Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

You are a young, aspiring and sincere employee in a Government office working as an assistant to the director of your department. Since you have joined recently, you need to lean and progress. Luckily your superior is very kind and ready to train you for your job. He is a very intelligent and well-informed person having knowledge of various departments. In short, you respect your boss and are looking forward to lean a lot from him. Since you have good tuning with the boss, he started depending on you. One day due to ill health he invited you at his place for finishing some urgent work. You reached his house and before you could ring the bell you heard shouting noises. You waited for a while. After entering the house the boss greeted you and explained the work. But you were constantly disturbed by the crying of a woman. At last, you inquired with the boss but his answer did not satisfy you. Next day, you were compelled to inquire further in the office and found out that his behavior is very bad at home with his wife. He also beats up bit wife. His wife is not well educated and is a simple woman in comparison to her husband. you see that though your boss is a nice person in the office, he is engaged in domestic violence at home. In such a situation, you are left with the following options.

Analyse each option with its consequences.

(a) just ignore thinking about it because it is their personal matter.

(b) Report the case to the appropriate authority.

(c) Your own innovative approach towards the situation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
20	~250 words

Answer Hint

Domestic violence; human dignity; professional loyalty; legal responsibility; victim safety; ethical courage; due process; confidentiality; appropriate reporting; constructive intervention

Model Answer

Introduction

The situation presents a conflict between loyalty to a respected superior and the duty to protect a person facing domestic violence. Violence cannot be dismissed as a private matter.

(a) Ignore the Situation

Merits: Avoids immediate confrontation and protects the existing professional relationship.

Demerits: Leaves the victim exposed to possible further violence, normalises abuse and compromises moral responsibility. This is ethically unacceptable when credible concerns exist.

(b) Report to the Appropriate Authority

Merits: Enables lawful intervention, investigation and access to protection. It demonstrates impartiality and reinforces the principle that no official is above the law.

Demerits: An unverified or poorly handled report could create professional conflict or compromise the victim's privacy. Therefore, reporting must be factual, confidential and routed appropriately.

(c) Innovative and Constructive Approach

I would first assess whether there is an immediate threat. If so, I would contact emergency services or the appropriate protection authorities. Otherwise, I would seek confidential guidance from the designated authority or domestic-violence support services, sharing only necessary information. Where safe and appropriate, I would encourage the victim to access legal assistance and protection without confronting the alleged abuser in a way that increases risk.

I would document only relevant facts and avoid spreading rumours or conducting an unauthorised investigation.

Conclusion

I would not ignore credible evidence of abuse. A victim-centred, confidential and lawful response balances compassion, due process and professional integrity.