



Daily Mains Answer Discussion (Punjab PCS) (Day - 12)

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Q 1. Owing to growing awareness and acceptance of changing one's gender, a lot of people are coming out in open to change the social status of their genders. They are also applying to get the government certificates in this regard of their changed gender status, which enables them to get various government benefits (in case they change their gender status from male to female).

You are one of the authorities that have been assigned this task of issuing these certificates.

A) What are the possible dilemmas that you can face while executing your duty efficiently?

B) What possible checks do you need to ensure so that only rightful people should get the said government benefits?

- A. Gender is a social construct and cannot be assessed by any mechanical means. The possible dilemmas in executing this duty can be the following:
- The genuineness of the claims can be a major consideration since benefits are also associated with the certificate. This can be cause inclusion and exclusion errors.
 - The other dilemma could be the reason for the certificate. Whether it is due to the yearning to be in the right gender as an expression of one's identity or is it to avail the benefits
 - Since the issue is so sensitive and there are no tools to establish the truth, the determination of the rightfulness is also another ethical dilemma
- B. Since it is an abstract concept, no physical tools can verify the rightfulness and a completely fool-proof system of checks is not possible. Considering the sensibility of the issue, my best effort would be dedicated to omit any exclusion error. Yet, in order to reduce arbitrariness, I would do the following
- Psychological analysis of the claimants would be carried out so that a scientific dedication could be made
 - A very brief interview would also be conducted and its results would be compared with the psychological analysis
 - Verification process would also be carried out which would includes visiting their residence and confirmation from their neighbours
 - They would also be requested to present a testimony from a deponent
 - The benefit of doubt would be given to the claimant and to avoid exclusion discrepancy in any one of the above would be ignored

Q 2. You are the head of the department that collates data for calculating GDP. You realise that the recent years have not been good from economy's point of view and the broader indicators paint a bleak picture of economy.

Your reports are highly awaited as it is an election year. The opposition and media are continuously raising questions on the performance of the economy and are attacking government for its policies.

You are also a highly respected academician of integrity, who was asked to head the department, bypassing a lot of other people, by the incumbent government.

A. During the vetting of the report by the concerned minister, you are asked to hide performance of certain sectors that were not performing well. What will be your course of action?

B. Two of your team members resign protesting against government interference and erosion of institutional autonomy of the organisation. This has cast serious doubts on the veracity of your report. How will you ensure that the public trust is maintained and your report is well received by the media and civil society?

A. The concern of the government is not to hide the facts because they are guilty of anything but because they don't want a negative perception against themselves.

- I have the foremost duty to the people and hiding anything which is suppose to be public would amount to loss of ethics. So, in the true spirit of my service, I will present the facts as they are. The government appointed me bypassing others because of the integrity and kind of work and not to extract favours in return
- But, at the same time, I would also put forth the factors which were responsible for the numbers as they were, incontrollable, irrespective of the government.
- In fact, I will also stress on the other sectors of the economy which outperformed the earlier benchmarks to provide a relative picture that in economy certain things are controllable and some are not

B. The resignations and the kind of accusations made, might raise eyebrows of the people. But the clouds of suspicion can only be shed away by satisfying the reason of people posing questions

- Foremost, I would personally request the resigning officers to express their concerns with the facts in the report so that any misconceptions could be dealt with as soon as possible
- If that doesn't satisfy the people, then we would call upon a press conference to answer all the doubts related with the report and detailed explanations would be provided along with the supporting documents so that any kind of suspicion could be done away with
- We would also request the independent media and other experts of the subject to give their unbiased opinion on the concerned matter
- The library in your town used to be a one-go solution for a lot of students in your area.

Q 3. However, after the pandemic, the authorities have shut down the library. The library was the only place where a lot of students had access to not only computers but also internet. And because of the shutting down of the library a vast majority of poor students have not been able to access even their online classes that are being conducted in-lieu of the regular classes.

A. You are a Good Samaritan of the town and are concerned about this absence of library from students' lives.

B. What will be your course of action so as to balance the demands of the students with the feasibility of opening the library again?

In your opinion, what are the ways that can ensure uninterrupted studies of the students who are more dependent on public resources?

A. In order to balance the demands of students and feasibility to open the library again, the following would be the course of action:

- Rearranging the sitting in the library according to the guidelines of the government
- Sanitising and maintaining social distancing
- Extending the time of the library from the normal working hours so that the loss in sitting can be compensated
- Dividing the students in permanent groups so that any positive case (if detected) can be restricted
- Issuing books for a larger tenure and in larger number so that number of visits for students can be reduced

B. The education of the students most dependent on the public resources is most severely affected by the pandemic. The following ways can be followed to minimise the interruption of their studies

- Arranging for low-cost internet-enabled devices for them to access study material online
- Using television channels such as SWAYAM Prabha etc. to teach students at home
- Government should provide free internet and devices to the BPL students
- Pre-recorded courses can be distributed via physical or digital platforms in areas of low internet connectivity
- Educated socially aware people can teach small groups of students at personal level, abiding by the government guidelines