ethics**, honesty is a virtue that also permeates many other virtues. According to it, a severe lack of honesty would result in an untrustworthy person, while too much honesty might result in someone who says unnecessary truthful things at the expense of people's feelings.
- ↳ **Middle ground** is where you would frame your honesty in a way that is moderate and constructive. Broadly, the **consequentialism** theory tells us to act with a **bit more or a bit less honesty depending on the individual situations and outcomes**, like if the truth would cause significant harm.
- ↳ **Deontology**, on the other hand, following in the footsteps of **Immanuel Kant**, holds **honesty as an absolute moral obligation, irrespective of the cost**.

🌐 Honesty in action – Madan Mohan Malviya

- ↳ Born at Prayagraj (earlier Allahabad), he was a **freedom fighter and educationist**, popularly known as **Mahamana**.



- ↳ In 1906, he founded **Hindu Mahasabha and Banaras Hindu University** in 1916.

↳ **Examples of Honesty from his life:**

- ↳ Malviya is credited with **popularising the term 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs)** - India's national motto.
- ↳ When Malviya joined as the post of **editor of "Hindusthan"** on the behest of Raja Rampal Singh, he took a promise from him that if **he ever met Malviya in inebriated condition, Malviya will leave the job. He stood by his words** and one evening when Raja came to him in a liquor consumed state, he immediately left the job.

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1.2. INTEGRITY

INTEGRITY

Meaning: Integrity is an indispensable moral virtue that includes **acting with honesty, fairness, and decency.**

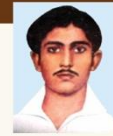
Explanation through the application of Integrity:

- Acting with integrity means understanding, accepting, and choosing to **live in accordance with one's principles.**
- Integrity, said author C.S. Lewis, "is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking."
- Integrity is the critical **connection between ethics and moral action.**

| Integrity Traits | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Honesty / Truthfulness | Fairness | Decency / Respectfulness |
| Adherence to moral principles | Helpful | Responsibility / Trustworthiness |

Integrity in action – Shaheed Hemu Kalani

- Known as **Bhagat Singh of Sindh**, he was a **revolutionary and freedom fighter.**
- He was **deeply committed** to the cause of **Indian Independence** and stood up for his beliefs and was willing to face the consequences of his actions.



- Incident showing integrity:** After planning the **derailment of a train** to prevent ammunition from reaching Rohri to suppress the political movement there, Hemu was subjected to third-degree torture by the British to expose the identities of his associates and his organisation (Swaraj Sena). Still, he resisted and bravely took the brunt of the suffering.



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1.3. PROBITY

PROBITY



Meaning: Probity is defined as the **quality or condition of having strong moral principles**, integrity, honesty, decency, uprightness of character or action.

↳ Probity is the act of **adhering to the highest principles and ideals** rather than only avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct.



Probity in governance is not only an essential component but also a **vital requirement to ensure an efficient and effective system of governance** and for socio-economic development.

↳ The **absence of probity** in public life is **manifested in corruption** which in turn increases the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

🌐 Probity in action – Subramaniya Bharathiyar

↳ **Famously known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar**, he was a **poet, freedom fighter and social reformer** from Tamil Nadu (TN).



↳ Through his poems, he exhorted the people to join the independence struggle and he also **outlined his vision for a free India**.

↳ **Probity in his life:** He followed what all he preached.

↳ After his arrest by British government, he spent his time in prison in **writing poems on freedom, nationalism and country's welfare**.

↳ He was **against caste system and did not discriminate** on the basis of either caste or religion.

↳ He believed in **women's rights**, gender equality and **opposed child marriage, dowry** and **supported widow remarriage**.

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1.4. ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY



Meaning: Accountability means the state of being **answerable for a system, its behaviour, and its potential impacts.**

- ↳ Accountability is an **acknowledgement of responsibility** for actions, decisions, and products.
- ↳ In **Governance frameworks**, accountability refers to the oversight over the **fulfilment of responsibilities of public sector officials and the checks and balances** on the exercise of political power.



Different Forms of Accountability:

- ↳ **Vertical Accountability:** Principal-agent relationship, e.g., elections, where the voters (principals) hold the governments (agents) to account.
- ↳ **Horizontal Accountability:** Exercised through a network of institutions, including both traditional mutual control among different branches of power (executive, legislature, and judiciary) and independent institutions.
- ↳ **Social Accountability:** Control exercised by multiple civil society organizations and independent media on public sector officials.

Accountability in action – Morarji Desai

↳ Born in Gujarat, **he served as India's Prime Minister** in 1977-79.

↳ **Examples of Accountability from his life:**

- ↳ Morarji Desai **believed in the cut and thrust of debate** as well as the **freedom of the fourth estate** – the media. He had **regular press conferences where journalists were given full freedom to ask questions.**



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1.5. JUSTICE

JUSTICE

Meaning: Justice is often defined as “fairness” or “equal treatment.” However, it means different things to different groups.

Classically, justice was counted as one of the four cardinal virtues and John Rawls famously described it as ‘the first virtue of social institutions’.

Different forms of Justice:

- ↳ **Social justice** is the notion that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social opportunities irrespective of race, gender, or religion.
- ↳ **Distributive justice** refers to the equitable allocation of assets in society.
- ↳ **Retributive justice** seeks to punish wrongdoers objectively and proportionately.

| Four Cardinal Virtues | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Justice | Prudence |
| Temperance | Courage |

Justice in action – Sagarmal Gopa

↳ Sagarmal Gopa **led the Praja Mandal and inspired people** in Jaisalmer to join the Indian freedom struggle.



↳ **Example of upholding Justice from his life:** Sagarmal mentioned Jawahar Singh's (Jaisalmer's ruler) atrocities in his book "Jaisalmer Mein Gundaraj," as he stood up for justice for people of Jaisalmer.

1.6. EMPATHY

EMPATHY

Meaning: Empathy is generally defined as the **ability to sense other people's emotions**, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling. .

Different natures of Empathy:

- ↳ **Affective empathy** refers to the sensations and feelings we get in response to others' emotions; this can include mirroring what that person is feeling, or just feeling stressed when we detect another's fear or anxiety.
- ↳ **Cognitive empathy**, sometimes called “perspective taking,” refers to our ability to identify and understand other people's emotions.

SKILLS STRENGTHENED BY EMPATHY

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Negotiation | Creativity | Emotional Connection |
| Collaboration | Feeling Safe | Identifying needs |

Empathy in action – C F Andrews

↳ He **fought British along with Mahatma Gandhi** and was close friend with Rabindranath Tagore.

↳ He was known for his concern for the poor and oppressed and was referred to as **Deenbandhu**.



↳ **Example of empathy from his life:** C F Andrews understood the plight of the indentured labour and worked with Gopal Krishna Gokhale's **anti-indenture campaign**. He travelled to Fiji, Malaya and Kenya in support of Indian workers.

1.7. SELFLESSNESS

SELFLESSNESS



Meaning: Selflessness is an attitude that creates a **balance** between the **needs of self and others**. It doesn't mean that one is completely surrendering his/her needs.



In Governance, the idea of Selflessness means that those engaged in public roles **act solely in the public interest**. This means **placing the needs of the public ahead of their own personal needs** and progression.

- ↳ The principle of selflessness **addresses the potential conflict between the benefit to the provider and the recipient of the public sector service**.
- ↳ Selflessness does not just happen in extreme situations such as the pandemic. Selflessness forms **part of the daily life of an effective public sector worker**.

Personality Traits associated with Selflessness

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Compassion | Kindness |
| Respect | Empathy |

Selflessness in action – Jayaprakash Narayana

- ↳ He was an Indian **Freedom fighter, theorist, socialist and political leader**.
- ↳ He was a **founding member of the Congress Socialist Party**, formed in 1934, within the Congress Party. Later, he left the Congress party and **formed the Praja Socialist Party**.



- ↳ **Example of selflessness from his life:** During independent India's first election his **Praja Socialist Party suffered defeat** but Jawaharlal Nehru suggested a possible merger with the Congress Party.
- ↳ He **set stiff conditions** for the merger, which included **not positions for himself or his colleagues** but the **abolition of pensions to princes and landlordism, redistribution of land to the landless, regulation of public servants' emoluments etc**. The conditions were not met and no merger took place.

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1.8. DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE

DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE



Meaning: Dedication essentially means the **willingness to give a lot of time and energy** to something because it is important. Dedication to Public Service means **putting public interests first** – ahead of personal interests.

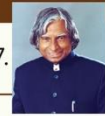


Public Servants work for government and citizens and thus **require a high spirit of service** (feeling of contributing to the society or country) **and sacrifice** to better fulfil people's aspirations.

↳ For Kant, **an action done from duty has its moral worth, not from the results** it attains or seeks to attain, but from a moral principle or maxim- the **principle of doing one's duty whatever that duty may be.**

⊕ Dedication to Public Service in action – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

↳ An aerospace scientist, he became the **11th President of India** from 2002 to 2007.



↳ **Examples of Dedication from his life:** He is popularly known as **missile man of India** and the **people's President.**

- ↳ He **dedicated his life in the service to the nation** in many different forms. His most significant contribution is in heralding the **indigenous missile programme** of India and contributions to the **nuclear programme.**
- ↳ After his Presidency came to an end, he **did not retire from public life** but continued his contribution through education and writing.

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- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
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1.9. LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP



Meaning: A person who successfully marshals his collaborators to achieve particular ends is a leader. As John Maxwell put it, a leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

- ↳ Leadership stems from social influence, rather than authority or power and it includes a goal with an intended outcome.



Leadership is a critical ingredient of good governance.

- ↳ Effective leadership brings out the participation of people in decision-making, ensures the equal application of the rule of law, maintains transparency and accountability and is responsive to the people that they serve.

Behaviour that accounts for leadership effectiveness

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Being Supportive</p> | <p>Operating with a strong results orientation</p> | <p>Seeking different perspectives</p> |
| <p>Ability to embrace change</p> | <p>Emotional Intelligence</p> | <p>Solving problems effectively</p> |
| | | <p>Proactive Communication</p> |

Effective Leadership in action – Dr. Verghese Kurien



- ↳ Born in Kerala, he was an engineer and entrepreneur who is regarded as the father of India's White Revolution.
- ↳ He was chairman and founder of Amul and the chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- ↳ Leadership skills of Dr. Verghese Kurien: He set up a successful cooperative structure "Amul", where the organisation is not owned by an individual but by all producer members and they are stakeholders and decision-makers at every stage.
- ↳ In the late 1960s, Dr. Kurien drew up a project called Operation Flood. It helped raise India's milk production in value terms to Rs. 55000 crores per annum. Operation Flood had emerged as India's largest rural employment programme.

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2. ETHICAL CONCERNS AND DILEMMAS IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

2.1. CORRUPTION AND CIVIL SERVICES IN INDIA

Introduction

“FCI corruption case: CBI searches 19 more locations”, “CBI arrests 7, in Rs 50 lakh bribery case” and many other corruption instances with the involvement of public servants have been found.

In this context, the Supreme Court of India recently ruled that a public servant can be convicted for illegal gratification in a corruption case on the basis of circumstantial evidence when there is no direct oral or documentary evidence against them.

The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) Report states that if a situation arises where Monopoly and Discretion are exercised without accountability, it has the potential to generate corruption.

Monopoly + Discretion - Accountability = Corruption

Corruption among civil servants is mainly a result of -

- **Low remuneration**, accompanied by inadequate differentials between the highest and lowest grades.
- **Cultural acceptability of corruption** among businesspersons, politicians, and citizens.
- **Insufficiency of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968** due to limited elaboration, lack of enforceability and overall absence of a dedicated Code of Ethics.
- **Opaque Regulations and high discretionary powers.**
- **Colonial Legacy of unchallenged Authority.**
- **Politicization of the Civil Services.**

Key Stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Politicians | Exerting influence over civil servants, engaging in patronage networks , or using their power to manipulate policies, contracts etc. for personal gain. |
| Citizens | Contribute to corruption through their participation in bribery or by demanding and accepting favours , which perpetuates a culture of corruption. At the same, citizens (especially from marginalized sections) are the primary victims of corruption . |
| Business and Private Sector | Engage in corruption in order to seek government contracts, licenses, permits, or favourable treatment . |
| Law Enforcement Agencies | Investigating allegations, gathering evidence, and prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities. |
| Judiciary | Ensuring justice and upholding the rule of law by prosecuting corrupt officials. |
| Media | Promoting public discourse, pressuring authorities to take action, and mobilizing public opinion against corruption. |

Ethical issues associated with corruption

- **Misutilization of public resources:** It impacts service delivery and leads to the squandering of public money.
- **Abuse of power:** Corruption leads to diminishing of the Constitution and democratic institutions amounting to a wilful violation of the oath of office and abuse of authority.
- **Unholy nexus of corrupt officials and criminals:** It leads to violation of laws, poor quality of service, partisan interference in the investigations of crimes, etc.
- **Compromises the capacity of the State:** Corruption puts pressure on the financial resources of the State, which adversely affects the welfare projects/programs of the government.
- **Violation of trust** of citizens and undermining of the integrity of the government and civil servants.
- **Exacerbates inequality in society** which leads to a sense of injustice, among different strata of society.
- **Alters role models:** Corruption creates an enormous asymmetry of power which reduces societal pressure to conform to ethical behaviour and makes it easy to indulge in further corruption.

