

357 Hurricane Day3 19/06/2022

Q1 How do you compare and contrast the western and the eastern philosophy?

Q2 Explain the significance of the following quotation with examples:

'There is no instance of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare'.

Q3 Many villages in Ranchi had been suffering from severe water stress and heat waves for the last few months. Agricultural productivity has also declined. As per some reports, there had been severe loss of human and livestock lives, but it had been underreported. Despite all the state help, the conditions aren't improving. Rather than dealing with the crisis, the focus of the local officials has shifted towards face saving. There are numerous allegations of corruption as well. Lack of livelihood opportunities has triggered significant out-migration.

(a) Analyse the ethical dimensions of the above case study.

(b) As the DC of the district, the Chief Minister has asked you for an action plan to improve the above situation as soon as possible. What would be the contents of your action plan?

Ans. 1

The philosophies are the general school of thoughts, of ideologies characterised by certain elements.

Western Philosophy

It is characterised by :-

- 1) modernisation
- 2) individuality
- 3) class divisions, etc.

→ also features of western society

The western philosophers focus on various ethical theories in order to guide certain moral and ethical behaviour of individuals.

1) Socrates → his philosophy focus on self awareness and its importance. He writes, "an unexamined life is not worth living".

2) Aristotle - focus on the importance of happiness and not living on extremes.

3) Kantian Philosophy deals with the human beings as the central means of ethical conducts. He believes in the virtue of duty.

4) Weber believes in the rules and regulations adherence for a bureaucrat.

Eastern Philosophy

It is characterised by :

-) collectivism
-) ~~caste~~ traditional.
-) caste divisions, etc.

> also features
 of Eastern
 society

Eastern philosophers focus on ideologies that are traditional and can be rooted to the past as well.

•) Kautilya → deals with the issue and importance of ethical governance and can be linked to the modern virtues of a civil servant.

•) Lord Krishna in Bhagwad Gita → highlights the importance of Nishkama Karma.

•) Mahatma Gandhi talks about the 7 deadly sins that ~~hinders~~ hampers the growth of society.

•) APJ Abdul Kalam focuses on courage, moral righteousness, etc.

So, from above western and eastern philosophers, we can

analyse that how different yet similar these philosophies are: -

Differences:

Western Philosophy is more oriented towards individualism whereas eastern philosophy focuses on collectivism.

Western Philosophy focusses on strict rules and regulations whereas eastern philosophies focus on virtuous society with loosely held guidances.

Western Philosophy focusses on virtue-based ethics, normative ethics of altruistic egoism, utilitarianism (consequentialism) or means based deontological approach whereas eastern philosophy focuses on right or wrong actions.

However, they might differ in their textual references but the ultimate teachings are almost similar to follow an ethical conduct. Like Lord Krishna guides us to follow NISHKAMA KARMA, similarly Kant guides us to just perform our duties.

Ans. 2

explain the significance of the following quotation with examples:-

"There is no instance of a nation benefitting from Prolonged warfare."

Ans. 2 → The recurring news on "Russia - Ukraine war" in present days brings us into a questions of 1) how long the war would continue? 2) who'll be benefitted from the war? 3) will there be any conclusion?

The war that started few months back have left an indelible impact on the world. Both the sides not willing to submit and come to a conclusion shows the greed for power & politics in the International sphere.

From the time immemorial, it has been observed that a nation does not benefits from one prolonged warfare. World War I and World War II brought nothing but the division of power and destruction everywhere.

The disastrous effects of the two world wars:-

- death of millions
-) perish of resources, energy and time.
-) the exhaustion.
-) the followed economic crisis, poverty, shelterless people across countries.

We could not see through the history of any nation benefitting from prolonged warfare.

In fact the mythological 'Mahabharata' was resulted into nothing but destruction of two grand cities of Indraprastha and Hastinapur and the vanishing of the entire clan.

The "Russia-Ukraine war" which is not slipping into any conclusion has resulted only into:-

-) mass displacements of people of Ukraine
-) tired and declining soldiers / armies of both ~~can~~ nations.
-) Identity-crisis of people.
-) waste of efficient resources, financially as well.
-) the entire world dealing with supply shortages resulting into economic slowdown

Therefore, it is very rightly said that "There is no instance of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare".

Ans. 3 (a) Facts :

-) The villages of Ranchi dealing with water stress and its damaging consequences of loss of human and livestock lives
-) the situation has been underreported.
-) Though there has been state help but the conditions are not improving shifting the focus of local officials.
-) instances of corruption and out-migration

(b) Ethical dimensions :-

1) Unavailability of basic needs to the people of village.

↳ This is leading to the loss of human lives which is against the value of humanity and sustenance.

- (2) Under-reported situation hiding the true condition is against the value of honesty and integrity and probity of an institution.

↓
This is hindering the virtue-based ethical dimension of lacking virtues.

- (3) Issue of corruption vs. integrity

↳ Corruption as per Kautilya is the ~~usually wrong~~ ~~before~~ moral wrong which has to be curbed.

↓
Corruption destroys the working of civil servants.

The civil official indulging in corruption is not following the value of Integrity which should ~~be~~ attract punitive actions.

- 4) Public duty and spirit of service of local official is in question

The local officials shifting towards face saving is leading to the

loss of trust and faith of public
in public governance.

(5) ~~utilitarian~~ utilitarian approach
is not being fulfilled

↓
because one maximum needs
of one maximum number is
not served resulting into lack
of livelihood opportunities for them.

As per Jeremy Bentham,

"The morality of action is justified
if there is greater happiness for
greater number."

(6) The 'duty based' ethical dimension
is also not followed

↓
as the local officials are
indulging in corruption
so they're not doing any
right action.

(b) As the DC of the district, I'll try to take an approach which at this hour fulfills the basic needs of the maximum people.

Also, I'll try to follow and perform my duties in an ethical and moral conduct.

My ~~action~~ plan of action would include :-

(1) The first step would be to communicate the higher authorities the gravity of the situation and will request them to provide some immediate relief in the form of food ~~clothing~~ and water to people.

(2) Then, I would also report the ~~situation~~ to the mass-media as it will help in sensitizing the issue and would overcome the problem of under-reporting.

(3) I'll try to talk to the local officials

and persuade them or socially influence them to act morally through expert power, reward power or coercive power.

④ I'll ^{then} talk to the people and village community about the alternatives if they have any or I'll discuss with them about my ideas or alternatives.

⑤ For a temporary relief, I'll try to organize for the distribution of free food, water, langars to the communities by collectively ~~talk~~ conversing the situation with the other well off villages.

⑥ In the end, I'll try to console, motivate and build faith within the people, because if they'll be ~~morally~~ and mentally better, they'll be able to deal with the situation more effectively.