

perception of favoritism among the public, which may ultimately affect the trust of the public in the governance system.

Therefore, while professional competence provides the necessary skills to the civil servants for problem solving, strategizing and innovating new ideas, there is a need to inculcate **ethical competence along with professional competence** among the civil servants to ensure that there is no abuse of authority and neglect of the needs of the people. **Knowledge and skills need to be guided by a coherent value system** for an efficient and effective public service.

5. *(b) Despite changing family structure, it still plays an important role in nurturing core societal values. Discuss. (150 words) 10*

Approach:

- Define family and briefly discuss its role.
- List major changes in terms of structure and functions of family.
- Highlight whether its role as a foundation of morals and values is still credible
- Conclude on the basis of aforementioned arguments.

Answer:

The family is considered as the basic building block that brings about the existence of the society and each of its members. It has always been the foundation from and upon which the moral of children are built, nurtured and developed.

- It helps grow and nurture the mind of individuals to be able to fit into the society and environment in which they find themselves
- Every family has an obligation to ensure that its members adhere to the ethical standards of the society.
- It provides its members with emotional and spiritual kinship through shared values, beliefs, traditions, common experience, activities, unconditional and non-judgmental support.

However in recent years, certain changes have been witnessed in the structure of the family. The changes are seen in context of changes seen in the definition of marriage, divorce, fertility and birth control, sexual orientation, child care etc. Increased financial independence has led women to walk out of traditional familial roles. Increased divorced rates have led to emergence of the reconstituted family structure. The number of single parent families have surged. In some areas, a variety of structural arrangements in the cultural definition of family are now permitted for instance, gay and lesbian families. Such structural changes have prompted rethinking of traditional family functions and roles

However, despite these changes, family still plays a vital and important role especially in terms of transmission of societal values to children.

- It remains the task of the family to impart its children, a form in law and custom, which shall do justice to its unchanging reality yet be adapted to the social order of the given period.
- The family remains the first contact of a child with the world and they are mostly influenced by it in their formative years. It is from here that children learn to respect and reciprocate in return as this then goes a long way to becoming the norm that society expects and encourages.
- The role of family is still prominent across all stages of learning and development for children i.e. through adult-child relationships; through the moral insight of adult society; through moments of peer interaction when they must exercise self-control; through development of their own moral order; and they learn through trying to understand the perspectives of others.

In essence, the family no matter its structure still remains the foundation for morals. The changing nature in family structure has not eroded its function in terms of sustenance of core societal values. The family continues to be the vehicle through which these values are passed from one generation to another and in the long run these values would become the new norms which society would expect and encourage.