Potential Solutions

- **Emphasize Value-based Training** to all civil servants to ensure probity and integrity in public life.
- **Legal and Regulatory reforms**, to ensure that discretionary powers are minimized and there are clear accountability systems for civil servants.
- **Institutional reforms:** Strengthening law enforcement agencies such as the CBI, CVC, Courts, and Lokpal among others.
- **Enhancing the use of technology** such as blockchain, AI, and e-governance to increase transparency and accountability in government operations.
- **Regularly evaluating and managing the performance of civil servants** to create active deterrence for corruption among civil servants.
- **Sensitising Citizens** regarding the ill effects of corruption and actively discouraging them from partaking in it.

“ Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. ”

— C.S. Lewis 

2.2. BHAGAVAD GITA AND LEARNINGS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS

Introduction

Recently, the Gujarat government announced that the Bhagavad Gita will be a part of the school syllabus for Classes 6 to 12 across the state from the academic year 2022-23.

The principles and ideas of ethical conduct propagated by the scripture are useful not only for school education but in other areas such as business ethics, and medical ethics among others. The domain of its applicability also includes Administrative Ethics providing guidance to systems and administrators alike.

Principles of Effective Governance



Ethical issues in administration and governance

- **Corruption**, i.e., abuse of authority and squandering of public money. E.g., India still ranks at 85th in Corruption Perception Index (CPI).
- **Lack of Objectivity in Decision Making** due to political interference and continuity of **Hegelian perspective**, i.e., they represent the universal interest of the society.
 - It leads to issues like **slowness, complication of procedures, ponderousness** etc.
- **Ineffective Leadership** or poor supervision from higher authorities in ensuring follow up of Constitutional values or a minimal Code of Conduct by all subordinates.
- **Lack of accessibility and responsiveness** as the authority is seen as a ruler rather than one in public service.
- **Lack of Transparency and Accountability** despite laws like the Right to Information (RTI).

Applications of Bhagavad Gita to the system of administration and governance

The teachings of the Bhagavad Gita can play an important role towards **effective, accountable, and inclusive governance** by guiding public servants on ethical behaviour or conduct. It can help in overcoming decision-making issues and creating an ethical workplace through:

- **Integrity in actions:** Bhagavad Gita promotes **Nishkama Karma** (detached involvement) over **Sakama Karma** (attached involvement).
 - Nishkama Karma or **selfless actions** lead to integrity by removing attachments, egoism, or actions with personal gain in mind. It also helps in **resolving Ethical Dilemmas between Self-interest and Public Benefit**.
- **Objectivity in Decision Making:** Bhagavad Gita promotes **Lok Samgraha**, i.e., **holding all together**.
 - It inspires **universal welfare (inclusive and sustainable development)** through firmness of mind and preference for **Shreya over Preya**, i.e., Goodness or Objectivity over pleasure or happiness.
- **Leadership Development:** Bhagavad Gita stresses on the performance of **Svadharma**, i.e., **own duty or dharma**.
 - When leadership performs its duties in a righteous way, subordinates also recognize and revere the leadership and follow the path of action.
- **Motivation:** Bhagavad Gita focuses on the mind and distinguishes between **subconscious and conscious actions** to promote **Sattva** and **divinity in all**, removing jealousy and creating motivation for work.
- Bhagavad Gita can help administrators develop various qualities like-
 - **Emotional Intelligence:** Bhagavad Gita calls for **Sthitaprajna**, i.e., to acquire equanimity or calmness with firm resolve.
 - **Compassion (Karuna): Sattva** and **purification of mind** helps administrators in overcoming prejudices through **clarity of mind**.



When I started reading our old scriptures, like the Bhagavad Gita, I found it was useful for day-to-day life. I consider it an administrative gospel, one that will help you in doing things like running an organization.

— E. Sreedharan



2.3. PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS

Introduction

Patronage appointments refer to the appointments which are made on the basis of the recommendation or source (personal connections) of an influential person, political leader, public servant etc. This has not only affected the people involved but has affected the overall Governance of India.

Motivations for engaging in Patronage appointments



Quid Pro Quo:
Appointments offered in exchange for bribes or favours.



Nepotism/Favouritism:
Using power to appoint individuals who hold a personal relationship with the appointing authority.



Creating administrative clout:
Appointments are done in personal discretion in order to exert and maintain influence in the system.

Ethical Issues involved in Patronage Appointments

- **Loyalty to the person vs. accountability to the system:** When appointees get their position through patronage, they are likely to be **more accountable to that person rather than to the system**.

- **Violates the principles of meritocracy:** Ideally, positions should be awarded based on an individual's abilities and qualifications. Bypassing meritocracy **compromises the integrity** of the system and can result in **ineffective** or **incompetent** individuals **occupying important roles**.
- **Violates the Principle of Equality of Opportunity:** **Qualified and capable individuals** may feel their **efforts and qualifications** are not given equal consideration.
- **Trust of People:** It erodes **public trust** in the **fairness** and **impartiality** of the system and people in power. It leads to a loss of confidence in the administration as a whole.
 - The **associated Nepotism/Favouritism** further erodes the trust of the individual in the system.


Impacts of Patronage Appointments

- **Corruption and Mismanagement:** It can be used as a means to reward political allies, secure support, or engage in **quid pro quo arrangements**.
- **Impaired policy implementation:** Incompetent and inexperienced officeholders appointed through patronage struggle to implement policies effectively.
- **Demoralization of competent officials:** This can lead to a **loss of motivation** and talent within the public service as individuals feel undervalued and unappreciated.
- **Reduced legitimacy:** Citizens may perceive the system as corrupt, nepotistic, and lacking in transparency.
- **Stunted Economic development:** Growth and development are dependent on governance. **Ineffective officials** may not be able to affect the optimal utilization of resources.

Way Forward

- **Strengthening institutions:** Ensure that institutions have the **authority, resources, and mandate** to conduct **fair and transparent selection**.
 - This can be done through efforts like the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** and **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)**.
- **Depoliticizing appointments:** Reduce political influence in the appointment process by **establishing an independent and non-partisan body** responsible for overseeing appointments.
- **Promoting merit-based recruitment:** Emphasize the importance of **qualifications, experience, and competence** in the recruitment and selection process.
- **Enforcing code of ethics and conduct:** Promote the **internalization of concepts of public service and integrity** to ensure ethical decision-making. E.g., Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- **Encouraging Multi-stakeholder deliberations:** Foster collaboration with civil society organizations, professional associations, and academic institutions to promote accountability in the process.

“
All patronage is perilous to men of real ability or merit. It aids only those who lack other claims to public support.


 — Rutherford B. Hayes

”

2.4. MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Introduction

“Tennis coach Max Wenders banned for match-fixing”, “The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) generated 986 alerts globally in different sports between 2017 and 2020.” These headlines highlight the growing instances of manipulation in sports.

Sports manipulation is broadly based on two kinds of motivations - **obtaining an Illicit Sports Advantage** like doping to improve performance or getting **Non-Sport Advantage** such as financial gains through match-fixing.

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Athletes | They intentionally manipulate the outcome of a game , for personal gain or other motives, by underperforming or cheating. |
| Coaches | They play a role in orchestrating match-fixing or manipulating the performance of athletes by providing instructions and incentives. |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Betting Syndicates | They place large bets on predetermined outcomes and their financial interests can drive match-fixing activities. |
| Governing Bodies | International sports federations or national associations, have a responsibility to maintain the integrity of their respective sports. |
| Media and Broadcasters | They influence public perception and betting patterns , making them indirectly involved in the manipulation of sports competitions. |
| Sponsors and Advertisers | Their financial support can be affected if the competitions are tainted with manipulation. |

Ethical issues in Manipulation of Sports Competitions

- **Unfair:** Creation of an **uneven playing field** thus **denying equal opportunity to all the participants.**
- **Erodes Trust:** Manipulation damages the reputation of the sport and erodes the trust of spectators. Thus, affecting the **spirit of sportsmanship** in the process.
- **Poor role model:** The immoral behaviour of sportspersons affects the younger generation negatively.
- **Damages the collective reputation:** Sports manipulations damage the reputation of individuals, federations, and the nation. E.g., Suspension of the **Russian Athletics Federation in 2015.**

Potential Solutions

- **Intelligence and Investigations** to identify the manipulations, how (modus operandi) the manipulators do so and share it with other nations/bodies.
- **Raising Awareness and Capacity Building** to determine the principles for respectful behaviour and tackle sports manipulation through **purely sporting means.**
- **Proper Regulation and Legislation** on the lines of the **Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.** The objective of such a code is to-
 - **Plug the legislative and institutional gaps** through a national framework against sports manipulation.
 - **Lay down disciplinary and criminal sanctions** for specific sports manipulation; and
 - **Ensure National and International cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information** among all key stakeholders.

| |
|---|
| Ethical Dilemmas in addressing Manipulation of Sports Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring privacy vs. Thorough investigation in cases of manipulation. • Balancing Individual Rights vs. Preventive regulations to check manipulations. E.g., close monitoring of the personal conduct of athletes. • Principle of Presumption of Innocence vs. Pre-emptive Actions in Case of an Allegation. |
|---|

“The true essence of sports lies in fair competition, where athletes push each other to their limits, striving for greatness with honesty, respect, and a commitment to the rules.

— Muhammad Ali



2.5. MEDIA TRIAL

Introduction

“The electronic and social media, are running “kangaroo courts.”- Chief Justice of India N V Ramana. “Trial by media hampers judicial independence of courts and interferes in the trial process.” – Judge in the Aarushi Talwar case. These statements bring to the fore the issue of Trial by Media and the associated ethical considerations.

Media Trial is when electronic and print media **interpret facts of a particular case** and thereby influence public opinion.

Key stakeholders and their interest

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Accused and their family | They often face social ostracization and difficulties in retaining employment , making them vulnerable to crime and exploitation. |
| Victims and their family | Media brings the cases of misappropriation of justice to light. They have helped victims like the Late Jessica Lal and the Late Damini of the 2012 rape case in Delhi. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Media in general including social media and other forms | The media trial influences opinion of general populace to a large degree. This leads to media trials by the general public over social media which is generally ill-informed and sensationalized. |
|---|---|

Ethical issues involved in Media trial

- **Impedes right to fair trial and justice:** Media trials jeopardises the **rule of law** and **obstruct the administration of natural justice**.
- **Misuse of freedom of speech and press** by using insensitive language in news debates which defames the accused in certain cases.
- **Impairs dignity of Individual** as it holds the individuals guilty despite reasonable doubt.
- **Erodes trust in government institutions:** Trial by media does not follow the due process of law and can reduce the public trust in institutions of governance like the judiciary.
- **Violation of the ethical code of journalism:** Trials by media are seen as a violation of the international code of journalistic/media ethics.

Principles of Media Ethics



Potential Solutions

- **Independent self-regulatory body:** An internal mechanism for ensuring adherence to guidelines can be created. E.g., Internal ombudsman and media council of peers.
- **Creating discourse on ethics in digital media:** This entails generating awareness regarding responsibilities of persons acting as sources of digital media as well as sensitization of consumers.
- **Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain** can be used to verify real-time authenticity of a given news item.
- **Encouraging a central role for civil society** in regulation, supervision, and creation of media content.
- **Media should avoid adjudicating upon any case** and adhere to the publication of the factual part.

“
The media holds immense power to shape public opinion, but with great power comes great responsibility to ensure that justice is not compromised in the pursuit of headlines.
”

— Mary Robinson



2.6. SURROGATE ADVERTISEMENTS

Introduction

Recently, a Bollywood actor pulled out of his endorsement deal with a brand associated with tobacco products after receiving criticism on social media for his endorsement. Health activists also highlighted the lack of principles and urged for changes in advertising laws to regulate tobacco products and surrogate advertising.

Surrogate means replacement or substitute. So, surrogate advertisements refer to advertisements which duplicate the brand image of one product to promote another product to get **consumer attention** and increase **brand recall**.

Common Surrogate Advertising Strategies



For example, Liquor companies advertise Music CDs or Pan masala brands advertise cardamom with celebrities.

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Companies and Brands | Maintaining brand visibility and recall of their products. |
| Regulatory Authorities | Enforcing advertising regulations and ensuring compliance to prevent misleading or deceptive advertising practices and protect consumers' interests . |
| Consumers | Being informed and making well-informed purchasing decisions . |
| Media | Providing effective marketing solutions for their clients while adhering to legal constraints. |
| Government | Aims to strike a balance between promoting businesses' interests and safeguarding consumers' rights and interests. |
| Public Health Organizations | Ensuring responsible advertising to protect public health. |

Ethical issues associated with Surrogate Advertisements

- **Manipulating choices:** Use of celebrity trustworthiness and credibility to market **unsafe or hazardous** products can lead to misleading conduct. E.g.
 - Sportspersons promoting junk foods or carbonated soft drinks.
- **Override expert opinion:** Celebrity endorsements can have greater influence on people in comparison to expert opinion even if misleading due to higher reach and appeal value.
- **Tarnished Image:** Such endorsements also tarnish the image of celebrities by showing them as totally money minded or lacking an ethical compass.
- **Violation of Consumer Rights:** Misleading information violates the **basic truth-in-advertising principle**, also violating the consumer rights guaranteed under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- **Social Harm:** Surrogate advertisements not only allow the business of tobacco, Liquor etc. to flourish but they also indirectly lead to an increased burden of diseases such as cancer.

| |
|--|
| <p>Challenges in Stopping Surrogate Advertisements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrows down individual freedom of choice and individual responsibility. • Dilemma over genuine ads and their right to do business. • Concerns over the potential use of other unethical practices or a price reduction by companies. • Loss of Jobs and Revenue |
|--|

Potential solutions

The solution to end surrogate advertisements lies in **Virtue Ethics**, i.e., the practice of high moral standards. This entails:

- **Improve regulatory control:** Amending laws such as the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003** or **Trademarks Act** to comprehensively address shortcomings of law to regulate misleading advertisements.
- **Code for endorsements:** Companies have a proper code for endorsements with priority to consumer interests. It will ensure compliance with the law while upholding consumer rights.
- **Celebrities to have an ethical enquiry** on broader societal implications of their influence or credibility. It will promote due diligence from them.
- **Citizens taking ethical stances** or rational choices will indirectly force companies and celebrities to **change their attitudes**.

