



Ethics in Public Governance

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Ethics

Integrity

Excellence

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- *A diplomat is he who can tell you to go to hell in a way that you look forward to the trip*
- *To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research*
- *I like work. It fascinates me. I sit and look at it for hours*
- *To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit, the target*
- *There are many issues on which we're not clear on what we should or shouldn't do; and many of such options are those where more data or research or reasoning cannot help in the present when choices are to be made, so – a rural solution, leave diyas in puja-room & let it choose!*
- Whether the mask is labelled fascism, democracy, or dictatorship of the majority, our great adversary remains the apparatus - the bureaucracy, the police, the military; not those facing us across the frontier of the battle lines, which is not so much our enemy as our brothers' enemy, the one that calls itself our protector and makes us its slaves. No matter what the circumstances, the worst betrayal will always be to subordinate ourselves to this apparatus and to trample underfoot, in its service, all human values in ourselves and in others.

ICCFG HAPPENINGS

Another webinar to explain the relevance and urgency of creating a Community of Ethics was convened and the response was encouraging. This was the fourth webinar in the series and the participants welcomed the initiative enthusiastically. Based on the extremely positive response to the training module “Towards an ethical Work Culture” developed jointly by ICCFG and DMRC we have planned another on-line module during April 2021.

14th March 1879 is the Birthday of Einstein

On 13th March Rajiv Sachdeva chaired a session taken by Prof. Ghatak of IIT for Teachers on “Child Psychology – The Motivation and Encouragement that made Einstein”. Based on voting, Einstein was declared as the Person of the Century and appeared on cover of Time Magazine on the 31st Dec. 1999; it was stated therein that “He was the embodiment of pure intellect ... he was unfathomably profound ... the genius among geniuses *who discovered, merely by thinking about it, that the universe was not as it seemed*”. Some of his quotes discussed in the talk:

- *The right to search for truth implies also a duty, one must not conceal any part of what one has realized to be true.*
- *I do not believe in the fear of life, in the fear of death, in blind faith ... I do not believe in a God of theology who rewards good and punishes evil ... (pictures of survivors almost starved to death at Auschwitz concentration camp)*

- *My religiosity consists of a humble admiration of the infinitely superior spirit that reveals itself in the little that we can comprehend about the knowable world.*
- *Thru' the reading of popular scientific books, I soon reached the conviction that much in the stories of Bible couldn't be true.*
- *... there was religion, which is implanted into every child by way of the traditional education-machine. This came to an abrupt ending at the age of 12.*
- *... wonder of such nature I experienced as a child of 4 or 5 years, when my father showed me a compass. That this needle behaved in such a determined way did not at all fit into the nature of events*
- *I do not believe praying any God in a temple, but instead seek it in helping the poor, needy and sick – Anna Hazare*
- *One infinite pure and holy ... beyond thought, beyond qualities, I bow down to thee – Vivekananda*

Happiness as Fulfillment, Ananda and Bliss

*Principle: There's no happiness in the limited! Unlimited alone is happiness!
Dependency gives sukha-dukha! Independence alone is bliss*

People desire love, wealth, power, health, esteem, fame and all pleasures they can afford. Through all our work and day-to-day struggles, interactions, transactions, what are we really seeking? Knowingly or unknowingly, we are really seeking happiness! Are we really seeking happiness or are we really needing fulfillment, contentment, *Santushti*, to have a good sleep?

Do we need any education and training or qualifications to be Happy? Shouldn't someone be responsible to discuss with us and teach us what is happiness and how to be happy? Neither scientists nor education in schools and colleges have suggested any subject, curriculum or focus on making us happy! Are our parents, teachers, elders happy; and, can they really teach us or make us happy? We're really seeking sustainable happiness; but we get a mixture of happiness-unhappiness, *sukha-dukha* as two sides of a coin!

Science, logic, philosophy (not religion!) of Happiness: Is happiness a new product or a new demand? Are we waiting for modern science, technology to research and find ways to make us happy? Hasn't happiness always been mankind's goal? What causes happiness? What is the source of happiness? Is it out there in objects? From where, what, how, do we get happiness? Why do we want to be happy? Philosophers like Aristotle had grappled with it and said happiness is our goal! Neither modern scientist nor western cultures have good explanations to answer, why do we want to be happy? Why do we wish to continue living and not to die? Why do we wish to explore, discover, to know more and more! How did our forefathers grapple with these basic issues? Were they happier or are we getting more and more happy? Let us see their logical discussions and analysis:

- No object always gives happiness! So, no object can be the source of happiness.
- I always want happiness; so, to remain perpetually happy must be my very inherent nature, *swabhava*, *Swaroopa* (my unchanging nature!) and that is why I am seeking to regain (Latin of religion) lost happiness; re-unite (yoga) with my nature of happiness. Similarly, 'existence', to live, to 'know' more and more must be my inherent nature and that is why we seek to be free, unlimited, free from limitations!

