

Core Values of Public Service in India

The core values of public service in India are a set of ethical principles that guide the conduct of civil servants to ensure transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance. These values are rooted in the Indian Constitution and include:

1. **Integrity:** Acting with honesty, moral uprightness, and incorruptibility, ensuring personal interests do not conflict with public duty.

Example: E. Sreedharan, the "Metro Man of India," is known for completing large infrastructure projects within time and budget, resisting corruption and political pressure.

2. **Impartiality and Non-Partisanship:** Treating all individuals fairly and equally, without bias towards political affiliations, caste, religion, or social status.

Example: IAS officer Dr. Samit Sharma (IAS) pioneered a project in Rajasthan to ensure access to affordable generic medicines for all, drastically cutting healthcare costs for the poor. His work as Managing Director of the Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation exemplified a deep commitment to equitable healthcare access.

3. **Objectivity:** Making decisions based on facts, evidence, and established rules rather than personal feelings, beliefs, or preferences.

Example: During natural disaster relief distribution, officials use objective criteria, like damage assessments, to allocate aid fairly and efficiently to those most in need.

4. **Accountability:** Being answerable to the public and higher authorities for one's actions, decisions, and outcomes.

Example: The implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, allows citizens to scrutinize government decisions, thereby enhancing administrative accountability.

5. **Transparency:** Operating in an open manner, making government processes and information accessible to the public unless restricted by law in the public interest.

Example: E-governance initiatives and online portals for tracking public funds usage (e.g., PFMS, GeM) have increased transparency and reduced opportunities for corruption.

- 6. Empathy, Compassion, and Tolerance:** Understanding and being sensitive to the struggles and needs of people, especially marginalized and weaker sections, and acting with a desire to help.

Example: An empathetic officer effectively addressing the grievances of flood victims or farmers ensures that the administrative response is humane and people-centric.

- 7. Dedication to Public Service:** Prioritizing the public interest above personal gain, performing duties with commitment, diligence, and a focus on public welfare.

Example: IAS officer Armstrong Pame built a 100 km road in Manipur by mobilizing community support and personal contributions, showcasing a strong dedication to public good when official resources were scarce.

- 8. Rule of Law:** Upholding and enforcing laws and constitutional principles impartially, ensuring due process and that no one is above the law.

Example 01: Upholding and enforcing laws and constitutional principles impartially, ensuring due process and that no one is above the law.

Example 02: A District Magistrate refusing to conduct religious profiling when implementing a welfare scheme is upholding the constitutional principles of secularism and equality.

- 9. Professionalism:** Demonstrating competence, expertise, and a commitment to continuous learning and high ethical standards in carrying out duties.

Example: As the first woman IPS officer, Kiran Bedi she introduced transformative reforms at Tihar Jail, focusing on rehabilitation through vocational training, education, and yoga programs for inmates. Her professional work demonstrated a human-centric approach to law enforcement and prison administration.

- 10. Leadership:** Promoting and supporting these principles by personal example, inspiring others to uphold the highest standards of conduct.

Example: Former chief election commissioner T.N. Seshan's electoral reforms in India, which enforced strict adherence to election ethics, demonstrated strong leadership in strengthening democracy.

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