“
Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.
”

— Plato



3. ETHICS AND SOCIETAL ISSUES

3.1. CHANGING WORK CULTURE

Introduction

“TCS management makes stand clear on moonlighting.” “Toxic Work Culture Is The #1 Factor Driving People towards Great Resignation.” “Quiet Quitting and Quiet Firing have reiterated the importance of trust in the work culture.” These headlines showcase the issues emerging with the changing work culture after the COVID pandemic.

Major changes affecting work culture in recent times include Remote working, the adoption of Automation and AI for working as well as for monitoring and increased work hours giving rise to **always-on work culture**. These changes have resulted in the creation of larger trends in the workplace ecosystem like-

- **Moonlighting:** Taking up a **second job or other work** assignments apart from one’s full-time job without the knowledge of employers.
- **Quiet Quitting:** Employees doing the **bare minimum** at a job.
- **Hustle Culture:** Encouraging employees to **work more than normal working hours**.
- **Quiet Firing:** Making the **workplace as unpleasant as possible** and **encouraging employees to quit**.
- **Mass resignations:** Females resigning from their jobs as a result of the ending of hybrid work culture.

Key Stakeholders and their Interests

| | |
|--|---|
| Leadership and Management | Set the tone, establish values, and implement policies and practices that shape the overall work environment. |
| Employees | Their attitudes, behaviour, and willingness to embrace new ways of working greatly impact the success of cultural transformations. |
| Human Resources (HR) Department | Developing strategies, policies, and programs to promote desired cultural shifts, foster employee engagement, and provide training and development opportunities . |
| Customers and Clients | Organizations may strive to align their culture with customer needs and preferences, emphasizing values such as customer-centricity and responsiveness . |

Ethical issues arising from changing work culture

- **Diminishing sense of community:** Hybrid work culture has decreased the sense of community among many employees. This has also **aggravated issues like loneliness**.
- **Erosion of trust:** Quiet Quitting and Quiet Firing in the long run, erodes the trust **between employees and employer**.
- **Health issues:** Long working hours often become sources of stress, anxiety and pose a risk to mental health.
- **Digitalization risks:** These include the possibility of cyber threats and attacks.
- **Gender disparity:** In the long run, the trend of females resigning due to the absence of work-from-home option might lead to gender discrimination while hiring.

Key elements of positive work culture



Sense of community: The extent to which employees feel as part of the team.



Fairness: The treatment of employees is fair and merit based.



Trust: Feeling that workplace interactions are honest and people are trustworthy.



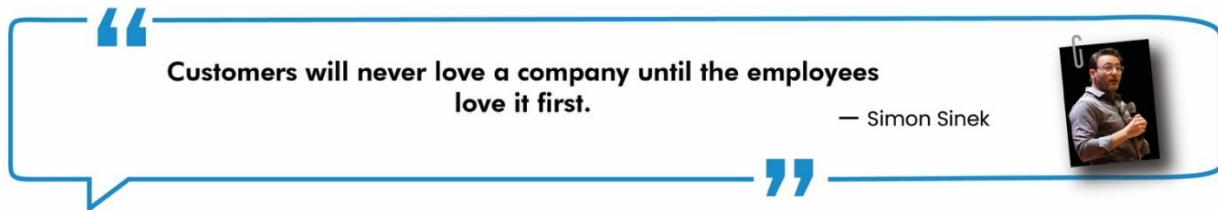
Innovation: Nurturing and encouraging new ideas in the workplace.



Care: Providing support with regard to health, safety and general well-being of employees.

Potential Solutions

- **Aiming at overall well-being:** Organizations must envisage the overall growth of their employees which includes all elements of positive work culture along with monetary compensation.
- **Using technology to simulate reality as far as possible:** Ideas like video-conferencing, shared work platforms and instant messaging can keep the workflow stimulated in a hybrid work environment.
- **Maintaining healthy and clear communication:** Regular and clear communication regarding employee expectations is a must to deal with issues like quiet quitting/firing.
- **Transparency in the workflow:** Transparency ensures that the responsibilities are clearly assigned, opportunities are provided in a fair manner, and credit is given to deserving employees.



3.2. CHILD ARTISTS AND ETHICS

Introduction

Over time, Child artists have come to a crossroads with their Needs and Rights on one side and their opportunity to contribute to the field of art on the other side. In this context, the **National Commission on Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has issued **Guidelines for Child and Adolescent Participation in the Entertainment Industry or Any Commercial Entertainment Activity**.

These guidelines have become all the more important with-

- **Increased participation of children** with the boom of technology and social media.
- **Child exploitation** has been increasing for a lack of clarity on regulations protecting children.
- **Necessary to ensure a healthy work environment** for them with minimal physical and psychological stress.
- **Children are often exposed to unsuitable, anxiety-inducing, and at times, dangerous operational situations.**
- **Crimes against children** such as sexual exploitation, child trafficking, bonded labour, etc. may multiply if working in an unregulated ecosystem.

Legal Framework for child artists

- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017** provides for the mechanism and procedure that needs to be followed by the production houses for using children as an artist.
- Such children who are working in this industry when subjected to cruelty, exploitation and abuse are considered to be **children in need of care and protection** whereby which the rehabilitation of such children is governed by the provisions of **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) (JJ) Act, 2015**.

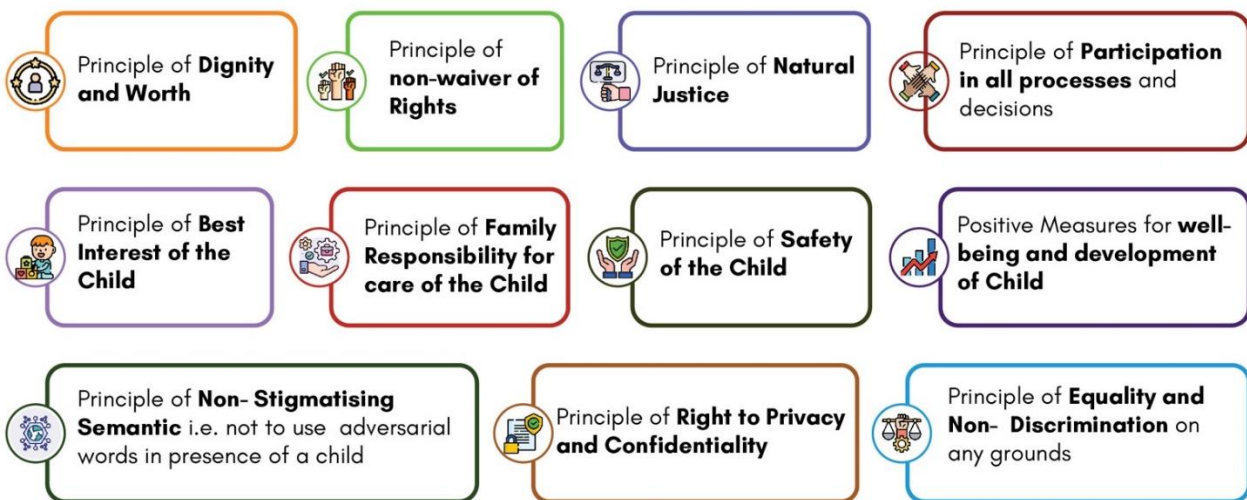
Key provisions of the Guidelines

- **Scope:** Cover television programmes including reality shows, TV serials, news and informative media, movies, OTT platforms, content on social media platforms, and any other commercial entertainment activity.
- **Registration of Child Artist with District Magistrate (DM):** Children could be involved in any audio-visual production only after obtaining permission from the DM.
 - The producer should also furnish the **consent of parents or guardians** and the name of the **individual responsible for the safety and security** of the child to the DM.
- **Inspection of the workplace:** DMs have been empowered to **instruct the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to inspect** the workplace and accordingly issue a permit to the producer.
- **Content Restrictions:** No child/adolescent should be cast or made to participate in a role or situation or content:
 - That is **inappropriate** to the child or that may **distress** him or put him in **embarrassing situations**.
 - Which exposes the child to a situation causing **unnecessary mental or physical suffering**.
 - Involving the **indecent or obscene representation** of a child or nudity or sexual act.
 - Which is **not advisable/ not certified to be viewed by them**.

- **Presence of one Parent/Guardian:** If a child is below the age of 6 years, at least one parent or guardian must be present.
- **Working hours:** No child shall be allowed to **work for more than 5 hours** in a day.
- **Wages:** At least 20% of the income earned by the child/adolescent from the production is to be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account.

| Stakeholders' Perspective and Ethical Concerns | | |
|--|--|--|
| Stakeholders | Ethical Concerns | Responsible Conduct |
| Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of one's choice in kinds of situation that comes before them. • Conflict with education and cognitive development. • Can be detrimental to physical and psychological health. • Erosion of privacy due to public visibility. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular sessions of children with social workers and counsellors. • Compulsory attendance criteria in schools with minimum exceptions. • Children to be educated about their bodily autonomy, rights and should have access to help in case of exploitation. |
| Parents/Guardians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attraction of fame and fortune creates enormous pressures on children. • Parents face difficulties in reinforcing a child's sense of self and coming to terms with the reality of the profession. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization of parents and children on the difficulties and realities of industry. • Parents should also be given full information about all aspects of child's employment for an informed consent. |
| Production Houses/ Industry Agents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of work shifts to more than statutory limits. • Low wages to child actors. • Various unscrupulous agents cash in on the hopes of parents and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of statutory working hours. • Heavy fines and penalties on illegitimate agenting practices and frauds. • A model contract laying out some basic responsibilities of production houses and enforcing basic child rights. |
| Viewers/Audience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation of false ideals and maturity that children find difficult to emulate. • The negative impact of inappropriate content display on a child's character. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate display of a child's character should not be a part of any production. • Statutory warnings on such situations might ameliorate the negative effect of inappropriate content. |
| Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying by industry groups to relax regulations. • Difficulties in striking a balance between child's rights, education, parental aspirations, industry's demands, viewers' discretion etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations and laws should factor in the best interests of the child involved, in terms of his/her education, cognitive development and values incorporation. |

General Principles to be followed for Child Artists



Conclusion

Ensuring ethical conduct in the employment of children in the entertainment industry is of paramount importance. Industry stakeholders, parents, child rights organizations, and government should collaborate to develop and adhere to a comprehensive code of ethics for the employment of children.



There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

— Nelson Mandela



3.3. ALCOHOLISM IN INDIA

Introduction

Growing alcohol consumption in India is becoming a **major health hazard** and a **social menace**. The recent death of over 40 people in Gujarat's Botad district in a hooch tragedy highlights the limitations of **prohibition** in addressing it, calling for a change in approach to address growing alcohol consumption.

Key Stakeholders and their Interests

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Dilemma over whether to protect individual liberty under Fundamental Rights and fulfil constitutional responsibilities under DPSPs to intervene in public health matters. Ethical Dilemma over the contribution of liquor business to government revenues (for State Government) and its duty to protect weak, vulnerable, and impressionable individuals. |
| Individuals and Families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right of Freedom of Choice and Privacy of Individuals. Need to reduce domestic violence against women and children. Avoiding indebtedness by reducing money spent on alcohol. |
| Liquor Industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Dilemma of marketing liquor to maximize profits or follow Social Responsibility to encourage sensible drinking. Protecting jobs in the industry. |
| Local Administration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective implementation of laws to curb the illegal liquor industry. Increasing awareness among people on ills of liquor consumption. |
| Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Dilemma over preserving social norms or respecting individual choice. |

Ethical issues associated with growing alcoholism

- Impact on Public Health:** Increased prevalence of alcoholism can place a burden on healthcare systems and social services, diverting resources that could be used for other health interventions.
- Social Costs:** When alcoholism becomes widespread, it can contribute to social inequality and exacerbate existing societal problems.
- Impaired Judgment and Harmful Behaviours:** It results in accidents, violence, and other negative consequences for both the individuals affected and those around them.
- Negative influence:** When alcohol companies target vulnerable populations or use deceptive advertising tactics, it can contribute to the growth of alcoholism and exploit individuals' vulnerabilities.
- Ethical issues associated with the banning of alcohol:**
 - Rise in the black market:** Prohibiting alcohol can create lucrative opportunities for illegal activities, such as bootlegging and smuggling.
 - Increased administrative corruption** as the growth of bootlegging industry increases the opportunity for rent-seeking and systemic corruption.
 - Unintended Consequences** when alcohol is unavailable, individuals may turn to illicit drugs or engage in riskier activities, leading to other harms.


Potential solutions

- Laws which encourage responsible behaviour** and compliance while being strong against domestic violence, drunk driving or illegal liquor industry or its smuggling.
- Regulations over the liquor Industry** to avoid indirect marketing tactics to promote liquor consumption (e.g., surrogate marketing).
- Labelling Standards** with adequate notices and cautions to help people in making informed decisions.
- Use of Corporate Social Responsibility** to ensure responsible drinking and increasing the **de-addiction facilities**.
- Gathering community support** to avoid addiction and rehabilitate people suffering from addiction.

- **Information, Education and Awareness (IEC)** campaigns from state and district administration to educate people about the ill effects of alcoholism.

