



## Mains Practice Question

### Case Studies

You are posted as the District Magistrate (DM) in a remote district in India. This district is known for its rich tribal culture and pristine natural beauty. However, it also faces challenges like poverty, limited healthcare and education facilities, and deforestation due to illegal logging.

A multinational pharmaceutical company (MNC) approaches you with a proposal to set up a research facility in the district. The MNC claims that the research facility will bring economic development, employment opportunities, and better healthcare services to the district. The MNC also offers you a hefty amount of money as a personal incentive to approve the proposal.

However, you are aware that the research facility will have negative impacts on the environment, the tribal culture, and the rights of the local people. The MNC has a history of unethical practices such as exploiting natural resources, violating human rights, and conducting illegal experiments on animals and humans. You also suspect that the MNC has some hidden agenda behind the research facility.

As the DM, you have to decide whether to accept or reject the proposal.

- A.** What are the ethical dilemmas involved in this case? How will you resolve them?
- B.** What are the possible consequences of your decision for yourself, the district, and the MNC? Justify your answer with suitable arguments and examples. (250 words)

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### Approach

- Begin with briefly introducing the case.
- Discuss ethical dilemmas involved in the case and how you would resolve them.
- Mention possible consequences of your decision.
- Conclude by mentioning the guiding principle behind your decision.

### Introduction

A District Magistrate in a tribal district of India weighs the dilemma of allowing a multinational pharmaceutical company to build a research facility. While promising economic growth and better healthcare, the company's unethical track record raises concerns about environmental impact, cultural preservation, and human rights.

### Body

#### A. Key Ethical Dilemmas involved in this case:

- **Economic Development vs Environmental Conservation:** Accepting the MNC's proposal may lead to economic development and job opportunities for the district, but at the cost of potential environmental degradation due to the company's track record of exploiting natural resources.

- **Tribal Culture vs Rights:** The establishment of the research facility may threaten the rich tribal culture and rights of the local people. The potential disruption could include displacement, cultural erosion, and loss of autonomy.
- **Unethical Practices of the MNC vs. Ethical Decision-Making:** The MNC's history of unethical practices, such as human rights violations and illegal experiments, raises concerns about the company's intentions and its impact on the well-being of the local community.
- **Personal Incentives vs. Public Interest:** The personal incentive offered to the DM by the MNC raises questions about the integrity of the decision-making process and the potential conflict of interest.

**To resolve these ethical dilemmas, the DM should consider the following steps:**

- **Conduct a Comprehensive Impact Assessment:** Conduct a thorough impact assessment for the proposed research facility, covering environmental, social, and cultural aspects. Involve the local community in the evaluation process.
- **Transparency and Public Consultation:** Share impact assessment findings with the community for transparency. Conduct public consultations to include community opinions and concerns in decision-making.
- **Negotiate Ethical Business Practices:** For MNCs truly invested in district development, prioritize ethical practices, commit to environmentally sustainable operations, uphold human rights, and preserve local culture through negotiations.
- **Legal Compliance and Oversight:**
  - Enforce strict legal compliance measures to prevent any unethical practices by the MNC. Establish an oversight committee to monitor the company's activities and ensure adherence to ethical standards.

**B. Possible consequences of my decision:**

Decision	Consequences for Me (DM)	Consequences for the District and Tribals	Consequences for the MNC
<b>Accept with Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential positive publicity for responsible leadership.</li> <li>▪ Long-term risk if conditions are not met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential economic development, jobs, healthcare improvements.</li> <li>▪ Environmental degradation, cultural erosion, community exploitation risks.</li> <li>▪ Missed development opportunities if conditions are too strict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market access and profit generation if conditions met.</li> <li>▪ Negative publicity if ethical violations occur.</li> <li>▪ Regulatory scrutiny and project delays if conditions are not met.</li> </ul>
<b>Reject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential conflict with MNC, pressure, threats.</li> <li>▪ Career stagnation due to remote location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Missed development opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Continued poverty and resource exploitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project delay or cancellation.</li> <li>▪ Reputational damage.</li> </ul>

However, I'll conduct a thorough enquiry on the MNC, before making my decision. If I find the intent of the MNC malicious, I'll reject the project otherwise I'll approve the project but with certain conditions and a periodic review mechanism.

**Conclusion**

Choosing the ethically defensible path, even if challenging, ensures that the community's well-being, both present and future, remains the guiding principle.

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