

## “Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding.” Mahatma Gandhi. Elaborate

### Approach:

1. Introduce by defining anger and intolerance.
2. Explain how anger can hinder correct understanding of things
3. Explain how intolerance can hinder correct understanding of things
4. Conclude with a way forward.

### Solution

Anger is a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure and involves a non-cooperative response to a perceived provocation, hurt or threat.

Intolerance is unwillingness or refusal to tolerate or respect opinions or beliefs contrary to one's own.

Both anger and intolerance are vices that affect a person's understanding and decision-making ability.

### Anger affects correct understanding in the following ways:

1. **Emotional Decision Making:** Anger leads to flow of intense emotions. This affect rationality of an individual and may lead to decisions which one may regret later.

E.g., Domestic violence, murder, etc.

2. **Biasness:** Anger clouds the judgement of an individual and may lead to biased decisions.

E.g., Favouring a less deserving subordinate over a more deserving one because of personal anger with that person.

3. **Ripple effect:** An angry person can induce anger in persons around him/her and make the whole atmosphere intense and cloud the judgement of all parties involved.

E.g., People participating in physical altercation without a valid reason

4. **Hasty decisions:** Anger makes people lose their calm and forces them to take hasty decisions which may not be correct.

E.g., quitting job after argument with the senior.

### Intolerance affects correct understanding in the following ways:

- 1) **Resistance to change:** Intolerance leads to narrow thinking and sticking to one's ideals at all times. This prevents changing one's understanding according to need of the time.  
E.g., fundamental views about abortion and LGBTQ among orthodox Catholics.
- 2) **Short-sightedness:** Intolerance makes it hard to understand the long-term effect of decisions made.  
E.g., Intolerance towards the Bengali culture led to partition of Pakistan.
- 3) **Partial understanding:** Intolerance to opposite ideas leads to partial understanding of major phenomenon.  
E.g., Intolerance between rational and spiritual ideas leads to partial understanding of human nature.
- 4) **Insufficient dialogue:** Intolerance between communities makes it difficult for a dialogue necessary to understand the cause of rift between them.  
E.g., Inability to understand the Divide and rule policy of British fully due to lack of dialogue.

### Conclusion

- It is very important to keep anger and intolerance in check especially for an administrator who needs to act in a fair and unbiased manner in all situation.
- For this a person needs to cultivate emotional intelligence, practice meditation and yoga, undergo sensitivity training and adhere to logical thinking to avoid falling in the trap of these negative emotions.