“ Action cannot destroy ignorance, for it is not in conflict with or opposed to ignorance. Knowledge does verily destroy ignorance as light destroys deep darkness. ”

— Adi Shankara



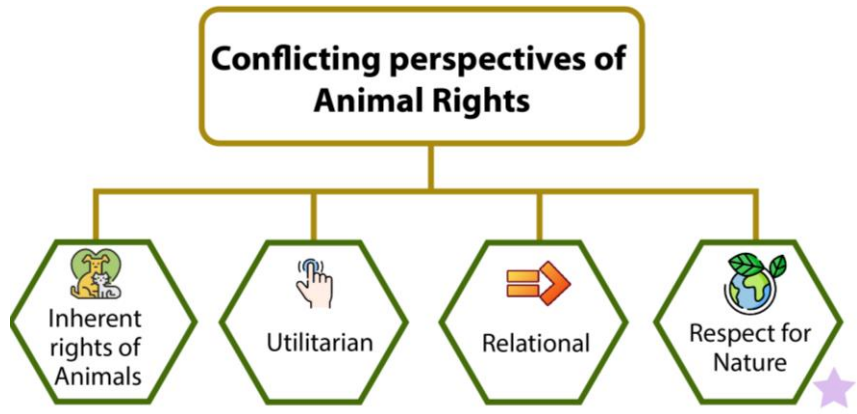
3.4. ETHICS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

Introduction

The Bombay High Court recently sought **compassion and cooperation for stray dogs** from the housing societies.

Different Perspectives on What are Animal Rights

- **Inherent rights of Animals:** Animals have **inherent value**, and human behaviour towards them should not solely be motivated based on human needs.
 - It argues that **animal use should end for all purposes** including meat, milk, eggs, transportation, scientific research etc.
- **Utilitarian perspective:** It argues that animal use is **justifiable for some activities that negatively affect the welfare of some animals**. It can be done if there is an **overall increase in welfare for humans and/or animals**.
 - For example, it may be **morally acceptable to use animals for meat** if the animals had a **reasonably good life, were painlessly prepared** and the **welfare benefits to people who eat that meat outweighed the costs to the welfare of the animals**.
- **Respect for Nature perspective:** Animals are **valuable because they are part of a species or a group**, and the loss or extinction of a species is a concern. This approach **discourages genetic manipulation** looking at it as a threat to the overall ecosystem.
- **Relational perspective:** It argues that people have **different obligations to animals depending on the emotional relationships** they have with certain animals.
 - For example, people have **different responsibilities to their pets than they do to animals in the wild**, because of different relationships with them.



India's Approach to Animal Rights


- **Constitution: Protection of and compassion towards animals** through statutes like **Articles 48-A and 51-A**.
- **Right to life (Article 21):** In 2014, the Supreme Court in the **Animal Welfare Board of India case** extended **Article 21 to animals**, conferring the right to live a life of intrinsic worth, honour, and dignity.
- **Concept of Non-Human Personhood for Animals in India:** In 2019, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in the **Karnail Singh case** recognized **all animals in the animal kingdom as legal entities** and citizens of Haryana as **persons in loco parentis (in place of a parent)**.
- **Laws for animal protection:** Provisions of **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, Wildlife (Protection) Act (WPA) 1972 and Indian Penal Code 1860**.

Approaches which can be considered for building an Animal Rights system


| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Five Freedoms Framework It describes animal care practices that can reduce negative experiences. Five Freedoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from hunger and thirst. • Freedom from discomfort. | <p>Conceptual Framework It bases the principles on the state of an animal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affective state: An animal's feelings or emotions. |
|--|---|

- Freedom from pain, injury or disease.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- Freedom from fear and distress.
- **Natural Behaviour:** An animal's ability to perform natural behaviour.
- **Functioning:** An animal's health and biological functioning.

“
**He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men.
 We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.**
 — Emmanuel Kant



”






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Mains 365 - Ethics

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ऑफलाइन

ऑनलाइन

4. ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

4.1. SCIENCE WITHOUT HUMANITY

Introduction

Science without humanity is one of the **seven deadly sins** propounded by Mahatma Gandhiji. He asserted that if science becomes all technique and technology, it quickly degenerates into man against humanity. He emphasised focusing on the higher **human purposes** that technology should strive to serve.

Recent Examples of scientific development sans humanity include the use of **deadly weapons in the Russia-Ukraine war**, using gene editing techniques **to create designer babies etc.**

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Scientific Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists: Scientific development, personal growth along with public welfare at large. • Institutions: Includes both public and private entities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public institutions are generally guided by the national interest. ○ Private institutions generally emphasize more on profit. |
| Regulatory Bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They aim to bring transparency and accountability among others in the sphere of research and scientific development. |
| Sovereign States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interest of Sovereign states depends on their national interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This interest can vary with geopolitical conditions and domestic needs among others. |
| Citizens /Individuals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspiration of an individual is to improve his/her life with the help of scientific developments along with the overall welfare of the human civilization. |

Ethical concerns/issues in Science without Humanity

- **Unequitable distribution of benefits:** The direction of scientific development is often driven by issues of more well-off sections of society.
 - For instance, many common problems poorer sections of society face do not receive their due weight, such as manual scavenging, malnutrition, etc.
- **Limited accountability:** Lack of precise accountability mechanisms and systems to check the development of potentially destructive technologies.
 - E.g., the development of chemical or biological weapons by some countries.
- **Illicit use of technology:** Public trust is eroded when scientific development or methodologies are hidden or manipulated for personal gain or to support a specific agenda.
- **Human being as means:** Often, science uses human beings as a means which **violates human dignity and fundamental human rights.** For instance, in some surrogacy cases, financially vulnerable women are exploited.

Way Forward

- **Scientific Ethics:** Implementation of scientific ethics needs to be an **integral part of the scientific process**, ensuring that science is used responsibly and for the greater good.
- **Multistakeholder engagement mechanisms:** Creating systems where **scientists, researchers, policymakers**, and the **public** can engage in seamless and open dialogue. Such a discourse can shape the direction of scientific development.
- **Part of the education system:** **Emphasizing Moral education**, i.e., focus on principles and values **and scientific knowledge**, needs to be promoted.
- **Social Impact Indicators:** **Common social impact indicators can be developed** for technological developments. This will indirectly nudge the scientists and technocrats towards a more welfarist direction.
- **Establishing a permanent forum** that includes all primary global science and technology players will provide a platform for international deliberation.

Humanity without science is fragile, science without humanity is lethal.

— Abhijit Naskar



4.2. ETHICS OF METAVERSE

Introduction

In Tamil Nadu, a couple hosted India's first wedding reception in Metaverse. The bride's father had passed away but attended and blessed the couple in a digital avatar at the wedding.

On the other hand, there have been complaints of indecency and immoral behaviour with women on digital platforms like Metaverse.

These two sides highlight the level of integration that can happen between the digital and physical spaces, obviating the need for understanding and evolving Ethics for the Metaverse.

Metaverse can be understood as a combination of multiple elements of technology, including virtual reality, augmented reality and digital identity where **users "live" within digitally enhanced surrounding.**

Key stakeholders and their interests in the world of Metaverse

| | |
|---|---|
| Customers | Immersive virtual environments, social interaction, entertainment, personal expression, creativity, and access to valuable resources and services in the metaverse. |
| Developers and Technology Companies | Designing and providing user-friendly interfaces, innovative features, cutting-edge technologies and generating revenue. |
| Content Creators | Showcasing their creativity, gaining recognition and popularity, monetizing their creations, and retaining intellectual property rights. |
| Businesses and Entrepreneurs | Advertising products or services, reaching a broader customer base, and exploring new business opportunities in the virtual economy. |
| Investors | Generating a profitable return on investment, identifying emerging trends, and supporting innovative companies and projects within the metaverse ecosystem. |
| Regulators and Governments | Consumer protection, privacy regulations, intellectual property rights enforcement, taxation, preventing illegal activities, and maintaining a fair and transparent virtual marketplace. |
| Societal and Community Organizations | Metaverse's impact on social interactions, cultural expression, education, and community building. |
| Academia and Research Institutions | Understanding the implications of the metaverse on education, psychology, sociology, human-computer interaction, and other relevant fields. |

Ethical issues associated with Metaverse

- **Data breach and lack of privacy:** There can be unauthorized access to personal information, and the potential for surveillance or exploitation within the virtual environment.
- **Digital Divide:** Limited access to the technology and resources for participating in the metaverse leads to exclusion based on socioeconomic status, geographic location, or technological literacy.
- **Concerns regarding Intellectual Property Rights:** Issues arise around establishing and enforcing ownership rights, preventing theft and ensuring fair compensation for content creators.
- **Addiction and impact on psychological well-being:** Prioritizing virtual interactions over real-world relationships may lead to social isolation and other psychological and emotional issues.
- **Ethical dilemmas related to identity:** Maintaining authenticity and preventing malicious use of avatars becomes a concern in terms of trust and reputation within the metaverse.
- **Opportunities for virtual crime,** such as fraud, harassment, and cyberbullying.
- **Lack of Governance and Regulation:** The absence of any law makes it difficult to understand what are the rights that will be protected and how will they be protected in the virtual world.

Potential Solutions

- **Principle of Do no harm:** Enabling testing environments which ensure that the effects of its experience are not harmful.
 - A corollary of this principle is to **avoid creating content that objectifies, demeans, or violates the rights of humans or animals.**
- **Secure the experience:** Use the best security protocols and protection to ensure that malicious actors cannot alter or harm users while they are in the VR experience.
- **Transparency regarding data collection:** Ensuring that privacy policies specifically mention metaverse data and how that data will be used, shared, and protected.

- **Include permission requests** for sensitive data such as eye-tracking, health, and other biometric information including movement-derived data.
- **Diversify representation:** Provide a diverse set of avatars to users and ensure that representations of groups and characters do not perpetuate stereotypes and are free of discriminatory moulds.
- **Regulate social spaces:** Preventing cyberbullying and sexual harassment and ensuring inclusivity through community guidelines and privacy protections.
- **Consider accessibility for all:** Include options for those without standard vision, hearing, or movement to enable them to participate meaningfully in Metaverse experiences.

“ Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master.

— Christian Lange



4.3. ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Introduction

Elon's car was caught on camera ramming into another car. But he pleaded not guilty. His argument was that his car was in autonomous mode, so the responsibility for the accident lies with the car manufacturer. Is Elon guilty or not guilty?

The assimilation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various parts of our life has been creating innumerable dilemmas such as this. In this context, UNESCO has been deliberating on how AI should be used by governments and tech companies.

AI ethics is a system of moral principles and techniques intended to help the AI system take informed decisions which are ethically acceptable along with being logically optimal.

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|---|--|
| Users | Use the AI system directly or indirectly. Concerned about the privacy of their data, the accuracy of the system's predictions and the potential for the system's biasedness . |
| Developers | Create and maintain the AI system. Concerned about the cost of developing and deploying AI systems and the security of the systems . |
| Investors | Provide financial support for the development of the AI system. |
| Regulators | Set laws and regulations governing the development and use of AI systems. |
| Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) | Advocate for the responsible development and use of AI systems. |

Ethical issues associated with AI

- **Privacy & Surveillance:** There is a risk of Data Surveillance, theft, privacy breaches and misuse of personal data if proper safeguards are not in place.
 - For example, face recognition in photos and videos using AI-based image processing will aid in the profiling of individuals.
- **Unemployment:** AI automation has the potential to disrupt industries and lead to job losses.
- **Manipulation and Deepfakes:** AI can be used to create realistic synthetic media, such as Deepfake videos or audio impersonations, which can be used for malicious purposes like spreading misinformation, fraud, or political manipulation.
- **Opacity:** The decisions taken by the AI system are not transparent. This opacity raises concerns about accountability, probity and most importantly fuels distrust among people.
- **Biasedness:** If the training data contains biases related to race, gender, etc., the AI system may perpetuate and amplify these biases, resulting in unfair treatment and discrimination.
 - For example, the trial applications developed by predictive policing tend to profile people from certain communities as potential threats (i.e., racist or casteist robots).
- **Potential to surpass human intelligence:** This refers to the idea of **singularity** where AI systems become self-governing entities and make decisions that contradict human values and intentions.

Potential Solutions

193 countries at UNESCO have collectively finalized the following design principles for the ethical use of AI-

- **Proportionality and Do No Harm:** The use of AI should be to achieve a given legitimate aim, should not infringe upon human rights and should be based on scientific foundations.
- **Fairness and non-discrimination:** AI actors should promote social justice and safeguard fairness and non-discrimination of any kind in compliance with international law.
- **Ensure Sustainability:** The continuous assessment of the human, social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of AI technologies should be carried out.
- **Right to Privacy, and Data Protection:** Algorithmic systems require adequate privacy impact assessments, including societal and ethical considerations of their use.
- **Human oversight and determination:** Ensure attributing the ethical and legal responsibility for any stage of the life cycle of AI systems to physical persons or to existing legal entities.
- **Transparency and explainability:** Creating an open AI system for a clearer understanding of its decision-making process and the associated consequences.
- **Multi-stakeholder, adaptive governance and collaboration** for enabling the benefits to be shared by all, and to contribute to sustainable development of AI.

