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Q3

Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (150 Words, 10).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS IV · 10 marks · Ethics and Human Interface

Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Core demand of the question

- Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward

Revision summary

Honest youth avoid active politics because of money, muscle, closed tickets, smears and a culture that calls all politics dirty.

Motivation needs inner-party democracy, cheaper campaigns, faster justice, disclosure that voters use, and local offices as a first step.

Education should teach the Constitution as a craft, not as a reason to stay home.

Parties must select on record, not only on family.

Ethics in politics is entry plus reform, not a vow of absence.

Introduction

A democracy that scares honest youth out of parties and polls will be run by those who can stand the dirt. The task is not a lecture on duty. It is to make ethical entry into politics thinkable and survivable.

Body**Why ethical youth stay away**

- Politics is widely seen as a market of money, muscle, and family tickets, not as public service.
- The cost of a campaign, the fear of character assassination, and the risk to family livelihood push a salaried ethical person back to a job.
- Inner-party democracy is weak, so merit and clean records lose to loyalty and cash.
- Criminalisation and the slow court process make a false case a career weapon.
- Media and social media reward outrage, not committee work, so a decent candidate looks dull or is quickly smeared.
- Civic education often treats politics as dirty by definition, which becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Steps to motivate ethical youth

- **Inner-party democracy:** published membership rolls, contested organisational elections, and youth wings that are not only applause machines, as the **170th Law Commission** discussion on electoral reform and many later reports have urged in spirit.
- **Lower the money wall:** stricter ceiling enforcement, more public funding of parties on transparent criteria, cheaper campaign time through debates and a level digital field, and State funding experiments that are audited.
- Fast, fair process against both real crime and motivated false cases, so that a clean candidate is not ruined by a pending charge-sheet as theatre.
- **Disclose and deter:** effective implementation of affidavit disclosure, the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** disqualifications, and voter education so that a criminal record is costly at the booth, not only in a seminar.
- **Local first:** urban local bodies, panchayats, student unions and issue campaigns as lawful nurseries, where a young person can serve without a national war-chest.
- **Protect the decent:** anti-defection should not become anti-conscience, but threat, booth capturing and paid news must meet real police and **Election Commission** action.
- **Honour service:** internships with legislators that teach files, not only posters; fellowships that pay a modest stipend so that only the rich can afford a year in public life.
- **Education that does not sneer:** schools and colleges should teach the Constitution, local government and how a budget is made, so that politics is seen as a civic craft.
- Parties should publish candidate-selection criteria and give tickets to persons with a record of social work or professional integrity, not only to heirs.
- Media and civil society should cover ward work and questions in the House, not only the insult of the day, so that ethical work is visible.
- **Reduce the humiliation of the first-time honest candidate:** model code enforcement against personal vilification, and a culture in parties that a lost election is not a family disgrace.
- Role models in office who live simply and keep a clean register do more than a motivational video. Youth copy what wins.

What not to do

- Do not tell youth that ethics means never joining a party. That leaves the field to the unethical.
- Do not romanticise outsider anger that has no programme and no patience for institutions.
- Do not confuse a technocratic job with political representation. Both are needed; only politics writes the law.

Flow diagram

Ethical youth stay away -> Money and muscle
 Ethical youth stay away -> Smear and false cases
 Ethical youth stay away -> Closed tickets
 Motivate entry -> Inner-party democracy
 Motivate entry -> Lower campaign cost
 Motivate entry -> Panchayat and local first
 Motivate entry -> Honour clean work

Conclusion

Ethical youth will enter politics when entry is cheaper, fairer and safer, and when parties and voters reward a clean record. Reform the gate, show the work, and stop teaching that public life is only a swamp.

Facts & figures

Representation of the People Act, 1951

The principal statute on elections, disqualification and related offences that shapes whether a criminal record actually blocks a ticket.

Candidate affidavits

Supreme Court-driven disclosure of assets, education and criminal cases, which voters can use if they are taught to read them.

Election Commission of India

The constitutional body that can enforce the model code, expenditure ceilings and some fairness in the contest, within its legal powers.

73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments

Created a local democratic floor - panchayats and municipalities - where a young ethical person can serve before a State or Union ticket.

Law Commission reports on electoral reform

Successive reports have discussed inner-party democracy, criminalisation and election expenditure as barriers to cleaner politics.

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