



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Discuss how the principles of Gandhian ethics can be applied in the context of contemporary public service? **(150 words)**

04 Jul, 2024 GS Paper 4 Theoretical Questions

### Approach

- Introduce the answer by highlighting the significance of Gandhian Ethics
- Highlight the significance of Gandhian ethics on contemporary public service
- Conclude positively.

### Introduction

The **legacy of Mahatma Gandhi** transcends the boundaries of time. His philosophy, forged in the fires of **India's independence struggle, continues to resonate with profound relevance for the contemporary public servant.**

- In a world grappling with complex challenges from social inequalities to environmental degradation,
- Gandhian ethics offer a compass for navigating the challenges in public service.

### Body

#### Significance of Gandhian Ethics on Contemporary Public Service:

- **Satyagraha (Truth Force):**
  - **Transparency and Accountability:** Public servants can uphold Satyagraha by practicing **radical transparency.**
    - This means proactively disclosing information, admitting mistakes, and being open to public scrutiny.
  - **Whistle-blowing:** When faced with **corruption or wrongdoing,** Gandhian ethics encourage whistleblowing, even if it means challenging superiors.
    - This ensures **truth prevails and exposes injustices within the system.**
  - **Policy Formulation:** Public servants can embody Satyagraha by seeking truth through **data-driven decision-making and public consultations.**
    - This ensures policies reflect the needs of the people and are based on factual evidence.
- **Ahimsa (Non-Violence):**
  - **Conflict Resolution:** Ahimsa promotes **peaceful conflict resolution.** Public servants can embody this by using dialogue, mediation, and empathy to address disagreements with colleagues, citizens, or other stakeholders.
  - **Social Justice:** Ahimsa advocates for **social inclusion and equal rights.** Public servants can strive for equitable development and avoid discriminatory practices in service delivery.
  - **Environmental Sustainability:** Ahimsa extends to non-violence against the environment as well.
    - Public servants can **promote eco-friendly practices, resource conservation,**

and sustainable development initiatives.

▪ **Swavalamban (Self-Reliance):**

- **Empowerment:** Swavalamban emphasizes **empowering citizens to become self-sufficient.**
  - Public servants can create programs that equip communities with resources and skills, fostering long-term development.
- **Decentralization:** Swavalamban encourages decision-making at the local level.
  - Public servants can devolve power to local bodies, promoting community ownership and participation in development projects.
- **Efficiency and Resource Management:** Swavalamban promotes **efficient use of resources.**
  - Public servants can **streamline processes, minimize waste, and explore innovative solutions** to optimize resource utilization.

▪ **The Seven Sins:** In public service, Gandhi's seven social sins: **wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle**, serve as ethical guidelines.

- They emphasize fair compensation, moral integrity, responsible use of knowledge, ethical business practices, human welfare in science, genuine commitment, and principled decision-making.
- Adhering to these principles promotes **ethical governance and contributes to a just and equitable society.**

## Conclusion

By embracing these core ideals, public servants can cultivate a more ethical and effective approach to governance. **Upholding truth, advocating for non-violence, promoting self-reliance, striving for universal upliftment**, and detaching from personal gain can create a more just and equitable society in the spirit of Gandhian ethics.

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