“ The ethical integration of artificial intelligence with human values and emotions will form the foundation of future artificial intelligence. ”

— Amit Ray

4.4. AI ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE

Introduction

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the **country’s first Ethical Guidelines for the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research and Healthcare.**

| Stakeholders in AI usage in healthcare and their interests | |
|--|---|
| Stakeholders | Interests in AI use |
| Healthcare providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher accuracy in disease detection via image interpretation from tools such as X-rays, MRIs etc. and providing personalized recommendations using AI • Improving efficiency of administrative tasks like maintaining patient records. |
| Pharmaceutical Industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating the drug development process and identification of potential new products. • Associating possible connections between drugs and ailments. • Identifying new uses for drugs by spotting patterns. |
| Health Insurers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of accuracy of claims by detecting anomalies in submitted claims. • Helpful in reaching out to the unserved customer bases. |
| Patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access and quality of care. • Early disease diagnosis and increased life expectancy. • Better follow-up and improved drug regimen. |
| Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase preparedness to tackle pandemics such as Covid-19. • Improved policy making and resource allocation in the health sector. |

Ethical Principles for AI technology in healthcare (ICMR)


- **Autonomy: Mandatory Consent of the patient** for involvement of AI in medical decision-making.
- **Safety and Risk Minimization:** Highest priority to protection of **dignity, rights, safety, and well-being** of patients/participants with **rigorous testing, control and feedback mechanisms.**
- **Trustworthiness:** AI technologies should be **intelligible or understandable** to the stakeholders and **lawful, ethical, reliable, scientifically explainable and transparent.**
- **Data Privacy:** Control over data collection and its use should be with the Users to **prevent unauthorized access, modification, and/or loss of personal data.**
- **Accountability and Liability:** Through **redressal mechanisms, regular audits** and through application of **“human warranty”**, implying technology **evaluation by patients and clinicians.**

- **Accessibility, Equity and Inclusiveness:** Encourage the **widest possible equitable use and access**, irrespective of age, sex, gender, income, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability or other characteristics.

| Way Forward (5E approach) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Evaluate ethical concerns with use of AI. | Enumerate key issues and loopholes. | Engage collaboratively with different stakeholders. | Enforce ethical regulations in AI applications. |
| | | | Execute a planned course of action in time-framed and effective manner. |

“ Eventually, doctors will adopt AI and algorithms as their work partners. This leveling of the medical knowledge landscape will ultimately lead to a new premium: to find and train doctors who have the highest level of emotional intelligence. **”**

— Eric Topol





ABHYAAS

MAINS 2023

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5. SOCIAL MEDIA AND ETHICS

5.1. FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Introduction

'Social media creating virus of lies, says Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa', 'As Indians turn to social media for COVID-19 help, online resources for smaller cities begin to grow', 'Don't believe in fake videos of Tirumala floods on social media'. These headlines highlight a paradoxical picture of how expression on social media acts as an enabler but at the same time acts as a conduit for abuse of freedom of speech.

Freedom of Speech under **Article 19 (1) (a)** manifests on social media through- **Free sharing of information** to express feelings, issues, and problems; **Expression of opinion** through features like 'comment' and 'like'; **Building connections and conversations etc.**

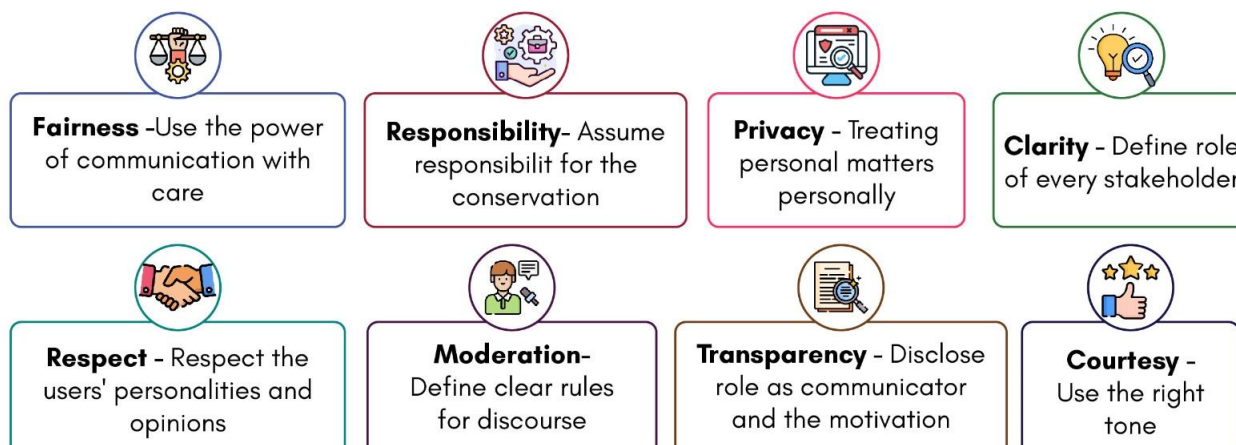
Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Users | Expressing their thoughts, opinions, and ideas freely without fear of censorship or reprisal. |
| Social Media Platforms | Maintaining a balance between promoting free expression and ensuring their platforms are safe, welcoming, and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. |
| Governments and Regulators | Balancing freedom of speech with the need to prevent hate speech, incitement to violence , and other forms of harmful content. |
| Civil Society | Promoting an open and inclusive digital space , advocating against censorship, and protecting users' rights to express their opinions freely. |

Ethical issues associated with freedom of speech on social media platforms

- **Misinformation:** For example, spread misinformation about important matters such as COVID-19 and vaccines.
- **Internet trolling and inflammatory content: Aggressive and deliberate provocation of others to upset, and harm others** via inflammatory messages and posts.
 - For example, several instances of mob lynching have their source in inflammatory rumours.
- **Defamatory or hateful content:** The perception that there are 'no consequences' for what you say on social media encourages anti-social elements to make false, hurtful and hateful comments in relation to people, religions, interests, and nationalities among others.
- **Unethical use by powerful actors:** For example, the tool of fake news was allegedly used by actors in the US elections of 2016.
 - **Paid content** on social media such as fake followers, planted reviews etc. also misguide the user.
- **Severe expression of prevalent societal fault lines:** The issues such as racism, casteism, communalism or regionalism among others tend to get expressed in a more aggravated form on social media.
- **Affecting Mental Health:** A victim of online trolling creates a perception of non-acceptance by one's peers. This can drastically affect a person's self-esteem and mental health.

PRINCIPLES FOR COMMUNICATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Potential Solutions

- **Responsible communication by users:** Exhibiting tolerance, maintaining decency, responsible sharing of content and practising **social media hygiene** by ignoring hurtful and hateful content.
- **Principled approach by platforms:** This implies encouraging responsible, truthful, respectful expression from its users, maintaining accountability and protecting the privacy of its users.
- **Streamlining the legal and regulatory framework:** **Government Authorities** must ensure that the regulations are largely voluntary, multi-party and as objective as possible.

“
Rights of the people are not protected by laws but by moral and political conscience of people.
 ”

— BR Ambedkar



5.2. SOCIAL MEDIA AND CIVIL SERVANTS

Introduction

“Don’t fall into the ‘Singham’ trap. The Police uniform is not associated with authority and awe but inspires pride.” – Prime Minister. This was spoken in the context of Civil Servants turning into Instagram celebrities. At the same time, IAS officer and collector Prasanth Nair used his social media influence to gather volunteers for cleaning up a lake in Kerala.

Civil Servants have been using Social Media these days for various purposes such as:

- **Connecting with citizens** to increase public participation, build trust, and increase popularity.
- **Sharing information and improving awareness regarding government schemes, latest policy updates, regulations** etc. E.g., Delhi Traffic Police increasing traffic law awareness through memes.
- **Understanding public viewpoint** on policies and programmes and underlying issues like casteism, communalism, and sexism among others.
- **For expressing personal opinion** and sharing other content.

Key stakeholders and their interest

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Civil Servants | De facto representatives of the government and at the same time right to freedom of speech and expression as a citizen. |
| Government | Set policies, guidelines, and standards for civil servants' social media usage. |
| Citizens/Public | Audiences and recipients of the information shared by civil servants and may actively participate by commenting, asking questions, or seeking assistance through social media channels. |
| Media | Monitor and report on civil servants' social media activities, amplifying their reach and impact. |
| Colleagues/Peers | Follow and engage with their peers' social media activities to exchange ideas, share best practices, or coordinate efforts. |
| Regulatory Bodies | Monitoring and ensuring compliance with social media usage guidelines or policies. |

Ethical issues arising out of social media use by Civil servants

- **Principle of Neutrality and Anonymity:** Civil Service values suggest that officers be politically neutral and must keep themselves away from being recognized publicly or appreciated for that matter, contrary to what social media provides.
- **Inconsistent with the parliamentary form of government:** In a parliamentary form of government, bureaucrats are not directly accountable to the public but only accountable to their line of authority.
- **It can blur the distinction between an individual’s professional and private identity:** Actions online are easily visible to colleagues, employers, and the general public, thus making it difficult to separate professional and personal selves.
- **Undue self-promotion:** Fame is sometimes used by civil servants for self-promotion. Many Civil Servants post about their work. These posts are then promoted by their fans and followers, creating a public narrative of their performance.

All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968
 It highlights that **no member of the services should make a statement on any public media-**

- which has the effect of an **adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action** of Central Government or a State Government.
- which is **capable of embarrassing the relations between the Central Government and any State Government.**
- which is **capable of embarrassing the relations between Central Government and Government of any Foreign State.**


Potential Solutions

The following **core values** have been suggested by the **Department of Electronics and Information Technology for social media** presence and interaction of civil servants:

- **Identity: Civil Servants must clearly mention their identity, their role in the department** and publish information in the first person. A disclaimer may be used when appropriate.
- **Authority: Do not comment and respond unless authorized to do so**, especially in matters that are sub-judice, draft legislations or relating to other individuals.
- **Relevance: Comment on issues associated with their area and make relevant and pertinent comments.**
- **Professionalism: Be Polite, Be Discrete and Be Respectful to all** and do not make personal comments for or against any individuals or agencies. Also, professional discussions should not be politicized.
- **Openness: Be open to comments** – whether positive or negative.
- **Compliance: Be compliant with relevant rules and regulations.** Do not infringe upon IPR, Copyright of others.
- **Privacy: Not to reveal personal information** about other individuals as well as self.

“
If you just set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time.
 ”

—Margaret Thatcher



5.3. ETHICS OF INFLUENCER ENDORSEMENTS

Introduction

Centre has released the **endorsement guidelines for celebrities and social media influencers** titled as the **“Endorsements Know-hows!”**. These guidelines have been issued under the overall ambit of **Consumer Protection Act 2019**.

Celebrity Endorsements are a **form of advertising that uses famous personality or celebrities or social media influencers to persuade buyers** as they are viewed as role models in a society.

Key Stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Brands/Companies | Collaborate with celebrities to leverage their reach and credibility to enhance brand recognition, increase sales, or improve brand perception. |
| Consumers | Consumers' opinions, attitudes, and purchasing decisions can be influenced by the celebrity's association with the brand or product. |
| Advertising Agencies | Ensure that the endorsement aligns with the brand's marketing objectives and resonates with the target audience. |
| Media | Media exposure amplifies the impact of celebrity endorsements and contributes to brand visibility. |
| Agents/Managers | Managing the celebrity's brand image and protecting their reputation. |
| Regulatory Bodies | Establish guidelines and regulations to ensure transparency, truthfulness, and ethical practices in advertising. |
| Investors/Shareholders | Successful endorsements positively affect investor confidence and stock prices. |

Ethical issues in influencer endorsements

- **Instances of misuse of Trust:** Followers trust that influencers would not recommend something that is harmful, or low quality. However, a misleading advertisement can affect consumer health.

- **Lack of responsibility:** There is no responsibility mechanism for influencers for checking the endorsed products. Also, brands do not provide appropriate data regarding the product in the public domain.
- **Lack of understanding by influencers:** Sometimes, influencers themselves have a **limited idea of the quality of the product** they are promoting. This was evident in **Fyre Festival fraud**.
- **Conflict of interest and deceptive marketing:** Often the products are advertised showing that they have been made keeping the benefits of consumers in mind but are actually promoted based **solely on the profit motive**.
- **Targeting vulnerable groups** such as children or teenagers, that may **not be able to critically evaluate** the products that influencers are promoting.
- **Reinforcing Dark Patterns** created by some technology companies, advertising agencies or marketing ecosystems.
 - **Dark patterns** describe the ways in which **software can subtly trick users** into doing things they didn't mean to do, or discouraging behaviour that's bad for the company.

EXAMPLES OF DARK PATTERNS



Forced continuity

Free trial changes to a paying scheme without warning



Deliberate misdirection

Focusing the users' attention on the more expensive option, hiding the cheaper way



Roach model

The start is easy (sign up/ subscription), quitting is hard



Sneak into basket

A random additional item appears in your basket (without your consent)

Endorsement Know-hows: Guidelines for Celebrity and Social Media Influencers

- **Compulsory disclosure of monetary or material benefits of a product or a brand** they are promoting through their social media platforms.
- **Penalty:** Failure of compulsory disclosure will attract a **penalty of up to ₹ 50 lakh**.
- **Clear communication:** The disclosures must be prominently and clearly displayed in the endorsement and **terms such as 'advertisement', 'sponsored' or 'paid promotion'** should be used for all sorts of endorsements.
- **Advertise responsibly:** They should **not endorse any product or service** in which due diligence has not been done by them or that they have **not personally used or experienced**.

