



EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

NOTHING STRENGTHENS AUTHORITY SO
MUCH AS SILENCE

Once upon a time, there was a frog. He was kept in a pan of water and the pan was on a stove. Slowly the heat was increased. At this the frog adjusted its body temperature to adapt to the heat. This process of increasing heat and adjusting body temperature went on for a while. Then came the point of no return - the frog had already spent all its energy - beating and adjusting to the heat. He could no longer escape - and was soon boiled to death.

This story is a reflection of what has happened to and continues to

happen to humans from the annals of history to the present times.

This essay aims at exploring the impact of increasing authority as a result of silence and the various examples we are witness to. and it also aims to explore ethical and rights based dimension of silence.

ultimately, we try to understand - if one has to speak up against authority - who should do so and how.

EXAMPLES OF SILENCE

Authority refers to a position of power and influence. where a few in command dictate the lives of many.

At times, it can be good, especially with respect to quick and easy decision making, providing a direction to

the masses and even growth and development. However, often it happens, that those in power lead to the subjugation of many. * This might be due to their personal biases or merely because they can.

There is a way to avoid such negative consequences - to speak up against the injustices, lack of liberties and for improvements in daily lives. This however, fails to happen - way too many times.

for this we have several anecdotes and examples.

The British Rule in India was able to go on for a century and a half because people failed to unite and question them - on their right to rule a foreign land, on their exploitative policies and racist attitudes.

It was only when the people united and demanded their rights, dignity and land back - that too continuously - the British were driven away.

A similar story unfolds with respect to the Suffragist Movement worldwide. Women for long were subjugated by men and did not have equal rights. Then their collective demand for right to vote in UK, USA, etc. brought them on par with men, at least politically.

The movement led by Martin Luther King Jr in the 1960s - for civil rights and liberties for ~~man~~ people of colour - blacks - has a similar story.

In India, the Dalit Movement, tribal movement and women's Movement - also follow the same theme.

A section of society subjugated by those in position of authority - break their silence and achieve a few of their aims.

The most harrowing examples of such silence against authority - was something the world witnessed in the 1930s and 40s. The Policy of Appeasement followed by USA, UK, France, etc. and the silence of common man in Germany - against the atrocities committed by Hitler against the Jews. Even today the world questions - whether it would've been a different story - had a path of questioning and speaking up been followed.

Breaking the silence against authorities, however, does not always have to be a vocal and/or violent effort. One can

get his/her point across in symbolic or non violent means. For example, the chipko movement and Satyagrahas by Mahatma Gandhi.

THE CAUSE OF SILENCE

The main causes for such silence are also spread across various dimensions. Some are:

Fear of speaking up and its consequences
↳ for example in Germany - those who spoke up would be termed as sympathisers and communists and heavily punished.

Diffusion of Responsibility by the people. One expects others would speak up and until then go on following orders of the authority.

↳ A famous psycho social experiment by Milgram proved it - people were asked to give shock to subjects for answering incorrectly.

They did not know the shock was fake and continues to shock the subjects as long as demanded. They claimed - they were merely following orders.

People at times are not aware either. Therefore, they need to have a subjective realisation of their objective realities.

For example, the drain theory, speeches by INC made people realise the extent of exploitation by the British.

It is also possible that people in general and society ~~be~~ as a whole ends up developing an external locus of control - a fatalistic attitude that one can't do anything about what is happening.

Other reasons could be that one simply does not want to or one is loyal to those in authority and aims to benefit from it. For example, the

zamindars under the British.
People could also lack the means to
speak up.

Thus, a number of factors together
influence - whether a populace would
speak up against authority or not.

AN ETHICAL AND RIGHTS BASED PERSPECTIVE

When one needs to speak up against
authority - is usually when - a section
of people are deprived of their rights
or are ill treated. The various
rights enshrined in the constitution
and Universal Declaration of
Human Rights (UDHR) are threatened
by the authority.

