

ETHICS IN BUSINESS:



**ETHICS OR ETHICAL LAW
WHICH COMES FIRST?**

Our Chance to Change



- *Presentation by:*
- Swapan Kumar
Banerjee, 3B Northern
Avenue, Kolkata: 700037
- Mob: 9433806111

IT'S ETHICS FIRST

- It's not a “chicken-or-egg” type of question.
- Ethics is the very foundation of every civilized society. So, it's ethics in business that should prevail over ethical laws.
- Satyam scam has exposed the vulnerability of business houses to the temptations of winning the rat race by fair means or foul.
- Our economy will collapse if men in responsible positions like auditors and directors compromise with corruption for personal gain.
- Ethical laws are made to control a business community which is prone to break the law for profit or power.
- If ethical sense is inculcated in us, there will be less need of law enforcement.
- Ethics should be interwoven with curricula right from school. (A big tea company has launched a campaign against paying bribe to corrupt officials.)
- Mere technical knowledge without moral foundation is incomplete.



Our System



- Our system is still not fast enough to respond to the challenges; nevertheless it's waking up to the socio-economic challenges of national and global competitions slowly, but surely.
- The glaring defect of our system is that we are giant in ideas but pigmy in implementation.
- There are many to take up the microphone to preach, but few working hands are available at the time of execution.
- Overhaul is needed to transform snail speed to horse power.



OUR LAWS

- Our laws were not framed to meet the realities of a free developing country; they are mostly based on colonial laws. Much of them have lost relevance.
- The rich but guilty often dodge the law with impunity by hiring the best legal brains.
- Law are not simple and transparent enough for the common citizens. It's regarded a technical subject.
- The delay in getting justice is our Achilles' heel.
- Moreover, basic laws are not a part of our school education.
- Often the vested interests of political parties prevents the making of right laws.



OUR IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING SYSTEM

- It's where our shoe pinches. We frame great policies, but fail miserably to implement them or monitor progress because of our lackadaisical attitude – the typical “*chalne-do*” outlook.
- Our system does not reward performance. It rewards seniority which means sticking to a job and pleasing the higher-ups with gifts and flattery.
- Our system has developed such a high tolerance of public inefficiency and corruption that we can't throw out the rotten apple.

MEDIA TRIAL

- Media trial will be gaining ground till our slow legal system and politicized administration learn to deal with crime speedily and impartially.
- Cases like Jessica Lal and Ruchika Sharma only expose the hollowness of our commitment to social justice. We never live up to what we believe in.
- Often the media and judiciary act as two strong pillars to protect the interests of common people.



LINK BETWEEN CORRUPTION & TERRORISM



- Though the experienced politicians perceive the link between corruption and terrorism, they can't act adequately because of the pressure of vote-bank politics.
- Winning elections entails taking help from the anti-social elements who garner votes with threats or gifts or both.
- Innocent youths often fall victims to the temptations of terrorist group owing to unemployment and religious sentiments.

READINESS TO REJECT CORRUPTION AND ACCEPT ETHICS

- “Readiness is all” – we read in Shakespeare, but it eludes the vast majority. They themselves may not be corrupt, they lack the strong will to root out corruption.
- Neither at home nor at school children are taught to fight corruption. We know about “the mind is without fear, and the head is held high”, but don’t strive to attain them.
- We are content to worship great leaders like Gandhiji, Netaji, Nehru and Tagore, but do precious little to imbibe their spirit.
- We condemn nepotism and dishonesty in others, but turn hypocritical when we ourselves are guilty of such malpractice.

A NEW BEGINNING



- We have to start looking afresh at corruption as a great evil standing in the way of our country's progress.
- The new generations should regard their contribution to their country as the highest achievement, not the highest income or status.
- Working for our country's peace, progress and harmony should supersede the ambition for foreign degrees and jobs.

We must set the goal – peace, harmony and tranquility -- then direct all our efforts to ensure its implementation.

No delays, no excuses.

Finally, let's remember



- “Arise, awake, and **stop not** till the goal is reached.”

-- Swami vivekananda