- What is my nature? How can happiness be my nature when I am often unhappy?
- My body, mind, brain cannot be the source of happiness as they're always changing and giving us both happiness and unhappiness? So, how do I experience happiness? It is caused by 'contact' between the mind, sense organs and the objects? But they, the objects and body-mind, cannot be the 'source' of Happiness because the same contact doesn't always give happiness!
- Is our mind the source of happiness? No, if it were so, the 'contact' would always have given happiness, but we know it doesn't!
- Can I really be the source? Is the source of happiness always within me? Where have I stored happiness? Why can't I access it?
- Let's analyze: any time, when in our daily life, for whatever reasons, even momentarily, our desires are fulfilled then at that moment, we don't desire anything else. As soon as the mind become a bit calm on fulfillment of a want, immediately, the Ananda of our Swaroopaa within, is experienced by us as happiness, pleasure, joy, etc. Where did happiness come from? This Ananda bursts forth from within and we call it happiness. As soon as mind is calm, we become one with our Ananda-swaroop, our inner Self. What we experience day in and day out, and continuously seek is not really happiness; it is a miniscule, an infinitesimal flavor of our unchanging nature of Ananda.
- Ananda is a state where mind is calm, not restless because it is not in a state of excitement in contact with senses and desirable objects. Let's say we've enjoyed a picnic with our loved ones and now are just relaxing in amenable company; suddenly someone suggests some action to be happy but we are totally content, *poorna*, fulfilled, and at that moment, we really have no desires; so, mind is contented. This is Ananda, when I have no desires! Being in my own unchanging Swaroopaa is the acme of happiness.
- Our inner self really seeks bliss but not knowing its source, we get engrossed in pleasures, joys, that come and go. We really wish to be *smastha*, healthy, which literally means, '*being established in our Ananda-Swaroopaa*'!

What is the guarantee of happiness? Ethical and righteous conduct, commitment to duties, quality in work for good of society supported by a regular routine of reflection, prayers, meditations, study to determine and fix the purpose of work and life, are the only guarantee of sustained happiness and ultimately perpetual bliss, that we really seek, in our blind search for happiness thru' our focus on 'artha', 'kaama'.

Awareness of our Ananda Swaroopaa alone can inspire us to explore the inner world of Consciousness; we will learn to look within, we will strive to be unselfish, good, be ethical, fulfill our duties, our Swadharma, and we will remain on the path to attain once again our oneness with the whole creation and the Creator!

The proof that happiness is within and, is the Swaroopaa of each and every living-being, is available with the experience of deep sleep, where our mind is desire-less, calm, we're established in our real Swaroopaa of Ananda. After all our pursuit of desires for happiness, why do we go to sleep, get tired with activities? We've to reflect on this question if we really seek the source of happiness! Unfortunately, on our own we cannot express what happens in deep sleep because then the mind, our only instrument of perception, we leave behind, and are totally fulfilled, *poorna*!

Sustained happiness: If modern schooling inspires us, mothers, fathers, teachers, elders, and we're established in the habit of reflection, introspection, we will start appreciating that the source of

happiness is within and it is only righteous conduct, ethical living, fulfilling our duties that can purify our mind; the more the mind is purified thru' unselfishness, the more life is full of joy, happiness.

Bureaucracy destroys initiative!

"There is little that bureaucrats hate more than innovation, especially innovation that produces better results than the old routines. Improvements always make those at the top of the heap look inept. Who enjoys appearing inept?"

"But who would build the roads if there were no government?"

You mean to tell me that 300 million people in this country and 7 billion people on the planet would just sit around in their houses and think "Gee, I'd like to go visit Fred, but I can't because there isn't a flat thing outside for me to drive on, and I don't know how to build it and the other 300 million or 7 billion people can't possibly do it because there aren't any politicians and tax collectors.

If they were here then we could do it.

If they were here to boss us around and steal our money and really inefficiently build the flat places, then we would be set. Then I would be comfortable and confident that I could get places. But I can't go to Fred's house or the market because we can't possibly build a flat space from A to B. We can make these really small devices that enable us to contact people from all over the world that fits in our pockets; we can make machines that we drive around in, but no, we can't possibly build a flat space."

The only thing that saves us from the bureaucracy is its inefficiency!

Father and Mother's house

It's the only house where you can go to dozens of times without an invitation.

The only house where you can put the key in the door and enter directly.

The house that has loving eyes that stare at the door until they see you.

The house which reminds you of your care free days, stability and your happiness during your childhood.

The house in which your presence and look at your mother's and father's faces is for you a bliss and your conversation with them is a reward.

The house that if you do not go, the hearts of its owners will shrink, and if you hurt them, they will be angry.

The house in which two candles were burnt to light up the world and fill your life with happiness and joy.

The house where the dining table is pure for you and has no hypocrisy.

the house that if the food time arrives and you don't eat, the hearts of its owners will be broken and annoyed.

The house that offers you all the laughs and happiness.

Ó children! find out the value of these houses before it's too late.

Lucky are those who have their parents' house to go to- Khalil Gibran

Harvard Business School faculty members answer:

How do you expect Biden's presidency to impact businesses?

