Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Whistle-blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle-blower?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Whistle-blowers strengthen transparency and accountability but may face intimidation, retaliation and physical danger. Effective protection requires confidentiality, secure reporting channels, independent investigation, protection against workplace retaliation, witness protection and timely enforcement of legal safeguards.

Model Answer

Introduction

Whistle-blowers expose corruption, misconduct and abuse of power, thereby strengthening public accountability. Their protection is essential to encourage reporting without fear.

Policy Measures

1. Strong Legal Protection: Effectively implement the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, and strengthen safeguards against victimisation and retaliatory dismissal.

2. Confidential Reporting: Establish secure, anonymous reporting mechanisms wherever legally feasible, with restricted access to whistle-blower identities.

3. Physical Security: Provide threat assessments, police protection and witness-protection measures in serious cases.

4. Independent Investigation: Assign complaints to impartial authorities, ensure time-bound inquiries and penalise deliberate intimidation or destruction of evidence.

5. Workplace Safeguards: Offer protection against harassment, demotion, transfer or dismissal, alongside fair remedies for retaliation.

6. Institutional Awareness: Create ethics officers, protected disclosure procedures and public awareness programmes.

Conclusion

Whistle-blower protection must move beyond formal legislation to credible implementation. Confidentiality, personal safety, independent investigation and swift remedies are essential to make reporting corruption safe and effective.

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