In such a scenario, the UDHR, the
International Covenant for Civil and
Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as our
constitutions grants Right to Freedom

of speech and expression.

Hence, exploitative rule by authorities ~~is~~ as well as speaking up against it is a matter of rights.

At the same time, it is a matter of ethics and morals. They tell us what what one ought to do and how, while also enabling us to judge and understand what is right and what is wrong.

Deontological or Kantian ethics call for speaking up for the virtuous and morally correct means as well as ends. For example, if a state is exploiting workers for the sake of economic growth - one must stand against it. Since ends don't justify the means.

Similarly, Principled Utilitarianism also calls for looking out for a common good, benefit of many - while not compromising on liberties of an individual.

THE PERILS OF SILENCE

Politically, it deprives one of liberty, equality and justice. It can lead to violation of Right to life and also disenfranchisement of people.

Socially, it leads to the continuation and strengthening of hierarchies of religion, caste, gender, race, etc. It leads to development of prejudices and discrimination of a section of the population.

Psychologically, it is traumatising for the ones exploited. The psyche of the society also degenerates. People lose a sense of identity, self efficacy ultimately impacting the social fabric.

In economic terms, it can lead to differences in access to resources - even basic necessities of life. It may give

wise to exacerbate inequalities.
with those in authority, living off of
and earning at the behest of others.

Environmentally, it is a phenomenon we
already are witness to. Governments,
large companies - like Shell, Saudi
Aramco, Amazon, etc. - all destroying
the environment for a few bucks; only
to usher in the era of climate change.

As we can see, staying silent in
the face of unjust actions of
authority - only leads to negative
consequences.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Here we need to answer 'who',
'what' and 'How' of speaking up.

- Who is to speak up? The answer is,
everyone - whether impacted or
not. The idea of Public Interest
Litigation is an evidence for the

same.

What to speak up against? - All kinds of injustices, violation of rights, exploitation, etc. It ranges from issues of patriarchy and casteism to climate change to evils of terrorism and radicalisation.

How to speak up? - The means can differ from situation to situation and people to people. The method can be symbolic or vocal or even loud.

For example - methods of Bhagat Singh, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, S.C. Bose and Mahatma Gandhi - were all different - though they had the same aim.

Breaking our silence against unjust practices of authority is extremely important, especially as the world becomes too complex and

interconnected. Actions in one part of the world has an impact world over - as evidenced by the Refugee crisis. The act of enduring and staying silent adds fuel to the fire - empowering the already powerful figures of authority. This stands to be against the concepts of equality, inclusivity and liberty.

As the present world deals with issues of wars, pandemics, climate change, terrorism, patriarchy and so much more - the sword of Damocles will continue to hang over our heads till we shatter the silence we have held onto for so long.

INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY : ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD PUBLIC INSTITUTION

It is going to be close to two decades since the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission's Report was released, in 2005. Its focus was on public institutions how to make them function better. Governance, was an aspect explored by it. Inclusivity and equity are aspects of the same. The debate still rages - on their utility, importance and how to ensure them.

In this essay, we aim to explore what makes a public institution good and what it aims to achieve by being good. Further we explore the concepts of inclusiveness and equity and how these fit into some global aims of humanity. The essay also

explores the factors that undermine them and how we can strengthen these. After all, public institutions are omnipotent but good ones, the true need of today's world, are not.

GOOD PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

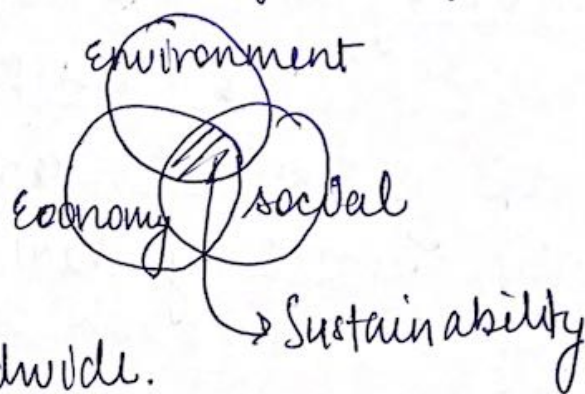
A public institution is any organisation which aims to serve the interests of the society and provide certain services to the masses. For example, railways, education department of a state, judiciary, healthcare system, etc.

