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**MORALITY & SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

**UPSC CIVIL SERVICES
MAINS 2025**

**GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-4
ANALYSIS**

4(a). "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

Civil servants drive social re-engineering through welfare schemes aimed at inclusive growth.

Body:

They must apply **reason and critical thinking** to ensure efficient, transparent, and need-based implementation while upholding **ethical values** like integrity, justice, and empathy. Examples include ethical use of technology in **MGNREGA** or transparent delivery in **PDS reforms**.

Conclusion:

Rational, ethical governance ensures sustainable social transformation.

Introduction

Civil servants play a crucial role in designing and implementing welfare schemes that aim at social transformation and inclusive development. To ensure these schemes achieve their intended objectives, officers must employ **reason and critical thinking** within an **ethical framework**.

This combination ensures that decisions are both **effective** and **morally sound**, leading to sustainable social re-engineering.

Body

1. Rational Decision-Making for Effective Policy Implementation

- **Explanation:** Civil servants must use evidence-based reasoning to identify genuine needs and design policies accordingly.
- **Example:** During the implementation of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, officers who analyzed local sanitation behavior and used community-based reasoning achieved better results than those following a top-down approach.

2. Critical Thinking to Overcome Administrative Challenges

- **Explanation:** Welfare schemes often face ground-level hurdles such as corruption, leakages, and public resistance. Critical thinking helps officers adapt policies to local realities.
- **Example:** In **MGNREGA**, officers who critically assessed local employment patterns used technology (e.g., geo-tagging of assets) to reduce ghost beneficiaries and improve accountability.

3. Ethical Framework for Fair and Inclusive Governance

- **Explanation:** Ethical reasoning ensures that welfare measures are implemented with integrity, impartiality, and respect for citizens' dignity.
- **Example:** An ethical civil servant handling **Public Distribution System (PDS)** reforms ensures fair beneficiary selection and transparency, avoiding favoritism or data manipulation.

4. Balancing Competing Interests through Moral Reasoning

- **Explanation:** Welfare schemes may involve trade-offs between efficiency and equity. Ethical reasoning helps balance these dimensions.
- **Example:** In **land acquisition for infrastructure**, a reasoned and ethical approach—such as ensuring fair compensation and rehabilitation—builds trust and social acceptance.

Conclusion

For social re-engineering to succeed, civil servants must integrate **reason, critical thinking, and ethics** in their decision-making. This blend not only enhances administrative efficiency but also upholds constitutional values, ensuring welfare schemes truly empower citizens and transform society.

4(b). What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.



Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, emphasized moral discipline and spiritual purity for liberation.

Body:

His key teachings—**Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya, and Aparigraha**—promote non-violence, truth, restraint, and detachment. In today's world, they inspire **peace, ethical governance, sustainability, and simplicity** amid conflict and consumerism.

Conclusion:

Mahavira's principles ensure moral harmony and sustainable living in modern society.

Introduction

Vardhamana Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, was a spiritual reformer who emphasized ethical living, self-discipline, and non-violence as the path to liberation.

His teachings were not confined to religious life but offered a **universal moral framework** for social harmony, environmental preservation, and inner peace. These principles hold enduring relevance in today's complex and conflict-ridden world.

Body

1. Ahimsa (Non-violence)

- **Explanation:** Mahavira advocated complete non-violence in thought, word, and deed towards all living beings.
- **Example:** In a world facing wars, terrorism, and animal cruelty, Ahimsa promotes peace, compassion, and environmental ethics. Leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi** successfully applied this principle during India's freedom struggle.

2. Satya (Truthfulness)

- **Explanation:** Speaking and living truthfully was considered essential for moral integrity and trust in society.
- **Example:** In the era of misinformation and fake news, adherence to truth is vital for transparent governance, ethical journalism, and responsible citizenship.

3. Asteya (Non-stealing)

- **Explanation:** One must not take anything that is not willingly given.
- **Example:** This principle discourages corruption, tax evasion, and resource exploitation—issues that plague modern governance and economic systems.

4. Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Self-restraint)

- **Explanation:** Mahavira emphasized control over desires and moderation in behavior.
- **Example:** In contemporary consumerist culture, this teaching encourages mindful consumption and emotional balance.

5. Aparigraha (Non-possession/Non-attachment)

- **Explanation:** Detachment from material possessions reduces greed and promotes equality.
- **Example:** The minimalist and sustainable living movements echo Mahavira's call for simple living to protect the environment and mental well-being.

Conclusion

Mahavira's teachings transcend time and religion, offering solutions to modern issues like violence, corruption, environmental degradation, and materialism. Practicing **Ahimsa, Satya, and Aparigraha** today can foster a just, peaceful, and sustainable global society — the true essence of spiritual and ethical living.

5(a). "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant.

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

The statement, rooted in the *Bhagavad Gita*, highlights devotion to duty as the path to excellence and self-realization.

Body:

For a civil servant, sincere commitment to public duty fosters **responsibility, integrity, and ethical governance**, leading to professional excellence and inner satisfaction. Examples include dedicated officers in **Swachh Bharat** or disaster management.

Conclusion:

Devotion to duty ensures both societal welfare and personal fulfillment.

Introduction

The statement “One who is devoted to one’s duty attains highest perfection in life” reflects the moral philosophy of **Karma Yoga** from the *Bhagavad Gita*, where devotion to duty, without attachment to results, leads to inner peace and fulfillment.

For a **civil servant**, this principle implies that sincere dedication to public service brings both **professional excellence** and **personal satisfaction**, harmonizing responsibility with self-realization.

Body

1. Sense of Responsibility as the Core of Duty

- **Explanation:** A civil servant’s foremost obligation is to serve the public with integrity, impartiality, and empathy. Devotion to this duty ensures social trust and effective governance.
- **Example: E. Sreedharan**, known as the “Metro Man of India,” demonstrated unwavering commitment to public duty, completing projects like the Delhi Metro with efficiency and honesty—earning both respect and inner fulfillment.

2. Ethical Commitment and Inner Fulfilment

- **Explanation:** Performing one's duty ethically, without selfish motives, cultivates moral strength and personal peace.
- **Example: K. Vijay Kumar**, IPS, who led the operation against Veerappan, fulfilled his duty with courage and integrity, finding satisfaction in serving justice rather than personal gain.

3. Duty as a Path to Professional Excellence

- **Explanation:** Consistent dedication enhances competence, leadership, and institutional credibility.
- **Example:** Civil servants devoted to rural development under **Mission Antyodaya** or **Swachh Bharat Mission** derive fulfillment from tangible societal transformation resulting from their sustained efforts.

4. Duty Beyond Rewards or Recognition

- **Explanation:** True devotion involves selfless service without expecting praise or promotion.
- **Example:** Grassroots officers in disaster management often work tirelessly under anonymity, yet experience deep satisfaction from saving lives.

Conclusion

For a civil servant, **duty is not just an obligation but a path to perfection**. When performed with sincerity, ethical conviction, and public spirit, it brings both **external success** and **inner contentment**, realizing the ideal of “Yogaḥ karmasu kauśalam” — *Perfection lies in the excellence of duty*.



Thank you

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