Ethics in Action
Learning Outcomes

- Describe the relationship between theory and practice in relation to ethics
- Examine practice of ethics from lived experiences
- Describe framework for designing ethical culture
- Describe challenges in putting an ethical system in practice
Session Plan

- Theory vs practice
- Individual Activity: Practice of ethics
- Myths vs Realities
- Group Activity: Designing an ethical system
Law vs Ethics
Ethics

- Moral philosophy guiding human conduct
- Right versus wrong
- Good behavior
- May be abstract
- Individual and professional guidelines
- Violations not usually punished

Law

- Rules governing society
- Based on ethics
- Codification of certain ethical values
- Government administered
- Written in laws and regulations
- Punishable with fines or imprisonment
- Intent is to maintain peace and order in society
Rule of Law vs Rule by Law
Rule by Law

- Sages/ Prophets/ Gurus lay down dharma
- King is supposed to uphold dharma
- Sages / Religious scholars guide king / people on finer points of dharma

Rule of Law

- Supremacy of Law (Constitution)
- Equality before law
- Judiciary is guardian of Constitution and ultimate arbiter of laws
Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.

— Jane Addams —
Rule 3 (2)

- shall do nothing which is **unbecoming** of a member of service/government servant”
General Provisions

- Political neutrality
- Courtesy & good behaviour
- Merit based decision making
- Integrity and devotion to duty (of self and others under control & authority)

- Public interest
- Declare conflict of interest
- Refrain from doing anything contrary to laws
- Maintain Discipline & Confidentiality
Personal Issues

- Marriage – Bigamy not permissible even if personal law allows (Rule 25)
- Demanding Dowry directly or indirectly not allowed (Rule 25)
- No Govt employee shall appear in public in state of intoxication (Rule 26)
- Lending & borrowing with person with whom there are official dealings (Rule 8)
- Acquisition of immoveable property (Rule 9)
- Speculating
- Employing children under 14 years
- Insolvency & indebtedness
Individual Activity : 15 minutes

- A Survey is being conducted to understand how civil servants understand Integrity
- The Survey is available in Google Forms
- Your responses have to be anonymous
- Your responses shall help to explore what forms of support can best ensure that Integrity is best maintained
Myths or Realities

- Making moral choices is just common sense
- My moral stand will have little impact
- What is right or wrong depends. It is not universal
- Ethics is important but other topics are important
- It requires courage to standalome, to endure criticism and to be victimised
Group Activity : 30 minutes

- Handout: Principles of managing ethics in public service
- Individual Activity: 5 minutes
  - Read the handout
- Group Activity : 20 minutes
  - What are the challenges in putting an ethical system in practice
  - List out 3 most important challenges
  - Please write them
Designing an ethical culture

- Explicit values which are widely shared in the Department
- Keeping ethical considerations on top while making decisions
- Validation and appreciation of ethical behaviour by others
- Virtuous cycle – ethical behaviour by one begets more ethical behaviour by others
Pause for thought

- What insights you have gained from this session?
- Identify one action you might take to develop ethical culture in the organisation
"If you set a good example, you need not worry about setting rules."

-Lee Iacocca