

**Answer:**

**Personal ethics** refers to the ethics that a person identifies with respect to people and situations that he/she deals with in private life. It largely involves relations with family and friends. Whereas, **public ethics** refer to the ethics that a person may adhere to with respect to his/her interactions in his/her professional life.

In general, the distinction between private and public ethics is a dubious one because both in public and private life, one is usually guided by similar ethical values. However, for a public servant to fulfil his ethical obligations, it is important that there be no dichotomy between the two, due to following reasons:

- The **core values** in public ethics comprise of honesty, selflessness, accountability, openness, fairness, integrity etc. **which are directly linked with a person's personal core values** and beliefs and overlap with personal ethics.
- The **social conditioning** of public servants in their personal lives directly impact their interactions in professional life. E.g. the way a civil servant treats women in his family is reflected in how he handles female co-workers or whether policies implemented by him have a gender bias or not.
- Sometimes **professional relations may become personal** as well, thus dichotomy should not be there to avoid any complacency or neglect of duties/ ethical obligations. For example, if a civil servant becomes friend with his/her colleagues/ subordinates, it should not impair his/her judgement regarding the latter's performance.
- It is very important that there is no conflict between personal and professional ethics as it may lead to **frustration, guilt or confusion and dissonance** in the mind of some persons. E.g. when a public servant has to deal with communal clashes.

Thus, there cannot be any **dichotomous relationship between the two as ethics promotes a virtuous life**; it is equally applicable to both. However, **ethics in public life places a greater responsibility** and is more demanding as in public life one cannot always follow personal ethics. For example, personally a doctor might feel that abortion is morally wrong, however, he has to perform abortion to save someone's life as per professional ethics.

Such dilemmas are natural, but there has to be a line between personal and professional ethics and can be resolved by separating one's personal life from public life or **following professional code of conduct strictly**.

2. ***(b) Transparency is not only a bulwark against corruption in administration but also strengthens moral standards in governance. Discuss. (150 words) 10***

**Approach:**

- Explain the term transparency.
- Discuss how transparency acts as a bulwark against corruption.
- Discuss how transparency strengthens moral standards in governance.
- Conclude with a way forward.

**Answer:**

Transparency in a broad sense, refers not only to the level of **openness, accessibility and reliability of information** but also to style of functioning and the priorities accorded by the government in policy making. It facilitates the predictable and impartial manner of administration and implementation of laws and regulations by the governing bodies.

**Transparency acts as a bulwark against corruption in administration as:**

- It leads to openness of decision making of the administration, thus **leading to public scrutiny of the administrative process, lessening the chance of misuse of power**. For example, in a transparent system, the selection of beneficiaries for any government scheme would be based on explicitly known and publicly communicated criteria.
- It enforces accountability among the public servants thus **minimizing nepotism, red tapism etc. in the administration**. E.g. duty to furnish information under the RTI Act.