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**MAD- 2020**  
**Day - 28**  
**ETHICS**

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**Question:**

“Accountability breeds responsibility”. To what extent do you agree with the statement. Explain

**Answer:**

Responsibility is referred to a sphere of duty or obligation assigned to a person by the nature of that person’s position, function or work. It refers to the processes and outcomes associated with the work performed in consideration of the moral maturity and ability to reason.

Accountability is more concerned with the outcome of a task and blaming or crediting someone for the action. It is also a readiness to have one’s actions judged by others and, where appropriate, accept responsibility for errors, misjudgments and negligence and recognition for competence, conscientiousness, excellence and wisdom.

So, logically, if a task is assigned to someone (i.e. responsibility), the impact of the outcomes of the decision should fall on that person. But, as usually witnessed in public offices, appropriate mechanisms to attach accountability with responsibility are missing, leading to physical and moral corruption.

If we imagine the other extreme, wherein responsibility originates from accountability, then instances such as policy paralysis, originate. The fear of being accountable leads to indecision and delay in work. Also, there is a belief that it might also compromise the autonomy of the office, as witnessed in banks where the manager is afraid to take a call on defaulters due to the fear of courts, corruption and CBI.

Thus, when the statement says, “Accountability breeds responsibility”, it is partially correct. Moral values and commitment to perform duty along with other qualities shall accompany accountability, only then can responsibility be ensured