Good Public Institutions share certain characteristics. They are participative in nature - involving the different sections in decision making, policy formulation, service delivery, etc. emanating from this is their quality of being consensus oriented.

These ~~at~~ institutions also are transparent, responsive and accountable to the people. Moreover, they are inclusive and equitable in nature - by all, for all. Support for these characteristics has also been resonated by the World Bank.

By being a good public institution they aim to achieve the goals of Sustainable Development, as

they have been aimed for by governments worldwide.



INCLUSIVENESS

The slogan call by the Prime Minister of India: "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" elucidates the concept of inclusiveness - quite aptly.

Inclusiveness or inclusivity refers to involving all sections of the society for societal development. It is a participatory approach. For example, it includes, the concept of Gram Sabhas, consultations with public on policy matters, surveys on important topics, etc.

In recent times - it is something we are witness to by developments of 73rd Amendment Act 1992, PESA, Self Help groups, schemes like Stand up India, PM SVANidhi, Forest Rights Act 2006, etc.

NITI Aayog recently noted in its acknowledgement of various Best Practices - Bal Sansads in Uttar Pradesh. They help develop the idea of inclusiveness in kids from a young age.

Even the constitution by Article 19 -
right to form cooperatives, Article 40 for
organisation of village Panchayats
and Article 43B to promote cooperative
societies - focus on how to make
public institutions and governance to be
more inclusive.

EQUITY - another essential ingredient

Equity refers to bringing those of
different conditions - at par with
each other.

An unfortunate, aspect of the world, is
inequality. The World Inequality
Report of 2022 stated that the bottom
50% of the world owns just about 2%
of the total assets in the world.

This inequality can be economic - in
terms of employment, income,
wealth, etc. Or it can also be social -
involving gender inequality, casteism,

racial, religious, etc.

There also exists a large gap between nations - the developed, the developing and the underdeveloped.

The aim of good public institutions is to reduce the various gaps and differences that have developed over the years i.e. achieve a state of equity.

Equity also involves and upholds the ideals of fairness and justice.

Several examples like the idea of reservation - be it in education, jobs or polity stand to prove that equity is essential for development.

To ensure such fairness - people need to be brought at par. Article 14 in its second part refers to this via

"Equal treatment before law" - those in similar conditions need to be treated alike - and not those in different conditions.

FACTORS THAT UNDERMINE INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY

While we have many laws and guidelines that explain how to achieve these ideals - where we lack is in their implementation.

Multiple factors combine and lead to poor implementation. One of the most prominent being the issue of corruption and leakages. For example, MGNREGA was marred by it to a great extent till a few years back.

Improper monitoring and evaluation does not let us understand - what steps seem to work and which ones do not. Consequently, we fail at making the needed revisions and changes.

The funding for these projects also seems to remain inadequate - and so

The desired results are not achieved. We also lack in terms of a trained and dedicated workforce - especially at the grassroots levels. The poor development of infrastructure and low uptake of technology also serve as impediments. For example - agricultural mechanisation is low in India, similarly issues around storage persist. In this manner a section of society - the farmers - do not reap the benefits of equity and inclusive development. Another rising issue is the erosion of social and moral capital. The value system is ~~seek~~ seeing changes in terms of collective good, cooperation, empathy. For instance, in the older days - when the shops opened up - they kept a chair/stool outside and after the 1st customer removed it. When a shop got a second customer - the

shopkeeper would look around and direct the person to a shop that still had its chair/stool out.

These feelings of goodwill, empathy and prosocial behaviour are fast declining.

