



Ethics in Public Governance

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Ethics

Integrity

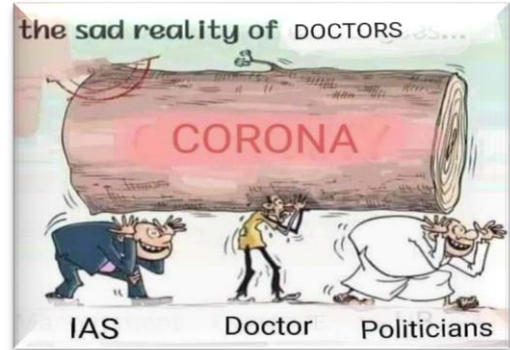
Excellence

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History of Railways in USA



Result Producers produce Results!

ICCFG Happenings

Despite the continuation of pandemic the Centre was able to hold the 5th Webinar on the Community of Ethics on April 11, 2021 which has enabled us to reach over 60 members of our Alumni and their responses to the ideas of the Community has been endorsed by them. We now propose to work out the agenda for this movement and wish that some of the members of the community would take leadership of the proposed movement.

We have however been forced to postpone the on-line DMRC training module titled 'Towards an Ethical Work Culture' due to current pandemic. However the responses to the programme continue to be encouraging. During the May 2021 we have programmed a 3-day online module on Ethics for Management Trainees of NTPC

Would more laws and regulations reduce or eliminate corruption?

"The more prohibitions you've, the less virtuous people will be. Therefore, the Master says: I let go of the law, and people become honest. Chinese philosopher Laozi

Celine's 3rd Law: An honest politician is a National calamity! More laws simply create more criminals!

Replace the many pages of rules of conduct with just 4 rules: Be Punctual. Keep to Schedules. Deliver expected work output. Follow Norms of good behavior – ARK retd. Civil servant and Governor.

Germany bids farewell to Angela Merkel - Leaders are born!

With six minutes of warm applause, on the streets, balconies, windows, the whole Country applauded for 6 minutes - spectacular example of leadership and defense of humanity. The Germans elected her to lead them, and she led 80 million Germans for 18 years with competence, skill, dedication and sincerity. She did not utter nonsense. She did not appear in the alleys of Berlin to be photographed. She was dubbed The Lady of the World, equivalent of six million men. No transgressions were recorded against her. She didn't assign any of her relatives to a government post; didn't claim she was maker of glories; didn't get millions in payment, nor did anyone cheer her performance; didn't fight those who preceded her.

The reaction of the Germans was unprecedented in the history of the Country. She was a chemical physicist; not tempted by the fashion; didn't buy real estate, cars, yachts and private planes, knowing she is from former East Germany. She lives in a normal apartment like any other citizen, where she was living before being elected Chancellor of Germany.

Scientists of Matter Vs Scientists of the Observer/Consciousness + matter

*We the educated, in politics, governance, naukari, dhandha, are busy dealing with people!
But during decades of schooling, have we been taught anything about people— who we're, why, where're we going?
Why do we behave as we do and most importantly how to change our selves to behave as we know, we should!
We've given up all superstitious belief and religious ideologies of our non-scientists non-educated forefathers!
We no longer believe in this or that god; we're scientific& believe only in the 'observed' but ignore the 'observer'!
Our modern gods, the scientists, are busy exploring and discovering the wonders of the galaxies, earth, stars.
Just 'matter' that can be 'observed' - suddenly these gods discover that all matter makes up just 4% of the universe!
96% is something our modern gods can't see, detect, or even comprehend - dark matter and dark energy.
And of course,we never wonder of the divine magician, I, the singular Consciousness behind it all!
Shouldn't we? Shouldn't I?*

Astronomers infer the existence of these dark forces based on the gravitational influence they have on the visible universe. The understanding that there might be more mass in the universe than the stuff we can see first formed during the 1960s. In the six decades to follow, researchers haven't been able to figure out the nature of dark matter.

A popular hypothesis is that dark matter is formed by exotic particles that don't interact with regular matter and light. Hence, they are invisible. The overwhelming majority of the universe is; who knows? "It's unknown for now, and possibly forever," as the science writer, Richard Panek, puts it!

Just chaotic happenings? Or harmonious Governance?