Potential Solutions going forward

- **Implementation of Guidelines:** "Endorsements Know-hows!" must be followed by celebrities, influencers, and virtual influencers on social media platforms.
- **Code of ethics for social media influencers:** It should include the **establishment of authenticity** of the products by them and promoting safe and beneficial products to their audience.
- **Self-regulation by celebrity or influencer groups:** The influencer marketing industry should come up with a **set of guidelines and best practices** that influencers can follow to ensure that their promotions are ethical and transparent.
 - For instance, P. Gopichand decided not to endorse carbonated soft drinks owing to their deleterious health effects.
- **Effective age restrictions and parental controls:** To prevent targeting of children or teenagers to such misleading advertisements.
- **Creation of a governmental due diligence structure:** Government can form a committee or a forum to consistently check products or services for their claims. This will limit the onus of due diligence on celebrities and will **create a sense of brand responsibility**.



Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.

— Potter Stewart



6. ETHICAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FUNDING

6.1. ETHICS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Introduction

World Bank is not able to hold the US accountable for its obligations. **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has showcased several instances where different principles apply to developed and developing countries. **Cases of Human Rights violations** were recently observed in **Iran protests, Myanmar's Rohingya crisis etc.**

These instances highlight the rising cases of unethical/discriminatory practices in global governance models.

Global governance functions through a **set of institutions, rules, and processes that aim to manage cross-border issues** like diplomatic relations, trade, financial transactions, migration, and climate change. It seeks to **address collective concerns and mediate common interests**, which are all necessary to manage our increasingly complex interdependence.

Key Stakeholders of Global Governance and their interests

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sovereign states | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition from other States as a legitimate participant in Global Governance. E.g., Palestine is not recognized as a State by some global bodies. • States want to ensure their sovereign autonomy and may prioritize issues such as national security and economic growth over international considerations. |
| Civil Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They expect the fulfilment of certain obligations in lieu of the rights and benefits that they provide. • These have a responsibility to promote international cooperation and advance global public goods such as human rights, peace and environmental stability. |
| Global Institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold governments and international organizations accountable to their ethical obligations. |
| Private sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility to promote shareholder value, alongside the duty to respect human rights, protect the environment, and contribute to the broader socio-economic development of society. |
| Individuals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have the responsibility to be informed and engaged citizens, and to act in ways that promotes the greater good of society. |

Ethical issues in Global Governance

- **Lack of Accountability:** Due to the absence of common accountability mechanisms across the world, international laws and rules have **failed to bestow obligations** on participants.
- **Discrimination:** Rules are **not the same for everyone**. There seems to be a large distinction based on the interests of those making the rules and to whom these are being applied.
- **Polarizing Narratives:** There is a growing **divergence of expectations for what global governance should deliver**. For instance, in **climate change negotiations**, there have been disagreements on principles such as **Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)**.
- **Underrepresentation of some countries:** The domination of global institutions by powerful countries often **results in decisions that do not represent the interests or values of all countries or people**.
 - For instance, developing countries often argue that **global trade agreements**, such as WTO mechanisms **prioritize the interests of developed countries** over those of developing countries.
- **Violation of human rights:** **Abuse of human rights in various instances is overlooked** due to differences in opinions and conflicts of interest. Also, **enforcement mechanisms** for implementing a universal set of human rights **are lacking** in global governance bodies.

Potential solutions

- **Setting accountability mechanisms:** Global Governance bodies can be given **more powers to enforce accountability and create monitoring measures**. **Neutral parties can be engaged** for audits of accountability mechanisms.
- **Upholding the rule of law:** Governance in global bodies should be based on the **Rule of Law** and **policy-making by consensus** in accordance with a **wide participatory approach**.

- **Keeping a dialogue-based approach** which aims to allay **every party's concerns**.
- **Promote inclusivity and participation of all stakeholders:** The idea of **one country, one vote** can be explored rather than economic criteria such as funding.
- **Mandatory upholding of human rights** for UN member states with an effective enforcement mechanism. A **common minimum code of conduct** in relation to human rights can be framed.

Effective global governance is not a luxury but a necessity in today's interconnected world, where the actions of one nation can have far-reaching impacts on others.

— Kofi Annan



6.2. ETHICS OF INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIONS

Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 has suddenly altered the global realities regarding the availability of resources and interaction among states. The shock created by the pandemic brought several international ethical dilemmas to the fore, such as the national vs. global debate on access to vaccines or the idea of the rights and responsibilities of developed nations towards other nations.

International ethics **refers to the ethics of interaction among nations**. In the emerging era, it plays a key role in global affairs for the **resolution of international conflicts, environmental protection, managing global health emergencies and protecting human rights**.

Key Stakeholders and their Interests

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| States and Governments | National security, sovereignty, economic prosperity, influence on the global stage, and the promotion of their values and interests in the international arena. |
| International Organizations | Fostering peace, promoting economic development, addressing global challenges and facilitating multilateral negotiations and agreements. |
| Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) | Raising awareness, providing aid and assistance, reporting on human rights violations, and influencing policy and decision-making at the global level. |
| International Financial Institutions | Promoting global economic growth, providing financial assistance, and fostering economic stability in member countries. |

Ethical issues in international interactions

- **War and Armed Conflicts:** Ethical issues arise in relation to the use of force, military interventions, and armed conflicts.
- **Global Economic Inequality:** Economic inequality between nations and within nations raises ethical concerns such as unfair trade practices, exploitation of labour, and unequal access to resources and opportunities.
- **Environmental Degradation and Climate Change:** Ethical dilemmas emerge when actions by one nation or group of nations contribute to environmental degradation affecting the well-being of people and ecosystems globally.
- **Refugee and Migration Crisis:** The treatment of refugees and migrants raises ethical concerns related to their rights, dignity, and the responsibility of nations to provide assistance and protection.
- **Weapons Proliferation:** Trade and proliferation of weapons, increases possibilities of arms races and conflicts and resultant human rights violations.
- **Cybersecurity issues:** With the increasing reliance on digital technologies, ethical challenges emerge regarding cybersecurity, privacy, and the responsible use of data.
- **Disparities in access to healthcare and essential medicines** between countries affect **health equity**.


Potential Solutions

- **Pluralism:** Countries must collaborate at some level as humanitarian existence is shared as a common experience.
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** It is the responsibility of all countries (especially mature and developed countries) to protect the rights of all of their global citizens.

- **Fairness:** Acts of reciprocity, equal treatment of nations etc. are needed for an effective and ethical international interaction.

“
We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.
”

— Kofi Annan



6.3. ETHICS OF WAR

Introduction

More than **8,000 civilians were killed and around 13000 injured** in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, according to UN Human Rights data. This highlights the importance and criticality of the Ethics of War.

The **purpose of war ethics** is to help decide what is right or wrong, both for individuals and countries, and to contribute to debates on public policy, and ultimately to government and individual action.

Key Stakeholders in war and their interest

| | |
|---|--|
| Citizens | Desire an end to war ideally ending with prevalence of their national interest. |
| Countries | Fulfilling the objective of war i.e. resolving territorial dispute or other socio-economic objectives. |
| International Community | Provide humanitarian aid, diplomatic support, or engage in peacekeeping efforts to mitigate the impact of the conflict. |
| Soldiers | Doing their national duty and defending their country. |
| Media and Journalists | Their coverage can influence perceptions , narratives, and international responses to the war. |
| Corporations, Industries, and Financial Institutions | They face disruptions in supply chains , loss of investments, or changes in market conditions due to the conflict. |

Ethical issues associated with war

- **Loss of Human Life:** The indiscriminate targeting of civilians, intentional or not, is considered a grave violation of ethical principles.
- **Degradation of moral equality:** War often involves dehumanizing the enemy, creating an ethical challenge in how combatants perceive and treat each other.
 - Many times, Prisoners of War (PoW) get humiliated and abused by detainees.
- **Negative Long term consequences:** Wars can have far-reaching consequences in the long term such as displacement, environmental damage, and economic instability.
- **War Crimes and Atrocities:** The commission of war crimes, such as torture, rape, summary execution, and genocide, is a grave ethical concern.
- **Repercussions of using weapons of mass destruction:** The development, possession, and use of weapons of mass destruction raise significant ethical concerns due to their potential for massive destruction and loss of innocent lives.
 - **For example, Bio-Chemical weapons** like Chlorine, phosgene (a choking agent) and mustard gas (which inflicts painful burns on the skin) caused indiscriminate damage to people and regions.
- **Damage to Civilian Infrastructure:** The destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and essential facilities, can have severe humanitarian consequences.
- **Arms Race:** War can lead to global arms race that can contribute to perpetuating conflicts.

Dilemmas associated with war

- **Justification of Violence:** Countries take the course of war to achieve political or military objectives but at the cost of innocent lives. Questions arise about whether the ends can truly justify the means in such a case.
 - For example- The use of Nuclear weapons by the USA in World War II.
- **Pre-emptive and Preventive Wars:** Deciding when it is ethically justifiable to launch a pre-emptive or preventive war (to stop a potential threat) is a contentious issue. The dilemma lies in determining when the use of force is justified to prevent future harm.
- **Balancing Military Necessity and Humanitarian Concerns:** Commanders and policymakers face the ethical dilemma of balancing military necessity with the obligation to minimize harm to non-combatants.

Mains 365 - Ethics

Possible Solutions

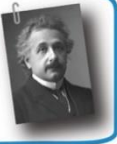
Just war is a concept that outlines the criteria and principles for determining the ethical justification for engaging in war. It aims to balance the principles of justice, proportionality, and respect for human life with the recognition of the sometimes necessary use of force in exceptional circumstances. This entails:

- **Upholding the principle of proportionality:** It requires that the harm caused by military action should not be excessive compared to the intended military objective.
- **Differentiation:** Both sides must differentiate between combatants and non-combatants.
- **Control war crimes** by upholding **international humanitarian law**.
- **Follow the Geneva Convention of Prisoners of War (PoW):** If there are any prisoners of war, combatant and civilian alike, must be treated with fairness.

Major International Conventions and Rules on War

- **GENEVA PROTOCOL (1925)**
It prohibited the use of **Asphyxiating**, **Poisonous** or **other gases**, and of **Bacteriological** methods of Warfare.
- **GENOCIDE IRISH WELSH CONVENTION (1948)**
First human rights treaty adopted by the **General Assembly** of the **United Nations**.
- **GENEVA CONVENTION (1949)**
It is series of treaties on the treatment of **civilians**, **prisoners of war (POWs)** and soldiers who are otherwise rendered hors de combat (outside the fight), or incapable of fighting.

“
So long as there are men, there will be wars.
— Albert Einstein
”



6.4. ETHICS OF MIGRATION

Introduction

The World Bank’s **World Development Report 2023** proposed an integrated framework to **maximize the development impacts of cross-border movements** on both destination and origin countries and on migrants and refugees themselves.

Migration is both seen as an **asset** and a **liability** by the world. In order to utilize assets and shun away liability, countries around the world **devise policies and laws as per their suitability**. Such policies often **lack ethical principles**.

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Individual | People leave their homes in search of a more decent life . |
| Origin Country | It brings remittances and on the other hand, it causes brain drain (migration of talented people). |
| Destination Country | It wants to receive only productive migrants and refugees. Also, they are not open to migration above a certain limit as it may impact demographic change and resource utilization patterns. |
| Rescuers | On the one hand, the humanitarian imperative to help people in need and, on the other hand, the danger that, by doing so, one might become co-opted into the violent practices of either states or human smugglers. |
| International Organization | Organizations such as International Organization for Migration (IOM) oversee that migrants’ rights are well protected wherever they live. |

Ethical issues associated with cross border migration

- **Violates Human Rights and dignity:** Migrants often face violations of their human rights, including exploitation, abuse, and discrimination.
- **Lack of fairness and equal treatment:** Refugee policies with their utilitarian approach, give priority to the migration of skilled workforce and discourage distress migration and refugees.
- **Social discrimination:** Migrants often face marginalization, unequal access to resources, and limited opportunities.
- **No recognition of Climate refugees:** Climate refugees often face challenges in obtaining legal recognition as refugees.
- **Temporary labour migration programs (TLMPs) of high-income countries:** Such migrant workers often have more restricted rights. This can perpetuate inequalities and discrimination based on nationality or immigration status.

Potential Solutions



- **Equality and non-discrimination:** States should address direct and indirect discrimination against and unequal treatment of people in **laws, policies, and practices**, etc.
- **Respecting Human Rights:** Nations should **refrain from arbitrary detention, torture, or collective expulsion of migrants**.
- **Participation and inclusion:** **Migrants** should be **consulted** and **included** in the development of **relevant public policy**.
- **People-centric Approach:** It recognizes that **migrants** and refugees are **men and women** who **often make difficult choices** and deserve fair and **decent treatment**.
- **Accountability and rule of law:** The system **governing migration** should allow **migrants** full access to **justice**, including redress and remedies if they experience human rights violations.
- **Acknowledging and providing protection** for individuals displaced due to climate change.

“Migration is not a threat but an opportunity for both the migrants and the societies they join. It is a chance to build bridges, create understanding, and promote mutual respect.” — Angela Merkel



6.5. ETHICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Introduction

After two long weeks of negotiations at COP26, the United Nations Climate Talks, the Glasgow Climate Pact was signed. But both leaders and experts were not satisfied with the promises made. The prevalent gaps in the climate negotiations and the gravity of the issues can be gauged by the opinion of world leaders:

Climate change is always perceived as an environmental or physical problem, but the solution to this problem lies in unknitting an array of ethical issues.

