



# Session 2.2: Concept of Ethics- Contemporary views

Workshop on Ethics and Values in  
Governance



# Session Overview

- Approaches to Ethics
- Framework for ethical decision making.
- The problem of corruption



# Learning Objective

- By the end of the Session participants will identify a suitable framework for ethical decision making in public sector as evaluated by peers and instructors.



# Approaches to Values and Ethics



# The different approaches

- The Utilitarian Approach- greatest good for the greatest number
- The Rights Approach- the individual's right to choose for herself or himself
- The Fairness or Justice Approach- equals should be treated equally
- The Common Goods Approach- "certain general conditions that are...equally to everyone's advantage."
- The Virtue Approach- there are certain ideals toward which we should strive, which provide for the full development of our humanity



# Framework for ethical decision making

Steps for optimising ethical decision making

Understanding the problem of corruption



# Ethical decision making



## **Activity:**

Identify the steps that will help optimise ethical decision making.







# **7 step guide for ethical decision making- (Michael Davis)**

1. State problem
2. Check facts
3. Identify relevant factors
4. Develop a list of options
5. Test the options
6. Make a choice
7. Review steps 1-6



# **8 steps in making ethical decisions** **(Corey G, Cory M and Haynes)**

1. Identify the problem or dilemma
2. Identify the potential issues involved
3. Review the relevant ethical codes
4. Know the applicable laws and regulations
5. Obtain consultation
6. Consider possible and probable courses of action
7. Enumerate the consequences of various decisions
8. Decide on what appears to be the best course of action.



# The Problem of Corruption



# Activity

- What is corruption?
- What are the available strategies to address corruption?



# The Problem of Corruption

Transparency International defines corruption as: *“the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”*



# Strategies to address the Problem of Corruption

- **A legislative reform approach**,
  - establishes laws against corruption
  - punitive consequences for violations.
  - the “discipline approach”,
  - attempts to deter corrupt practices through the fear of punishment.
- **The “values approach”**,
  - attempts to increase institutional integrity
  - promotes moral values and ethical principles as a way of motivating public servants to behave ethically.



# Activity

The problem of corruption in public sector and the ethical behaviour.

Identify common factors for corruption.

Exercise 2.2

(15 mins)





# Findings of TI study

## Some common factors for corruption:

- Lack of transparency and accountability in the system.
- Lack of an effective corruption reporting mechanism.
- Lack of honesty in officials in the Government.
- Acceptance of 'Bribe' as a way of life, custom and culture.
- Ineffective anti-corruption institutions, including Police and Judiciary.
- Poor economic policies.
- Inadequate training and orientation of Government officials.



# Thank you