Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way.” – Swami Vivekanand

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Compassion, non-judgement, empathy, humility, tolerance, respect for autonomy, constructive assistance, human dignity, pluralism, ethical conduct

Model Answer

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda's quotation advocates compassion, humility and respect for individual freedom. It encourages constructive assistance instead of condemnation and recognises that every person has the right to follow their own path.

Meaning of the quotation

- **Avoid premature judgement:** People have different circumstances, experiences and limitations. Condemning them without understanding their situation reflects arrogance rather than wisdom.
- **Help wherever possible:** If we possess the capacity to assist someone, we should act with compassion and responsibility instead of remaining indifferent.
- **Respect individual autonomy:** When assistance is neither possible nor desired, we should respect others' choices, provided they do not harm others.
- **Practise humility:** We must recognise our own imperfections before judging others.

- **Promote social harmony:** Acceptance of diverse beliefs and lifestyles reduces unnecessary conflict and intolerance.

Relevance to public service

A civil servant should listen patiently to citizens, understand their difficulties and provide lawful assistance without prejudice. For example, an officer should help an economically vulnerable applicant access an eligible welfare scheme rather than dismissing the applicant as irresponsible.

Similarly, disagreement with another person's lawful beliefs should invite dialogue, not hostility. However, non-condemnation does not mean tolerating corruption, exploitation or injustice; wrongdoing must be addressed through fair and lawful procedures.

Conclusion

The quotation teaches that compassion is more constructive than criticism and respect is more ethical than coercion. By helping where possible and respecting others where appropriate, individuals and public institutions can uphold dignity, tolerance and humanity.

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