

UPSCprep Free Daily Answer Writing Initiative

Subject: GS 4

Syllabus: Attitude

Questions

Q1. Attitude has a huge role to play in personal as well as professional lives of individuals.

Explain. (150 words) 10

Q2. Self doubt is a double edged sword which can either help or thwart leadership. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

Model Structures

Q1. Attitude has a huge role to play in personal as well as professional lives of individuals.

Explain. (150 words) 10

Introduction

- Attitude is a learned predisposition to think, feel, perceive and act in a particular way towards any external or internal object. That object may be tangible or intangible and include any individual, organization or a social issue.

Main body

- Functions of attitude in personal life-
 - Promotes positive thinking and forward looking mindset. Failures come and go but rather than feeling defeated, one must learn from it and avoid repeating mistakes.
 - Helps maintain acceptance, good behavior and understanding. It further helps in maintaining balance between personal and professional life.
 - Brings empathy and self belief. Even with continuous rejections, one can make a comeback with a positive attitude.

- Functions in professional life-
 - Important for courage and honesty in public life as it helps uphold rule of law and take on violators of law and order.
 - Helps prevent corruption as an attitude of accountability and impartiality helps to further organizational interests.
 - Brings compassion and objectivity which helps discharge duties properly.
 - Emotional intelligence is developed which helps balance personal and professional life and manage stress.

Conclusion

- Right attitude is indispensable for excellent growth of personality in professional life. To quote Thomas Jefferson, “Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal, nothing on Earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

Q2. Self doubt is a double edged sword which can either help or thwart leadership.

Discuss. (150 words)

10

Introduction

- Self doubt can be defined as a sense of **indecision, insecurity and self loathing** due to **lack of confidence** in one’s capabilities and skills. On the contrary, leadership involves motivating people to act towards achieving a common goal.

Main body

- It is **difficult to reconcile self doubt and leadership** but many great leaders have felt moments of self doubt like Abraham Lincoln, J L Nehru etc. But they turned their self doubt into strength and it helped in leadership by-
 - Ensuring that before implementation, every **decision is given enough thought**.
 - **Avoiding hasty decisions** and putting in a backup plan in case the original plan fails.
 - It makes one **humble and adaptive** to situations.
 - Helping **develop belief in other team members** and considering their views seriously.

- But being a negative trait, self doubt can cause **hindrance in leadership** by-
 - **Over vigilant approach** with little scope for creativity.
 - **Indecisiveness** and delays due to self doubt.
 - **Subordinates may lack confidence** in their leader.
 - Person with self doubt has an inclination **to doubt others as well**.

Conclusion

- Self doubt in a leader can be harmful. It must be put in the reality of surroundings and not in either false humility or failure to move forward. There is a need to strike a **balance between being conscious and overly cautious**.

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