



Mains Practice Question

Q. International aid is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (150 Words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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Approach

- Start your answer with the introduction to international aid and its significance.
- Discuss the ethical considerations in contemporary international aid.
- Conclude with the significance of ethical international aid practices.

Introduction

International aid is essential in helping resource-challenged nations because it provides vital resources, expertise, and support that can lead to improved living conditions, economic development, and long-term sustainability.

Body

Ethical considerations in contemporary international aid are essential to ensure that aid is effective, respectful, and sustainable:-

- **Respect for Recipient Nations' Autonomy:**
 - Example: UNDP partners with countries to create their own development plans respecting the autonomy of nations.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Example: Charity organizations like Oxfam regularly publish detailed reports on their funding sources, expenditures, and project outcomes.
- **Avoiding Harm and Dependency:**
 - Example: Microfinance programs, such as those by Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, provide small loans to individuals to start businesses..
- **Long-Term Sustainability:**
 - Example: The Green Climate Fund supports climate adaptation and mitigation projects.
- **Humanitarian Principles:**
 - Example: Doctors Without Borders operates in conflict zones worldwide.

However, there are few challenges in contemporary International Aid:

- **Weaponization of Investment Aid:**
 - Example- China has been weaponizing investment on foreign soil as a part of its 'debt-trap diplomacy'
- **Corruption and Mismanagement**
 - Example- Corruption and mismanagement of foreign aid led to the Sri Lankan economic crisis.

Conclusion

Thus, ethical international aid practices not only enhance the effectiveness of aid but also uphold the dignity, autonomy, and rights of the people and countries receiving support.

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