*Perhaps all this matter and variety is to attract our attention to that, the one who is the unknown, the changeless;
the Governance and intelligence of intelligences, hidden, but smoothly maintaining a cosmic harmony in this
ever-changing jagat.*

*Where only we have the freedom to follow, if educated, or not to follow our respective, Swadharma!
May be the jagat is just a glimpse of the bliss and joy that we may get, knowing the divine magician itself!*

*We see magnificent beings, trees, plants, laden with exotic fruits, flowers... and, some perhaps, wonder!
How and who could imagine such beauty, colors; and fit it all, in a tiny 'seed'!*

*And arrange 'mother'; and the earth, sun, rain, wind, buzzing bees, birds, to nurture!
 Imagine the beauty, the wide variety; men, insects, fishes, the lion, elephant, giraffe... what diversity!
 Just who could it be, who fashioned all this just for us? To enjoy? Destroy?
 Suddenly I appear as a baby! And more often than not, someone takes care of me, loves me; unselfishly!
 From where did I come, why, where am I going, what is the purpose of my being here,
 Why in this family? Why now? Shouldn't I know, but how!
 Have I ever had time to think, to reflect, ponder over this mysterious mystery of Creation!
 The jagat – that is continuously changing, this sansar – where things come and go!
 Where things seemingly happen in an overwhelmingly cosmic cyclic order, Rtm!
 Just chaotic happenings? Or harmonious Governance; a 'Shiva-tandava' of manifestation, un-manifestation?*

Educational Vision for our Nation Can Community of Ethics help Formulate?

Arise, Awake and stop not till the goal is reached'; 'Be and Make' – Vivekananda

*Arise from the ignorance that we're just bodies. Awake to our unlimited divine potential. Continue fulfilling our Duties
 and daily self-study and self-development practices till we manifest our full potential.
 Strive to 'be and make' Mentors*

GOI is now expecting all public servants to be Karma Yogis. GOI had nominated Vivekananda as National Youth icon. GOI has also added Fundamental Duties in our Constitution. Policy makers, Supreme Court, MHRD, NCERT, etc. have recommended need for human Values in education. And, none of this has yet reached the ears of our Schools, B. Ed colleges, DIET, Governance, MHRD, NCERT, Universities, DOPT, etc. Educational institutes are seen just as the best business for making guaranteed money! It is sheer stupidity to believe that people are equal and fit to be teachers and leaders of society merely based on a degree!

We expect the educated and especially our civil servants and political leaders to be role models of society and exemplars of our highest values and ideals; and yet, our best of men have never focused on the questions: How to inculcate and imbibe Life-skills and values in our character? How to identify, nurture, evaluate who are fit to be our teachers and leaders? Modern so-called educated and scientific society, has rejected religions and our own time-tested ideals, but have failed to answer: How does one imbibe ethics, values, ideals in our character? How do we inspire the young to strive to know and walk-the-talk towards good, better, best and choose those who so strive?

Walking the talk of ethics: Mere teaching this or that subject or even philosophy and comparative religions and evaluation by exams, degrees, *cannot and has not helped build character and enlightened citizens!* Mere case studies and 'knowing' of values and ideals is also not of much use! We have to learn how to strive and we have to actually keep striving to imbibe values and ideals in our character, thru' daily self-study and self-development practices.

It is far easier to intellectually argue and debate the idea of ethics, especially for the intelligent! And, walking the talk of ethics, day in and day out, is far more difficult, and needs life-long continuous struggle. Getting to know of values and ethics and even be intellectually convinced, is just a 1st step; acting on it needs life-long struggle and so, the mind has to be prepared thru' daily, continuous striving. Education today is purely bookish; focused on marks; not character!

Spirit of Service and Discipline: Citizens, particularly during 10-20 years of education and training, should be exposed to austere life in spiritual retreats; rigorous training with armed forces; NGO's who work on a voluntary basis for upliftment; etc. so that we not only 'know' of values and ideals but learn to strive to imbibe them in our character, thru' hard struggle to fulfill our duties to best of our abilities, supported by daily self-study and self-development practices.

MHRD/NCERT had created National Resource Centers for Value Education who could help initiate and monitor these activities with the support of governmental authority.

How can Community of ethics help? The question we should request the CoE to explore, focus on and address is how we should help elders, teachers, parents to instill and students to imbibe, the *spirit of striving together for our highest 'fulfilment' while working for good of society*. And the time-tested spiritual answer, like it or not, is that from early childhood we must be established in the habit of daily quiet time for prayers, reflection, self-study, self-development practices to build emotional strength and acquire a healthy idea, a holistic vision of the plan of creation and the role of our daily work and life to fulfill our respective roles!

We need the educated as Mentors: The challenge is, how to create systems and strategies that will empower education and religions to take responsibility and be accountable to inculcate in the young, during decades of education, the qualities of work as worship, of spirit of service, of respect for our composite culture, of striving for excellence, of commitment to kartavya-palan and to our Constitutional Fundamental Duties, to care and concern for each other and for environment, etc.