Key stakeholders and their interests

| | |
|--|---|
| Governments | Protecting the environment, ensuring the well-being of citizens , maintaining geopolitical stability , fostering sustainable economic growth , and fulfilling international commitments such as the Paris Agreement . |
| Intergovernmental Organizations | Promoting international cooperation , facilitating negotiations and agreements , setting global goals and targets, and supporting capacity-building in developing countries. |
| Businesses and Corporations | Managing climate risks, embracing sustainable practices , investing in clean technologies , exploring renewable energy opportunities , and capitalizing on the emerging green economy. |
| Local Communities | Protecting livelihoods , preserving cultural heritage , ensuring access to clean air and water , adapting to changing conditions, and participating in decision-making processes that affect their well-being. |
| Indigenous Peoples | Protecting their rights , preserving traditional knowledge and practices, and ensuring their voices are heard in climate decision-making processes . |
| Youth and Future Generations | Ensuring a sustainable and livable future , demanding climate action, and advocating for ambitious climate policies that prioritize their long-term well-being. |
| Scientific Community | Conducting research , sharing knowledge , improving climate models , and advocating for evidence-based climate policies. |

Ethical issues with regard to climate change

- **Disproportionate effect across different regions and populations:** Developing countries and marginalized communities often bear a greater burden of climate impacts due to their vulnerability and limited resources to adapt.

- **Climate Migration and Displacement:** Climate change-induced migration and displacement of people leads to increased insecurity and impacts their dignity.
- **Unequal distribution of responsibilities:** Industrialized countries have historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main drivers of climate change, the negative impacts of which are faced by everyone.
- **Climate Justice for Indigenous Peoples:** Climate change threatens these lands and disrupts their traditional ways of life.
- **Technological Inequity:** Access to climate-friendly technologies and clean energy solutions is not uniform across countries and communities.

Potential Solutions

In order to help Member States and other stakeholders to make appropriate decisions and implement effective policies, **UNESCO adopted a Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change-**

- **Prevention of harm:** To better anticipate the consequences of climate change and implement responsible and effective policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- **Precautionary approach:** To not postpone the adoption of measures to prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the grounds of a lack of definitive scientific evidence.
- **Equity and justice:** Respond to climate change in a way that benefits all, in the spirit of justice and equity.
- **Sustainable development:** Adopt new paths for development that make it possible to sustainably preserve our ecosystems, while building a more just and responsible society that is more resilient to climate change.
- **Solidarity:** Support, individually and collectively, the people and groups most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **Scientific knowledge and integrity in decision-making:** Strengthen the interface between science and policy to optimally aid decision-making and the implementation of relevant long-term strategies, including risk prediction.

“ Ethics and Equity are at the core of debate of climate change. Debate has to move from Climate Change to Climate Justice.

— Narendra Modi



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7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

Introduction

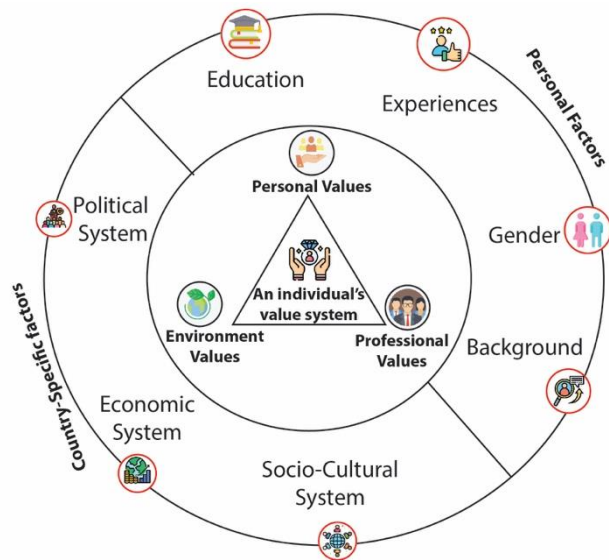
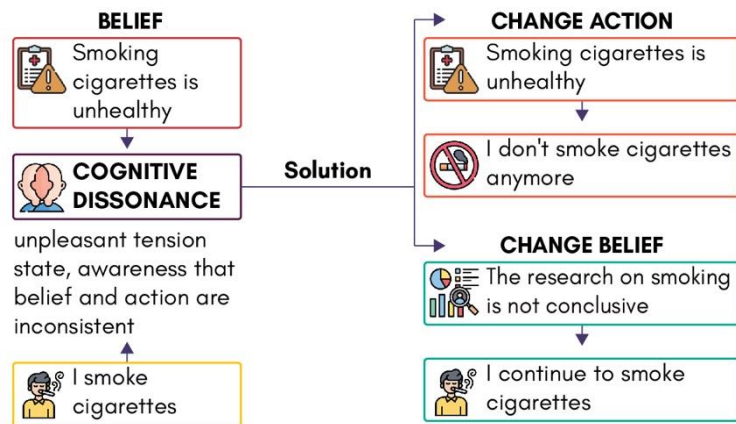
48-year-old Dmitry Maltsev, who joined the rally in St. Petersburg was in two minds, whether to support his country in these testing times or lean towards humanism for understanding the plight of the Ukrainian people. Such cognitive dissonance is not rare. People from all walks of life from public servants to businesspersons, all face such dilemmas.

Recently, a number of medical experts wrote to health authorities for intervention and to stop the use of medications and diagnostics that are inappropriate for the clinical management of COVID-19. This was the result of persistent cognitive dissonance faced by doctors due to issues like- **Use of limited efficacy and high-cost drugs, drugs, black marketing etc.**

Concept of Cognitive Dissonance

- Cognitive Dissonance is generally defined as ‘the mental conflict or discomfort which occurs when a person **holds conflicting beliefs** or when **actions contradict their beliefs**’.
- It can be of two types as-
 - **Anticipated Dissonance**, i.e., expected wrongdoing before actual moral violation.
 - **Experienced Dissonance**, i.e., a realization of wrongdoing or guilt after action.
- Following signs act as a **marker to identify cognitive dissonance**-
 - **Feeling uncomfortable** before doing something or making a decision.
 - **Trying to justify or rationalize a decision** that you've made or an action you have taken.
 - **Feeling embarrassed or ashamed** about something you've done and trying to hide your actions from other people.
 - **Experiencing guilt or regret** about something you've done in the past.

Example of Cognitive Dissonance



Ethical issues associated with Cognitive Dissonance

- **Moral Dilemmas:** When personal values clash with professional responsibilities, leading to internal struggles.
- **Impact on decision-making integrity:** Individuals may rationalize or justify unethical actions to reduce the discomfort caused by the inconsistency between their beliefs and actions.
- **Erode trust and credibility:** Individuals may engage in deception to reconcile the inconsistency between their actions and values.
- **Ethical Erosion in the long run:** With prolonged exposure to cognitive dissonance, individuals may gradually compromise their moral values, becoming desensitized to unethical behaviour.
- **Social Impact:** When large groups of people experience cognitive dissonance about social issues, it can lead to polarized attitudes, intolerance, and hostility.

Potential Solutions


- **Principle of cognitive consistency:** At a personal level, such dissonance can be resolved through a change

of behaviour or reduced importance of cognition, by re-evaluating the cost-reward ratio attached to various things, beliefs, and ideas.

- **Recognition of the issue:** At professional and higher levels, **external interference** is required in the form of recognition of the issue and taking institutional steps to resolve it.
- **Effective Leadership:** In the public context, leaders, civil servants and experts should have the **ability to connect with people emotionally** in order to find **common ground** in order to **resolve any collective cognitive dissonance** that may be prevalent.

“
In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.
 ”

—Theodore Roosevelt



7.2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN STARTUPS

Introduction

In recent times, several startups have found themselves with poor internal controls or avoidable controversies (e.g., BharatPe). This has ignited the need for strengthening **ethical corporate governance standards/principles** in these new-age companies.

Ethical Corporate Governance is when these rules, practices and processes are **driven by moral principles or values** to ensure efficiency. It includes principles of **accountability, transparency, integrity, fairness, and corporate social responsibility** among others.

Key Stakeholders and their interests in startups

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Founders and Entrepreneurs | Motivated to drive innovation , achieve their goals, and realize their entrepreneurial vision . |
| Investors | To generate a return on their investment . |
| Board of Directors | To act in the best interest of shareholders and ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the company. |
| Employees | Job security, fair compensation, career development , and a positive work environment. |
| Customers | Seek value, satisfaction, and trust in their interactions with the company. |
| Regulatory Authorities | Ensuring that startups comply with laws and regulations specific to their industry to protect consumer rights, maintain market integrity, and safeguard the public interest. |
| Local Community and Society | Startup's responsible practices, ethical behaviour, and contribution to social and economic development. |

Ethical issues associated with corporate governance among startups

- **Accounting issues:** Start-ups fail to provide transparent information to investors, employees, or other stakeholders or when they lack effective mechanisms for accountability and oversight.
- **Data Related Frauds** by misuse of technologies and misguiding authorities to hide data leaks.
- **Poor self-compliance** due to lack of due diligence.
- **Neglect of social responsibility:** Startups often fail to consider and mitigate the social and environmental consequences of their activities. E.g. Fire in electric vehicles of some startups.
- **Engage in unethical recruitment practices** such as poaching employees from competitors using unethical means or failing to provide fair compensation and opportunities for growth.

Potential Solutions

- **Accountability:** The Company Management should follow the **obligation to explain and reason** for the company's **actions and conduct**.
- **Responsibility:** On behalf of the company, the **Board of Directors/investors** should accept full responsibility for the powers they are given and **exercise the authority**.
- **Transparency:** Inform stakeholders about the **company's activities**, long-term plans, and any risks involved in its business strategies.
- **Fairness:** Focus on long-term value creation through **timely disclosures**; helping investors to assess the **financial and business soundness and risks of the company**.

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** In decision-making, management should consider the interests of all company's constituencies, including:
 - **Stakeholders** such as employees, customers, suppliers, and the community, and
 - **Regard for environmental, health, safety, and sustainability** for long-term value creation.
- **Leadership:** Set the tone- demonstrating the **company's commitment to integrity and legal compliance**- to set the groundwork for an **ethical work culture**.
- **Responsibility of other stakeholders:**
 - **Government:** Developing a **Code of Best Practices** on corporate governance standards and providing tailor-made versions of ethical practices for different sectors (in order to encourage compliance).
 - **Citizens:** Making more ethically responsible product choices.

“ A Business That Makes Nothing but Money Is a Poor Business . ”

— Henry Ford



7.3. ETHICS OF PHARMACEUTICAL ECOSYSTEM

Introduction

“Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives Association of India (FMRAI) has accused the manufacturer of giving doctors gifts worth Rs 1000 crores to get them to prescribe Dolo-650 mg as the go-to medication”.

More such news where pharmacies frequently use bribes and inducements to doctors highlighted the underlying nexus between the pharma companies and health professionals and the dominance of the ‘profit agenda’ in the pharma ecosystem.

Key stakeholders and their interest

| | |
|--|---|
| Core Pharma Industry including research and manufacturing | Develop solutions to human ailments. Although, this pursuit is largely motivated by associated economic benefit . |
| Pharmacy | Acts as the vital cog connecting the medical supply chain in the ecosystem. |
| Doctors and Hospitals | Provide the best possible diagnosis and services to patients at proportionate cost. |
| Patients | Seek best possible care from the system at fair and affordable price . |
| Regulatory agencies | Create a balance between interests of all stakeholders and ensure that the care provided to patients is safe, accessible and affordable . |

Ethical issues in the Pharmaceutical ecosystem

- **Ensuring ethics in clinical research:** Drug trials on animals and humans are plagued with ethical dilemmas about weighing the benefits and risks to subjects, and the goal of advancing medical science.
- **Transparency and accountability towards patients:** Pharma ecosystem does not actively communicate manufacturing processes and the side effects of drugs to patients.
- **Profit maximization at the cost of affordability:** There have been instances of overpricing of drugs for increasing profits. Also, some pharmaceutical companies use freebies (**in cash and kind**) to doctors as a tool to ward off generic drugs (which are more affordable).
- **Evergreening Practices:** Companies utilize patent rules and modest adjustments to extend their monopoly privileges on drugs.
- **Prescription Data Mining:** Pharmacy information regarding doctors' prescribing behaviours is purchased by drug firms. This information is then used to target specific doctors in their sales and marketing.

Universal Principles of Medical Ethics

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  <p>Autonomy</p> <p>It states that the patients have autonomy of thought, intention, and action when making decisions regarding healthcare procedures.</p> |  <p>Justice</p> <p>It requires that procedures uphold the spirit of existing law and are fair to all players involved.</p> |  <p>Beneficence</p> <p>It states that the patients well-being is the ultimate goal of the care.</p> |  <p>Non-maleficence</p> <p>Not causing harm to patients, even before doing them good and refrain from prescribing a treatment that, although effective could be harmful to patients.</p> |
|---|---|---|---|


Potential solutions

- **Code of conduct for Pharmacies:** Pharmacies must adhere to the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) provided by the government.
- **Treating ethics as an integral part of medical policy** by emphasizing on more ethical allocation and distribution of resources in healthcare and breaking the vicious cycle of medical exploitation.
- **Establishing clear communication** through training, increasing the availability of open information, and creating clear consent frameworks.
- **Protecting the patients** by strengthening enforcement of the relevant regulations and legislations.
- **Understanding the rights of physicians and duties of patients** through awareness generation and creating zero tolerance for unacceptable behaviour.
- **Embracing the role of technology,** research, and innovation in medicine.

“

The practice of medicine is a moral act.

— Paul Ramsey



”

7.4. CLINICAL TRIALS

Introduction

As per the joint report by the USA India Chamber of Commerce & PwC India titled, “Clinical Trial opportunities in India”, **Clinical trial activity in India has been increasing steadily due to several key regulatory reforms** aimed towards global harmonisation, enabling open access to clinical trials in India.