What leadership advice do you have for the new commander in chief?

- Exclusive focus on profit and shareholder value maximization has led to environmental destruction and the concentration of wealth and power within the hands of a few: -

- This endangers democracy by giving the wealthy few enormous influences over who is elected to positions of power and what they decide.
- It further endangers democracies by fomenting resentment from those who are left out and by ushering to power populist leaders who made scapegoats of refugees, immigrants, and minorities.
- If we stay the course and fail to change, we will continue to further destroy the planet and further cement inequality. So, rebuild strong democratic foundations, and place human beings and the planet back at the core of our economic system; though challenging to implement.
- Continue to reveal your deep devotion to America and its core values, but also ask us for a better version of ourselves.
- The most important impact Biden's presidency is likely to have on business is a higher degree of stability and predictability. Trump did things that were supportive of business growth and economic growth but the volatility and dysfunctional relationship between trading partners and US institutions caused a lot of uncertainty. Companies like to know what the rules are and they like stability in those rules. In terms of leadership advice, the country today is almost literally a 50-50 proposition. That is not the basis to pursue an outsized agenda for dramatic change, or for the introduction of policies that are very controversial. There are a lot of areas of common ground. And there are a lot of opportunities to do meaningful, important things that will benefit a lot of citizens. Good managers focus on doing what is possible.
- In terms of his leadership, Biden's soothing persona and vast legislative and administrative experience will calm those who objected to Donald Trump's aggressive manner. But pleasant personality can go only so far; he must effectively address the powerful divides among various American groups.
- Biden presidency is likely to generate business benefits by leading effectively through and beyond the multiple pandemics facing America. It will provide the continuity business leaders crave (even when they might not like particular policies). Drama and uncertainty will be replaced by goal clarity and communication transparency. Businesses will find it easier to make plans and invest for the long-term. They must deal with recalcitrance in Congress and public cynicism, along with outright opposition.
- I know he'll keep small businesses front of mind in these difficult times. He truly understands that small businesses, beyond accounting for half of our country's jobs, provide a real pathway to the American Dream. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated that he is someone the public can trust, and that his mission has always been to improve Americans' lives. It's this kind of honest and purposeful leadership that we need.
- Biden has indicated that Harris's voice will be "the last in the room" when he is making crucial decisions. What could she ask as the last to be heard? *"Have we solicited many ideas; did we enlist outsiders and, yes, citizens? Have we identified uncertainties in our plans and devised ways of quickly testing to try to resolve them? Have we designed architecture for scaling, ideally so that users make other users better off?"*

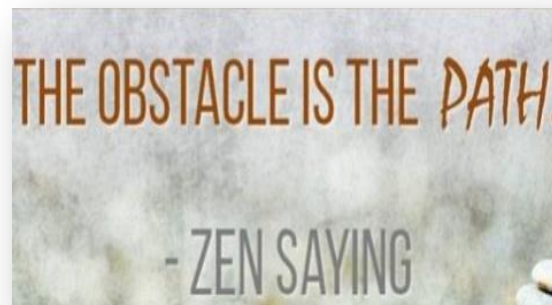
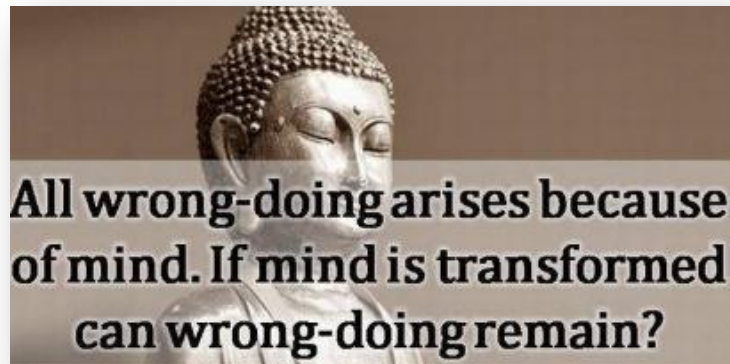
- *To err is human, to blame it on someone else shows management potential*
- *I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you*
- *I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay slips*
- *The right to be heard does not include the right to be taken seriously, so hear all*
- *Everyone always says they have to work twice as hard when I'm around - am I that inspiring?*

A totally nondenominational prayer:

“Insofar as I may be heard by anything, which may or may not care what I say, I ask, if it matters, that I be forgiven for anything I may have done or failed to do which requires forgiveness.

Conversely, if not forgiveness but something else may be required to insure any possible benefit for which I may be eligible after the destruction of my body, I ask that this, whatever it may be, be granted or withheld, as the case may be, in such a manner as to insure said benefit.

I ask this in my capacity as your elected intermediary between yourself and that which may not be yourself, but which may have an interest in the matter of your receiving as much as it is possible for you to receive of this thing, and which may in some way be influenced by this ceremony. Amen.”



Please send your comments, suggestions and short articles containing your experiences for publication through email at info.iccfg@gmail.com and Sunil Kumar can be contacted at kumar2sunil@yhoo.com