

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper 2 – Policies and Schemes related to education.

Mulya Pravah 2.0 – An ambitious push for values, ethics in higher education

Mulya Pravah 2.0, introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC), aims to instil ethical practices and human values within higher education institutions. It responds to concerns raised by a human resource managers' survey regarding unethical behaviors such as favoritism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination. This guideline primarily focuses on nurturing value-based institutions by fostering respect for fundamental duties, constitutional values, and national unity.

Key highlights of Mulya Pravah 2.0 encompass:

- **Transparency:** Stressing transparent administration and decision-making devoid of biases, serving institutional and public interests.
- **Accountability and Ethics:** Emphasising integrity, fairness, and ethical standards in institutional governance.
- **Inclusivity and Respect:** Encouraging respect for constitutional values, inclusiveness, and a sense of global citizenship.
- **Confidentiality vs. Public Accountability:** Advocating confidentiality while balancing the right to information for ensuring accountability through public disclosures.
- **Role of Teachers and Staff:** Expecting teachers to set an example with their conduct, and staff/student unions to support the administration constructively.

Concerns regarding Mulya Pravah 2.0 include:

- **Suppression of Dissent:** The guidelines might unintentionally stifle diverse opinions, crucial for institutional development.
- **Vague Terminology:** Ambiguous terms like 'dignified manner' for raising issues can lead to potential misuse and misinterpretation.
- **Threat to Unions:** There's apprehension that these guidelines could undermine the voices of staff and student unions, risking actions against their representatives.

Moving forward, enhancing Mulya Pravah 2.0 involves providing clear definitions for terms like 'dignified manner' to prevent misuse. Balancing confidentiality with public scrutiny is crucial. The guidelines should foster open dialogue and respect diverse opinions, especially from unions, to strengthen the integrity and progress of higher education institutions.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS GS Paper 2 Social Justice – Issues relating to Health.

How surgical care in India is a neglected part of public health

The landscape of surgical care in India grapples with various challenges, contributing to limited access and hindering effective healthcare delivery.

Issues with surgical care in India:

- **Lack of Access:** Accessibility to surgical care remains a significant hurdle, especially in rural areas where more than 90% lack the necessary access when needed.
- **Neglect in Health Policy:** Surgical care hasn't been a focal point in mainstream public health policy and planning, leading to its omission from the National Health Policy 2017.
- **Absence of NSOAP:** India lacks a National Surgical Obstetric Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP), a policy crucial for streamlined surgical care systems, unlike many other nations that have adopted such plans.
- **Limited Investments:** There's a notable lack of investments in collecting data for monitoring and evaluating surgical care indicators, which hampers strategic planning and interventions.

Surgical care in India operates predominantly through private establishments led by surgeons and government district hospitals.

Insights from LCoGS indicators:

- **Low Surgical Numbers:** India recorded over 14 million minor surgeries in 2019-2020, significantly lower than the actual requirement.
- **Low Surgery Rates:** The rate of surgeries in India ranges between 166 and 3,646 per 100,000 people, considerably lower compared to countries like New Zealand, which perform around 5,000 surgeries per 100,000 people.

Reasons for limited access to surgery:

- **Geographical and Transport Barriers:** Challenges in reaching hospitals due to poor infrastructure, lack of facilities, and transportation in rural and hilly areas.
- **Resource Shortages:** Insufficient trained medical personnel like surgeons and anaesthetists, essential for conducting surgeries, especially in certain regions.
- **Disparities based on Demographics:** Inequities stemming from geographical location and income levels impact access to surgical care.
- **Quality Concerns:** Variances in the quality of surgical care influenced by factors like surgeon training, equipment availability, and healthcare infrastructure.
- **Financial Burden:** The absence of universal healthcare coverage and limited surgical care in public health facilities lead people to seek care in private hospitals, causing financial strain on individuals seeking treatment.

Addressing these challenges necessitates strategic investments, improved infrastructure, enhanced training programmes, and a shift towards a more inclusive healthcare system to ensure equitable access to surgical care for all segments of society.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 International Relations – Bilateral groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

On the UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) – The UAE-India partnership has a new catalyst in play

The relationship between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India stands as a dynamic partnership in the region, driven by constructive dialogue, visionary leadership, and mutual respect, fostering resilient and sustainable economies.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been pivotal in enhancing this partnership, resulting in numerous positive outcomes:

1. **Expanded Market Access:** Both Emirati and Indian businesses gained entry into each other’s markets, fostering economic growth and collaboration.
2. **Tariff Reduction:** Significant reduction in tariffs facilitated smoother trade between the two nations.
3. **Streamlined Customs Procedures:** Simplified customs processes eased trade transactions, promoting efficiency and ease of doing business.
4. **Robust Regulations:** Introduction of transparent regulations supporting fair and rule-based competition.

The outcomes of the CEPA extend beyond economic ties:

1. **Deeper Relations:** It has fostered deeper and more nuanced relations, considering multiple factors and stakeholders.
2. **Strategic and Political Alignment:** Enhanced alignment on strategic and political fronts, demonstrated through mutual support in multilateral forums like CoP-28 and India’s G20 presidency, along with UAE’s recent inclusion in the BRICS grouping.

The upcoming UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) aims to further these achievements:

1. **Deepening Commercial Ties:** Providing a platform for businesses from both nations to strengthen commercial relationships.
2. **Leveraging Strategic Partnership:** Utilising the growing strategic partnership between the governments of UAE and India.
3. **Encouraging Partnerships:** Fostering collaborations across various sectors, including startups, women’s entrepreneurship, MSMEs, and services.
4. **Building Trust through Events:** Organising events to facilitate dialogue and trust-building among the business communities.

The UICC is poised to empower businesses with the resources and opportunities stemming from the CEPA, further unlocking mutual benefits and opportunities.