The **country’s diverse population, combined with its rapidly advancing healthcare infrastructure,** provides a fertile ground for clinical trials to flourish.

Stakeholders and Ethical principles involved

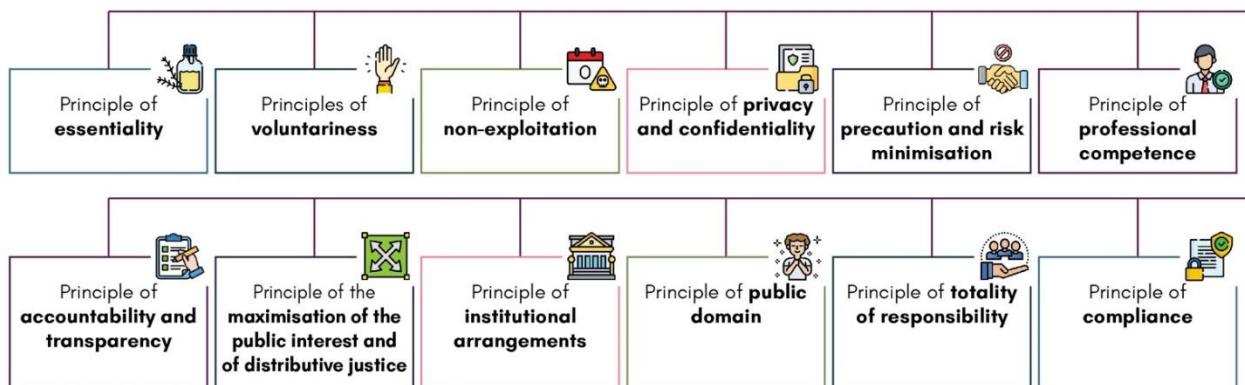
| | |
|---|--|
| Clinical Trial Patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients have the right to receive comprehensive information about the research, ensuring they fully comprehend it and voluntarily participate. • Compensation for Research-Related Harm after proper assessment. • Privacy and Confidentiality of Patients should be safeguarded by the research team. |
| Sponsors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Research Access and Benefit Sharing with relevant individuals, communities, and populations. • Sponsors should strive for equitable distribution (Distributive Justice) of research benefits and burdens among participants. |
| Researchers and Healthcare Providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers should only involve human participants only when it is essential for the proposed research. • Researchers are responsible for protecting the environment and resources at all stages of the research. • Healthcare Providers should ensure that patients participating in trials are treated ethically. |
| Regulatory Agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the social and scientific value of research justifies the potential risks. • Transparency and Accountability in research plans and outcomes are accessible to the public. |
| Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits from research should be accessible to relevant parts of society. |

Ethical issues in Clinical Trials

- **Lack of Informed Consent:** Complex language in consent forms can make them difficult to understand, particularly for those with low literacy levels.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Some researchers and sponsors bypass the regulatory framework to expedite trials for increased profit.
 - There also exists a **significant challenge of nexus managing the intertwined relationships** among sponsors, researchers, regulators, and ethics committees.
- **Targeting Vulnerable Populations:** Those in desperate financial situations can become easy targets for unethical clinical trials.

- **Compensation:** Participants sometimes fail to receive compensation when clinical trials do not succeed. This raises questions about the extent to which financial incentives could encourage research subjects to provide misleading or false information.
- **Stem Cell Research:** Despite the proven therapeutic value of human stem cells, ethical concerns remain around their harvesting, particularly from human embryos.
- **Drug Trials in Neonates:** Ethical challenges include the inherent vulnerability of this population, their higher risk of mortality and morbidity, and the difficulties in obtaining informed parental consent.

Twelve General Principles of Clinical Trials as highlighted by ICMR



Potential Solutions

- **Regulatory Approval:** Clear and unambiguous regulatory provisions applicable to diverse situations would enhance the efficiency of trial approval.
- **Patient Recruitment:** The recruitment of patients depends on the availability of investigator sites and patient willingness. Increasing the number of investigator sites could help.
- **Ensuring Quality and Compliance:** Institutional ethics committees (ECs) should devote time and effort to understanding ethical issues - human protection, independent decision-making, handling conflict of interest, reviewing safety reports and compensation, and overseeing clinical trial conduct.
- **Education in Ethical Clinical Trials:** Different stakeholders, including CDSCO functionaries, IEC members, academicians, CROs, and industry professionals, should be educated on ethical clinical trial practices.
- **Compensation for Trial-Related Death or Injury:** Insurance coverage should include all costs associated with investigations and treatments arising from trial participation.

Related News

Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) or Human Challenge Studies

- **Why in the news?** - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Bioethics Unit has formulated a consensus policy statement for the **ethical conduct of CHIS**.
- **What is it?** - In CHIS, healthy volunteers are **intentionally exposed** to pathogens in a controlled environment to **promote an understanding** of the pathogenesis, transmission, prevention and **treatment of infectious diseases in humans**.
- **Why is it an ethical issue?** - It is considered a contravention of the **Hippocratic Oath** and infringes the **“do no harm” ethical code** for medical practitioners.



Medicine is where science marries art; where research marries creativity.

— Graham-Pole Jr










APPENDIX: COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL SERVICES

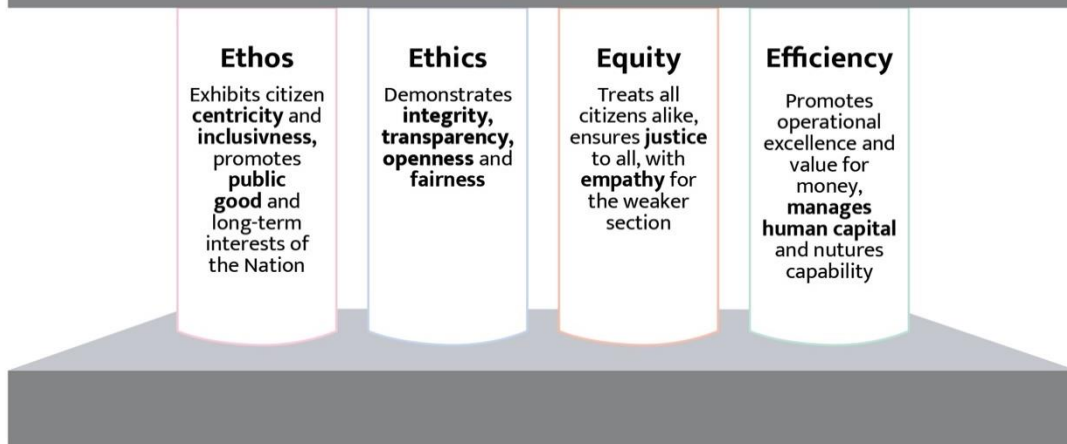
APPENDIX: COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL SERVICES

► This framework is basically a **collection** of competencies which are **essential to the working of a civil servant**. Further, the collective application of these competencies over time crystallizes the **realization of Good Governance**.




CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE











| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  Accountability |  Transparency |  Participatory |  Consensus Oriented |
|  Equity and Inclusiveness |  Following Rule of Law |  Effectiveness and Efficiency | |

4 Pillars of Competency Framework for the Indian Civil Service















I. Ethos

| | |
|--|---|
|  People First | ► Passion for serving people with special care for the marginalised and disadvantaged . Being approachable, welcoming, caring and rising above bias while interacting with people. Understands the needs of the people and constantly strives to improve the services. |
|  Strategic thinking | ► Ability to understand dynamic internal and external environment and its impact. Responds to the opportunities and challenges for the betterment of society. |
|  Organisational awareness | ► Understanding of the organisation's mandate, structure, policies, processes, norms and its interface with other organisations. It also includes an understanding of the organisation's informal structures, power dynamics and constraints . |

| | |
|---|--|
|  Commitment to the organisation | <p>▶ Aligns behaviours and interests with the needs and goals of the organisations.</p> |
|  Leading Others | <p>▶ Ability to engage, energise, and enable the team to excel.</p> |
| <h2>II. Ethics</h2> | |
|  Integrity | <p>▶ Consistently behaves in an open, fair and transparent manner, honours one's commitments and works to uphold the Public service values.</p> |
|  Self-Confidence | <p>▶ Belief in own capability to accomplish a task and being able to express confidence in dealing with challenging circumstances without being arrogant or boastful.</p> |
|  Attention to Detail | <p>▶ Having an underlying drive to be thorough and meticulous and to comply with procedures, rules, guidelines, and standards. Digs deeper and strives to reduce uncertainties and errors.</p> |
|  Takes accountability | <p>▶ Takes ownership for outcomes (successes or failures) while addressing performance issues fairly and promptly.</p> |
| <h2>III. Equity</h2> | |
|  Consultation and Consensus Building | <p>▶ Ability to identify the stakeholders and influencers, and seek their views and concerns through formal and informal channels. Build consensus through dialogue, persuasion, reconciliation of diverse views/interests and trusting relationships.</p> |
|  Decision Making | <p>▶ Makes timely decisions that takes into account relevant facts, tasks, goals, constraints, risk and conflicting points of view.</p> |
|  Empathy | <p>▶ Empathy is about being able to accurately hear out and understand the thoughts, feelings and concerns of others, even when these are not made explicit.</p> |
|  Delegation | <p>▶ Delegates responsibility with the appropriate level of autonomy so that others are free to innovate and take the lead.</p> |

Mains 365 - Ethics

IV. Efficiency

| | |
|---|---|
|  Result Orientation | ▶ High drive for achieving targets and competing against a standard of excellence . |
|  Conceptual thinking | ▶ Understanding a situation or environment by putting the pieces together and identifying patterns that may not be obviously related. Connecting the dots while resisting stereotyping . |
|  Initiative and Drive | ▶ Contributing more than what is expected in the job . Refusing to give up when faced with challenges and finding or creating new opportunities . |
|  Seeking Information | ▶ Aligns behaviours and interests with the needs and goals of the organisations. |
|  Planning and coordination | ▶ Ability to plan, organise and monitor work with effective utilisation of resources such as time, money, and people. |
|  Desire for Knowledge | ▶ Keeps up-to-date with relevant knowledge and technology , share latest developments with others, and advocates the application of acquired knowledge. |
|  Innovative thinking | ▶ Open to change, approaches issues differently, offers alternate/out of box solutions and strives for efficiency by working smartly. |
|  Problem Solving | ▶ Understanding a situation by breaking it into small parts , organising information systematically and setting priorities. |
|  Developing Others | ▶ Genuinely believes in others' capabilities to develop and take personal responsibility for their development . Creates a positive environment for learning and provides developmental opportunities for individual and team. |
|  Self-awareness and Self-control | ▶ Identifies one's own emotional triggers and controls one's emotional responses. Maintains sense of professionalism and emotional restraint when provoked, faced with hostility or working under increased stress. It includes resilience and stamina despite prolonged adversities. |
|  Communication Skills | ▶ Articulates information to others in language that is clear, concise, and easy to understand . It also includes the ability to listen and understand unspoken feelings and concerns of others. |
|  Team-Working | ▶ Working together as a unit for common goal, building teams through mutual trust, respect and cooperation . |

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DAKSHA MAINS

MENTORING PROGRAM 2024

DAKSHA MAINS MENTORING PROGRAM 2024

(A Strategic Revision, Practice, and Enrichment Mentoring Program for Mains Examination 2024)



Daksha Mains Mentoring Programme 2024 is a comprehensive and personalized mentoring program that adopts an **outcome-oriented and strategic approach to help** students aspiring to excel in the UPSC Mains Examination -2024.

The Programme adopts an innovative model where students will receive continuous support and guidance from senior mentors, helping students identify and improve upon their foundation skills, building knowledge and skill levels, and growth areas.

Further, the Mentor will help students develop analytical skills, critical thinking abilities, effective answer writing skills, and clarity of thought and expressions which are much needed to succeed in the Mains examination.

Daksha empowers students to transform their abilities into competencies through rigorous practice, continuous assessment, and expert guidance which instill confidence among students to emerge victorious in the UPSC Mains examination.



Scan the QR Code to Register

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME



Targeted Revision and Consolidation

- Covering static and dynamic part for Mains examination in a stimulated manner
- Development of analytical skills by establishing cross-linkages across the syllabus.
- Preparation strategies for current affairs and its integration with static syllabus

Development of Advanced Answer Writing Skills

- Analyzing the evolving demand of UPSC Mains papers
- Foundational skill assessment through the Baseline Analysis Test
- Need-based interventions to improve answer writing skills
- Gaining valuable insights from topper's answer writing approaches
- Emphasis on answer enrichment in GS subjects
- Live answer writing practice and discussion sessions



Continuous Performance Assessment and Feedback

- Performance and progress tracking through Daksha Mains Practice Test
- Detailed one-to-one feedback sessions on answer-scripts
- Subject specific smart interventions for performance maximization

Dedicated Support and Motivation

- Resolution of student queries through regular one-to-one session
- Providing platform to students for discussion and engage in peer-learning
- Multi-platform support through telephonic, email, and in-person interaction
- Providing motivation and psychological support during mains preparation



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Heartiest Congratulations

to all Successful Candidates

**39 in Top 50
Selections
in CSE 2022**

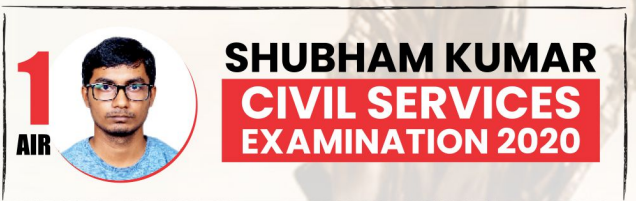


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