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# MAINS ANSWER WRITING APPROACH ANSWERS

Topic- ETHICS DAY 13



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**Q.1) In the context of public service, what does the term "accountability" mean? What measures can be taken to ensure individual and collective accountability of government employees? (10mark) (150 words)**

**Accountability** is a process that counter-checks the policies, people and institutions responsible for governance to ensure that performance is legitimate and transparent and citizens' interests are protected. The **transparency and accountability** of public administrations are a prerequisite to underpin **public trust**, as a keystone of good governance. **Transparency** is also a necessary precondition for the exercise of accountability since without access to **clear, accurate and up-to-date information**, it is impossible to judge whether the standard promised has been met.

#### **Accountability**

- Accountability in public service means that any decision making is **not arbitrary**, influenced by any temptations and can be questioned on motive and action taken by authorities and public.
- Accountability in public service entails **freedom of information and use of this information for the empowerment of citizens** to ensure **participatory governance**.

To ensure accountability in public service, following **measures** can be taken -

- **Voluntary greatest possible information public release** by authorities in spirit of **RTI Act** not dependent on individual requests for information
- **Encouraging social audits** as pre-facto audit for projects as compared to official post-facto audits
- Encouraging **e-governance** initiative to **G2G, G2B, G2C** transactions to reduce transaction costs and change service delivery from push to pull driven along with accountability

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- **Citizen charters and grievance redressal mechanism** to clearly communicate hierarchy of authority for grievance redressal
  - **Fast track courts** for swift conviction of corrupt public servants

Actions to improve accountability comprise **six initiatives: information, impartiality, implementation, infrastructure, independence and involvement.** It has to be pointed out that some progress has been made towards improving accountability. That is due to the introduction of **panchayati raj, mandatory disclosure of information by election candidates, the Right to Information Act, declaration of assets by judges of high courts and the Supreme Court, UID Aadhaar** and so on, though much remains to be desired in terms of implementation.

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**Q.2) What do you understand by the term International ethics? How can ethical consideration help resolve international conflicts and tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (10mark) (150 words)**

International ethics concerns ethical questions and dilemmas, whether for individuals or societies, that arise in view of economic, technological, legal, political, social, and cultural globalization. International ethics encompasses a broader range of concepts that may apply to groups of individuals or cultures. They can cover issues like social justice, human rights, cross-border environmental protection, social responsibility and accountability.

### **Role of International Ethics**

- International ethics illustrates how states treat other nations and their people. For example, the UN has been advocating numerous ideals of friendly and cooperative international humanitarian operations.
- Terrorism, territorial disputes, and refugee crises are all governed by international ethics.
- International ethics guides international environmental efforts to combat ozone depletion, global warming, and other issues that require action from many governments that contribute to the causes of such issues.

- Examples
  - The Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) principle in the Paris Climate Deal is the consequence of international ethics.
  - International Aids by countries during disasters (eg: India's support to Nepal during Earthquake)
  - Aid by the IMF and World Bank

### **Ethical challenges in International Affairs**

- Rising Inequality due to globalisation pushed by developed countries and international institutions. Neo-colonialism in the name of international aid rather than aiming at uplifting poverty.
- The world community is driven by national interests rather than global goals. Terrorism, for example, has yet to be defined internationally.
- Developed countries' lack of responsibility for Global Commons: Climate Change, Ozone Depletion, Antarctic/Arctic Ice Melting.

As unethical behaviour by one country harms the entire world, ethical behaviour in international diplomacy is required to address common problems like terrorism, climate change, poverty and inequality, and to establish global peace.

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**You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One day one of the workers died on duty. His family was demanding compensation. However, the company denied compensation because it was revealed in investigation that he was drunk at the time of the accident. The workers of the company went to strike demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. The Chairman of the management board has asked for your recommendation.**

**What recommendation would you provide the management?**

**Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the recommendations.**

The case described above is an example of a conflict between professional obligations and human values. The circumstance necessitates striking a balance between the ability to maintain professionalism while remaining true to one's values.

### **Options available**

#### **Option 1- Giving compensation without hesitation**

My initial option would be to compensate the victim by disregarding the report that he or she was inebriated. This would be entirely based on humanistic principles.

#### **Merits**

The most significant benefit of this recommendation would be the upholding of human ideals. This will also assist the survivability of the victim's family members.

#### **Demerit**

The issue would be a breakdown of worker discipline. Because the management has acted leniently, the workers will believe it is acceptable to consume alcohol during working hours.

#### **Option 2- Job to a close relative**

This is the most appropriate method since it will send a message that management will not accept acts such as drinking alcohol while also indicating the management's softer side toward staff members' families.

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**Merit**

This step eliminates the possibility of questions about the company's discipline being asked. This will also pay tribute to the company's history of treating employees and their families well.

**Demerit**

Family members from the Demerit family may use blackmail to gain greater benefits from the company's management.

**Option 3 - Refusing to compensate or provide benefits**

This move may be deemed extreme, as the corporation will need to be extremely determined to deal with any criticism it may receive as a result of it.

**Merit**

This will send the clearest word possible about the company's employee policy and its firm stance against workplace indiscipline.

**Demerit**

The victim employee's family must suffer as a result of his or her faults. This will also reflect poorly on the company's employees' reputation.

As a result, my proposal would be to simply present options in the current context, and management would be responsible for the rest of the decision. Finally, effort must be made to strike a balance between the company's humanistic principles and its discipline.

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