



Sleepy Classes
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MAD 2020
Ethics
Day - 20

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Question:

Corruption is important but not the only manifestation of failure of ethics. Do you agree? Justify

Answer:

Define the idea of Failure of Ethics

Ethics is all about reasoning about how one should act in a given circumstance – i.e. how to do the right action.

Therefore, any sort of failure to adhere to the right action will lead to the scenario of failure of ethics.

Reasons for Failure of Ethics:

The reasons for **such failure can be divided into two groups:**

- 1) Where the act is intentional which leads to failure of ethics
- 2) Where the act is unintentional which leads to failure of ethics

Intentional Acts:

- 1) Ignorance
- 2) Indifference
- 3) Malicious Intent
- 4) Political Interference
- 5) Crowd-following
- 6) Entitlement view
- 7) Misuse of discretionary power
- 8) Disregarding proper code of conduct
- 9) Lack of accountability
- 10) Decline of personal ethical sensitivity
- 11) Downplaying or reacting mildly to corruption charges
- 12) Lack of sensitivity and empathy towards the common man.
- 13) Issues with Transparency and Integrity
- 14) Lack of proper protection to whistleblowers

Unintentional Acts:

- 1) Prioritization Error
- 2) Probability Error
- 3) Execution Error

- 4) Data Error
- 5) Organizational Causes
- 6) No ethical leadership and behavior standards
- 7) Asymmetric distribution of power

What is Corruption?

- Transparency International (TI) defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain or specific group interest”.
- The United Nations points out that corruption can take many forms that vary in degree, from the minor use of influence to institutionalized bribery, and that “this **can mean not only financial gain but also nonfinancial advantages**”

Is corruption the only reason for failure of ethics?

- As per the definition of Corruption mentioned above, it is absolutely clear that any sort of abuse of entrusted power is corruption. It can take **any form starting from financial to non-financial gains.** Hence; **any intentional deviation** from the expected lines will be due to different forms of corruption. Any intentional reasons (as listed above) will be considered a different form of corruption **leading to failure of ethics.**
- **However, any unintentional deviation** from the expected lines **will not be due to corruption** but due to certain reasons (as listed above) which **are beyond the control of the executive responsible** for it. Therefore; **corruption will not play any role in all such cases.**

EXAMPLE:

A bridge collapsed because there was delay in the repair works by the officer in charge.

Scenario 1:

The officer in charge intentionally did not start the repair work on time under the instructions from opposition party expecting financial favors. This is a clear-cut case of corruption for financial favors leading to failure of right course of action.

Scenario 2:

The delay was due to the wrong report by the competent authority such as the engineer in charge then unintentional failure is causing the diversion. Here; corruption plays no role.

Way Forward to Avoid Failure of Ethics

- 1) Institutional Framework
- 2) Code of Ethics / Conduct
- 3) Rule of Law
- 4) Values
- 5) Empowerment of Citizens
- 6) Penalty
- 7) Vigilance
- 8) Clear accountability
- 9) Citizens Charter
- 10) Alternative Methods