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Q8

There are better practices to "best practices"

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** 'best practice' can be a cargo-cult. Better practices are local, revisable, humble
- **One stand:** steal what works; refuse a photocopy of another country or another district
- Move through administration, development, tech, education. Keep one honest counter
- Close on fit, not on a branded toolkit

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with copied paint and an uncopied well. Stand:** fit over a branded summit.
- **Headings:** panchayat, health, rails, school, then one counter.

Earn one humble line. Peg NREGA or **UPI**.

Close on revisable doing.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A mission visits a 'model village' and copies the paint. The well was the practice. The paint was the photograph. 'Best practices' arrived in a spiral-bound book. The better practice would have been to sit at the well until the water explained itself.

One stand

A best practice is a claim of a summit. Better practices are a slope - context, caste, rainfall, a language. Write against both NIMBY pride and a McKinsey tattoo.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Best:** a superlative that travels badly.
- **Better:** comparative, local, reversible.
- **Practices:** doing, not a slide.

Administration

- A 73rd panchayat that works in one block and fails as a photocopy.
- **Lateral entry, a dashboard:** tools, not relics.

Development

- Kerala's public health vs a desert district - steal the nurse ratio, not the coconut.
- **Peg:** NREGA's local lists vs a uniform app that cannot see a hill.

Tech

- **UPI** as a public rail others now study - a practice that fit a habit of small cash.
- A facial-recognition 'best practice' that does not fit a constitutional face.

School

- Finland in a PowerPoint; a mid-day meal that actually arrives is better here.

The counter

- **Some practices are close to universal:** wash hands, a fair trial, a vaccine cold chain. 'Context' must not excuse a dirty OT. The line rebukes cargo-cult superlatives, not standards. Also: the poor deserve the well, not only a unique local poetry of thirst.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** sit at the well; then write a practice that can fail and be rewritten. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

The means are the ends in process - a practice, not a photocopy of a summit.

Schumacher

Small is beautiful - appropriate, not miniature for sport.

73rd Amendment

Local doing - a 'best' panchayat that still fails as a stencil.

UPI

A practice that fit Indian small payments - now studied, still not a tattoo for every problem.

Cold chain / trials

Standards that should travel - the counter to 'everything is local'.