Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later.” — Swami Vivekananda. What does this quotation mean to you?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Perseverance, resilience, patience, determination, self-belief, overcoming adversity, ethical commitment, long-term goals, civil service, learning from failure

Model Answer

Meaning of the Quotation

Swami Vivekananda's words emphasise that meaningful achievement rarely comes without obstacles. Perseverance—the ability to continue making sincere efforts despite setbacks—is essential for personal growth and social progress.

Ethical Significance

- **Resilience:** Difficulties test character and develop emotional strength.
- **Patience:** Sustainable achievements often require time, planning and repeated effort.
- **Learning from failure:** Setbacks reveal weaknesses and provide opportunities to improve.
- **Moral courage:** Ethical individuals must persist in doing what is right even when they face pressure or opposition.
- **Public service:** Social problems such as poverty, illiteracy and corruption cannot be solved instantly; they require sustained institutional effort.

Illustration

An honest district officer attempting to eliminate corruption in welfare delivery may face resistance from vested interests. By documenting irregularities, protecting complainants, using transparent systems and following due process, the officer can gradually improve service delivery without abandoning integrity.

Qualification

Perseverance does not mean stubbornly pursuing a failed or unethical course. It must be accompanied by reflection, adaptability and willingness to change methods.

Conclusion

The quotation teaches that success is often the cumulative result of disciplined effort and moral courage. Perseverance transforms difficulties into opportunities for learning and enables individuals to pursue worthwhile goals without compromising their principles.

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