



Approach to Answer Writing

GS Paper-IV

Q). Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples (2018, 10 M, 150W)

Structure of Answer:

- **Introduction:** Define Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics
- **Body:** Distinguish with example
- **Conclusion:** Conclude by explaining significance.

Answer

A code of ethics sets out an organization's ethical guidelines and best practices to follow for honesty, integrity, and professionalism.

Code of Conduct is a set of rules, standards, principles and values outlining the expected behaviour for the members of an organization.

Both Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct are similar as they are used in an attempt to encourage specific forms of behaviour by employees. The following are the differences between them:

CODE OF ETHICS	CODE OF CONDUCT
It include core ethical values, principles and ideals of the organisation.	It is a directional document containing specific practices and behaviour, that are followed or restricted under the organisation.
It is a set of principles which influence the judgement.	It is a set of guidelines that influence employee's actions.
It is wider and broad.	It is narrow.
They are non-specific and are designed to provide a set of values or decision-making.	They generally provides a fairly clear set of expectations about which actions are required, acceptable or prohibited.
It enable employees to make independent judgments about the most appropriate course of action.	It enable employees to work in compliance with rules and actions are guided by the codes.
Eg: Civil servants are committed to public services.	Eg: Civil service conduct rules.

Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct help the institutions in regulating the day to day business efficiently. While code of conduct is something that states organized values, code of ethics is used to observe ethical norms and gives a foundation to rules of conduct.

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GS Paper-IV

Q. Ramesh is State Civil Services Officer who got the opportunity of getting posted to the capital of a border State after rendering 20 years of service. Ramesh's mother has recently been detected cancer and has been admitted in the leading cancer hospital of the city. His two adolescent children have also got admission in one of the best public schools of the town. After settling down in his appointment as Director in the Home Department of the State, Ramesh got confidential report through intelligence sources that illegal migrants are infiltrating in the State from the neighbouring country. He decided to personally carry out surprise check of the border posts along with his Home Department team. To his surprise, he caught red-handed two families of 12 members infiltrated with the connivance of the security personnel at the border posts. On further inquiry and investigation, it was found that after the migrants from neighbouring country infiltrate, their documentation like Aadhaar Card, Ration Card and Voter Card are also forged and they are made to settle down in a particular area of the State. Ramesh prepared the detailed and comprehensive report and submitted to the Additional Secretary of the State. However, he has summoned by the Additional Home Secretary after a week and was instructed to withdraw the report. The Additional Home Secretary informed Ramesh that the report submitted by him has not been appreciated by the higher authorities. He further cautioned him that if he fails to withdraw the confidential report, he will not only be posted out from the prestigious appointment from the State capital but his further promotion which is due in near future will also get in jeopardy.

- What are the options available to Ramesh as the Director of the Home Department of the bordering State?
- What option should Ramesh adopt and why?
- Critically evaluate each of the options.
- What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ramesh?
- What policy measures would you suggest to combat the menace of infiltration of illegal migrants from the neighbouring country? (2022, 20M, 250W)

Answer

- The options available to Ramesh in this situation include
 - Withdrawing the report
 - Refusing to withdraw the report
 - Reporting the situation to superiors or an external authority
- The option that Ramesh should adopt is to refuse to withdraw the report and stand by the findings of his investigation. This would be the ethical course of action as it would involve upholding the truth and integrity of his work, and fulfilling his duty as a civil servant to report and address illegal activities.

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(c) Critically evaluating each option:

Option 1: Withdrawing the report would likely avoid negative consequences for Ramesh's job and promotion prospects, but it would also involve compromising the truth and integrity of his work, and potentially allowing illegal activities to continue unchecked.

Option 2: Refusing to withdraw the report would potentially result in negative consequences for Ramesh's job and promotion prospects, but it would also involve upholding the truth and integrity of his work and fulfilling his duty as a civil servant to report and address illegal activities.

Option 3: Reporting the situation to superiors or an external authority could potentially result in negative consequences for Ramesh's job and promotion prospects, but it could also help to expose and address the issue of illegal migration and corruption at the border, and potentially lead to positive changes in policy and practices.

(d) The ethical dilemmas being faced by Ramesh include loyalty vs. integrity, duty vs. self-interest, and confidentiality vs. transparency.

(e) In order to address the issue of illegal migration, policy measures that could be implemented include:

- Strengthening border security
- Implementing stricter immigration laws and policies
- Addressing corruption
- Improving relations with the neighbouring country
- Providing support and assistance to refugees
- Implementing stronger identity verification measures, and
- Increasing public awareness and education.

It is important for Ramesh to consider the ethical implications of his actions and the long-term consequences of his decisions, and to act in accordance with his values and principles.

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