Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society.

(a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in Today's educated Indians

(b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socioethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Socialisation; prejudice; caste and gender bias; materialism; ethical education; constitutional values; civil service training; role modelling; empathy; attitudinal change

Model Answer

Introduction

Family, education and social surroundings shape attitudes, sometimes transmitting prejudices inconsistent with democracy, equality and public service ethics.

(a) Undesirable Values

- **Caste and religious prejudice:** Discrimination undermines equality and social harmony.
- **Gender stereotypes:** Patriarchal attitudes restrict women's dignity and opportunities.
- **Materialism:** Excessive focus on wealth and status can encourage corruption and selfishness.
- **Hierarchical thinking:** Treating people differently according to social position weakens empathy and fairness.
- **Intolerance:** Resistance to diverse opinions undermines democratic dialogue.

(b) Cultivating Ethical Values

- **Value-based education:** Teach constitutional morality, equality, empathy and human rights.
- **Civil service training:** Use case studies, role-play and ethical dilemmas to strengthen judgement.
- **Role modelling:** Senior officers should demonstrate impartiality and integrity.
- **Reflective practice:** Encourage self-assessment to identify unconscious bias.
- **Institutional accountability:** Transparent recruitment, grievance mechanisms and fair performance assessment reinforce ethical conduct.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP

Conclusion

Undesirable attitudes can be changed through education, reflection and ethical institutional culture. Civil servants must continuously align their behaviour with constitutional values and the public interest.