Action Plan -Changing ourselves is not easy! We all recognize that we need time to absorb new ideas and ideals. Knowing thru' attending a few workshops/classes is not enough. These are only preliminary steps. To imbibe higher values and ideals is a life-long struggle. So, from early childhood, we've to establish the young in good habits, values, disciplines. Daily self-study and self-development practices is essential to learn to know and manage our thoughts towards good, better, best.

Education and Work places must consider providing, say one-hour daily, for Reflection on our plans and harmonizing them with our purpose and Vision; and, for Self-study and Self-development practices supported by monthly workshops of 8-10 hours, to Imbibe the spirit of:

- a. Constitutional Fundamental Duties
- b. Foundation of our composite culture
- c. Nature of a Human Being; its goals, and the role of daily work and living in its journey towards fulfilment; Relationship between man, other beings, nature and the cosmos.
- d. Our role as Mentors of Society - learning to be and make Mentors
- e. Evolving Codes of Ethics for Individuals, Institution, Society
- f. Mind and its Management/my self-development plan

10-20 years of education must focus on inspiring and helping students discuss, explore, appreciate our foundational ideal of 'whole world as our family'; of 'commitment to Swadharma' for guaranteed happiness, prosperity; and, evolve for themselves 'My-Action-plan for daily Self-study and Self-development practices', to imbibe the spirit of continuous striving for our highest 'Perfection'.

Schools should create Study Circles of say 5 students and a number of SC could be facilitated by a faculty. Each SC can then study, explore, discuss, and evolve their own focus areas. There should be 1-2

months training every year with the armed forces and NRCVE, to learn armed forces values of discipline, quality and hard work and swilling to sacrifice for good of nation, and the spirit of working for good of society, etc. Students could evolve for themselves their Self-development plan, and working together evolve for themselves and the Institute, the codes of Ethics.

Along with Degree/Diploma/Certificate, each year the respective class teacher cum mentor of the class, should Issue a Character Certificate where the student's commitment to daily self-development practices is to be commented upon.

Can Community of Ethics 'identify the cat' and devise the strategy to bell the 'cat'?

What is the Weight of Clouds?

When you look up at the sky and see the clouds floating above so effortlessly, it's easy to assume that they are almost weightless. That assumption is very far from the truth. According to scientists, the weight of an average cumulus cloud is 1.1 million pounds! That is the equivalent of 100 elephants or the world's largest passenger jet. So how does that much weight stay afloat? The simple explanation is that all that weight spread out into millions of droplets over a really big area. Some of droplets are so small that you would need a million of them to make a single raindrop.

What Happens?

If we leave broccoli out, it turns into a bouquet of flowers; What happens when we leave a fizzy drink in the freezer and forget about it; When we leave plastic cutlery inside a car in the sun



His-story of Words - What has Vaccine to do with Cows?

Covid days remind one of 'Vaccine', of 'Expiry'-dates on eatables, medicines, and we look for 'Loopholes' to avoid masks while we hope for the 'Daisy' to bring in the sun.

Just as his-story is written by the victors, here are some History of Words!

'Vaccine' is evolved from the Latin word for cow. The etymology of the term 'vaccine' goes all the way back to 1796, when Edward Jenner developed the first-ever successful vaccine, for smallpox, based on a weaker version of the virus, cowpox, affecting cows.

'Expire' comes from the Latin 'spirare', which means "to breathe", and it shares this root as with other English words, such as 'respiration' and even 'spirit'. To 'expire', or to "ex-spirare" means to breathe out. So, when something expires, it means that it took its last breath, metaphorically, of course.

Loophole denotes some small detail in an agreement or law that can be used to violate certain parts of said law or agreement! In the 1300s, it meant small arrow slits in the walls of a fortress or castle, loopholes, through which archers could fire arrows and other small arms, while being shielded. Well, we definitely see the metaphorical resemblance there - most battles are fought in courtrooms, which result in 5/4 majority judgments, based on loopholes!

'Daisy', the sunny flowers get their name from an Old English word 'dægesege', which can be translated into Modern English as "day's eye"; which, it actually makes perfect sense when we remind ourselves that daisy blooms open at dawn and close at dusk, much like our eyes do when we awake in morning and go to bed at night!



This incredibly unique train track is just over 2 kilometers long; built in 1914 to connect South India to the island of Rameswaram. The track runs along a very low cantilever sea bridge, which can hardly be seen from the train's interior. All you'll see is the deep blue sea, an incredibly exhilarating experience!

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@yahoo.com