Bias, differences and prejudices have seeped deep into society. As evidenced by a rise in misogyny, racism, communalism, etc. These social evils also end up obstructing proper implementation of laws and guidelines.

IMPACT OF UNDERMINING EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

When these ideals are ignored, especially by public institutions - the goals set by humanity seem to be at danger.

The Sustainable Development Goals from Goal 1 of No Poverty to Goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions all seem to be threatened.

If such a trend continues then on an International level - we would struggle to manage climate change, terrorism, impact of pandemics, refugee crisis, etc.

On a National level - as a social fabric is torn - conflicts and violence - gender based, caste based, communal, etc. would rise. We would also face increased pressure from left wing extremism - which is fuelled by the lack of inclusiveness and equity.

Individuals too, would face issues as they are deprived of opportunities and happiness. Mostly, a result of the impacts at National and global levels.

Hence, if the essentiality of equity and inclusiveness is ignored - the impacts would be multidimensional and felt at all the levels. So, we need to figure out a way to strengthen these principles.

WAYS TO STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY

For long term impacts - the values of equality, objectivity, empathy need to be cultivated in the society as a whole.

This process can be initiated from childhood - involving all agents of socialisation - parents, schools, teachers, media, etc. The way to achieve this is by tapping into the psychological concepts of conditioning, reinforcement, vicarious learning, prosocial behaviour, etc. And throughout a person's lifespan these efforts can continue. For this we need to have role models, set best practices, etc. Project Sampurna in Assam is a case in point.

In the shorter span of time, however, we need to see more immediate results - for this we can follow the

recommendations of 2nd ARC, strengthen social audits, etc. The various schemes and policies in this regard would also have to be implemented in Mission Mode. Some ways could involve Farmer Producer Organisations, Gender Equality Funds, etc.

It is only via continuous multidimensional efforts, involving various stakeholders - State, citizens, civil society, corporates and emphasising their roles via DPSP, Fundamental Duties, CSR, etc., that we would be able to achieve the benchmark set for good public institutions.

Martin Luther King Jr. had said " Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere " - and it is time that we realise the gravity

of these words. Only when public institutions function with integrity and probity - will we be able to achieve the triple bottom line's targets of People, Profit and Planet. In this long ladder to climb - the first important steps are of equity and inclusiveness.

Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence.

- Polity - liberty, justice, suffrage movement, Br. Rule. today - PL,
- Social eg casteism, patriarchy.
- Economic eg labour rights
- Pol. locus of control - in society.
- Military ~~PR~~.
- Ethical view $\leftarrow$ deontological utilitarian.
- IR eg oppression, Jews
- Rights $\leftarrow$ ICCPR, FR. Art 19, 21
- Env. — Chipko, climate change today.

Story of the frog - boiled
Impact of this $\leftarrow$ let Econ social
Who shld speak up $\leftarrow$ Ethical Pol. Env. — NGO, ppl, leaders, govt, etc.
What to speak up < >
When to speak up
How to speak up.

Until you do - sword of Damocles.

- Inclusiveness & Equity = good essential characteristics of a good public institution.
- what are public institutions
 - what they do - governance (their aims)
 - good governance (TRACE + 222)
 - what is T & E
 - ↳ Eg: SHG, Standup, etc.
 - ↳ Eg: reservation, etc.
 - SOGs aim @ it too 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 - ↳ ensure from corporates (CSR)
 - ↳ individuals (AFDs)
 - factors = undermine them
 - ↳ corruption
 - ↳ bad value system
 - ↳ biases
 - Impact of differences undermining - like, terrorism, caste, etc.
 - factors to strengthen / steps taken
 - Eg: Audit, reservation, schemes, etc.
 - Religion's true meaning / teachings
 - early age → reinforce condition observational learning value deep, etc.
 - Constitutional provisions
 - Law & order calls for it
 - Imp. in global world
 - climate change - common but diff. res.
 - terrorism
 - Pandemic
 - follow triple bottom line here too PPP
 - case study of Project Saurashtra & Ram

