

# ETHICS – Case Study 4

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# Gist of the Case

A person aspiring to join MES is having doubts regarding integrity of government servants and whether it is possible for a person to be absolutely ethical while serving in the government.

# Stakeholders

- Government Servant
- Colleagues
- Contractor
- Department
- User
- Government
- Public

# Ethical issues involved

1. In the present times, when **unethical environment** is quite prevalent, individual attempts to stick to ethical principles may cause a lot of problems in one's career. It may also cause hardship to the family members as well as risk to one's life. Why should we not be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance, and be happy with doing whatever good we can?

*Can one ethical person oppose the whole group of corrupt officials in the office/department?*



# Ethical issues involved

2. When so many people are adopting **wrong means** and are grossly harming the system, what difference would it make if only a small minority tries to be ethical? They are going to be rather ineffective and are bound to get frustrated.

*If the whole system is corrupt, what can one (or a few) person do?*

# Ethical issues involved

3. If we become fussy about ethical considerations, will it not **hamper the economic progress** of our country? After all, in the present age of high competition, we cannot afford to be left behind in the race of development.

*Can being ethical decrease the efficiency of the individual and the department?*

# Ethical issues involved

4. It is understandable that we should not get involved in grossly unethical practices, but giving and accepting **small gratifications** and doing **small favours** increases everybody's motivation. It also makes the system more efficient. What is wrong in adopting such practices?

*What is wrong in being moderately unethical ?*

# Values required

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Attitude
- Satisfaction of needs
- Belief that change is possible
- Sense of responsibility and accountability
- Ability to influence and motivate others
- Courage to face the challenges



# Options available

1. In the present times, when **unethical environment** is quite prevalent, individual attempts to stick to ethical principles may cause a lot of problems in one's career. It may also cause hardship to the family members as well as risk to one's life. Why should we not be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance, and be happy with doing whatever good we can?

Options	Merit	Demerits
Compromise	Short time pleasure	Guilt Loss of trust & public money
Stick to ethical policies	Example for others Self satisfaction Real happiness	Pressure from colleagues Risk Stress
Status Quo	Superficial peace	Lack of integrity

# Options available

2. When so many people are adopting **wrong means** and are grossly harming the system, what difference would it make if only a small minority tries to be ethical? They are going to be rather ineffective and are bound to get frustrated.

Options	Merit	Demerits
Compromise	Short time pleasure	Corrosion of whole system Another brick in the wall Loss of trust & public money
Start a change	Example for others Self satisfaction Real happiness	Pressure from colleagues Stress Frustration
Status Quo	Superficial peace	Lack of confidence No long term learning

# Options available

3. If we become fussy about ethical considerations, will it not **hamper the economic progress** of our country? After all, in the present age of high competition, we cannot afford to be left behind in the race of development.

Options	Merit	Demerits
Use wrong means to get things done quickly	Less hindrance, resistance	Wrong precedence Moral erosion
Always choose the right means	Example for others Sustainable Inclusive development	Lengthy procedure Conflict Stress

# Options available

4. It is understandable that we should not get involved in grossly unethical practices, but giving and accepting **small gratifications** and doing **small favours** increases everybody's motivation. It also makes the system more efficient. What is wrong in adopting such practices?

Options	Merit	Demerits
Take/Give favors	Short time pleasure Fake friends Illicit sources of money	System becomes less efficient in long run Greed for more Loss of trust & public money Fear of getting caught No respect from others
Say No	Example for others Self satisfaction Mental peace Respect from others	Peer pressure Conflict



# Recommendations

- Take it as a challenge
- Have belief in yourself
- Change is possible, it just needs a start
- Lead by example
- Be an inspiration for others
- Have courage

**Thank You**