



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** International aid is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (150 Words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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### Approach

- Start your answer with the introduction to international aid and its significance.
- Discuss the ethical considerations in contemporary international aid.
- Conclude with the significance of ethical international aid practices.

### Introduction

International aid is essential in helping resource-challenged nations because it provides vital resources, expertise, and support that can lead to improved living conditions, economic development, and long-term sustainability.

### Body

Ethical considerations in contemporary international aid are essential to ensure that aid is effective, respectful, and sustainable:-

- **Respect for Recipient Nations' Autonomy:**
  - Example: UNDP partners with countries to create their own development plans respecting the autonomy of nations.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
  - Example: Charity organizations like Oxfam regularly publish detailed reports on their funding sources, expenditures, and project outcomes.
- **Avoiding Harm and Dependency:**
  - Example: Microfinance programs, such as those by Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, provide small loans to individuals to start businesses..
- **Long-Term Sustainability:**
  - Example: The Green Climate Fund supports climate adaptation and mitigation projects.
- **Humanitarian Principles:**
  - Example: Doctors Without Borders operates in conflict zones worldwide.

However, there are few challenges in contemporary International Aid:

- **Weaponization of Investment Aid:**
  - Example- China has been weaponizing investment on foreign soil as a part of its 'debt-trap diplomacy'
- **Corruption and Mismanagement**
  - Example- Corruption and mismanagement of foreign aid led to the Sri Lankan economic crisis.

## Conclusion

Thus, ethical international aid practices not only enhance the effectiveness of aid but also uphold the dignity, autonomy, and rights of the people and countries receiving support.

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