

Pol Sci

Q. Rights and duties are based on the principle of reciprocity. Explain

i. INTRODUCTION

The principle of reciprocity serves as a foundational concept in the realm of rights and duties within a society. It forms the basis for a harmonious coexistence by establishing a relationship between the entitlement to rights and the corresponding responsibility to fulfill duties. The society must strike a balance between exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties.

"Our duties are the shadows of our rights."

(John F. Kennedy)

ii. CONCEPT OF RIGHTS

Rights are inherent to individuals and are designed to safeguard their interests, dignity, and freedom. They grant individuals the power to act in certain ways without undue interference. Examples of rights include:

a, Freedom of Speech

Individuals have the right to express their opinions and ideas without censorship. However, the right comes with the duty to do so responsibly, avoiding hate speech or incitement to violence. Exercising your right without considering its moral implications goes against the moral code of conduct, as per this concept.

"Morality translates into action." (The Psychology of Rights and Duties, Finkel & Moghaddam, 2005)

b, Property Rights

People have the right to own property, but they also have the duty to respect the property rights of others by not trespassing or stealing. Protecting one's property at the expense of another's goes against the principle of reciprocity, with respect to rights and duties.

"A just society is one in which the rights of all members are secured, and do not block the basic rights of others."
(Michael Walzer)

c, Right to Privacy

Individuals have the right to privacy, which includes freedom from unwanted surveillance. This right is balanced by the duty of authorities to obtain proper warrants before conducting searches.

d, Right to Education

Children have the right to education, and governments have a duty to provide access to quality education. Conversely, parents have the duty to ensure their children attend school regularly.

"It is not enough to profess the right to education. We must do more to ensure that right is upheld."

(Gordon Brown)

iii. CONCEPT OF DUTIES

Duties are the obligations individuals have towards others and society as a whole. They ensure that the exercise of rights does not infringe upon the well-being or rights of others.

Examples of duties include:

a, Duty to Obey Laws

Citizens have a duty to obey laws and regulations set by the government. Similarly, the government has the duty to protect and uphold the law by ensuring that the citizens are abiding by it. This duty helps maintain social order and ensures that everyone's rights are respected. The duty to obey the law can be grounded on the idea of consent, or on fairness, or on other ideas such as community. (The Duty to Obey the Law, Lefkowitz, 2006)

b, Duty to Protect

Individuals have a duty to protect the rights and well-being of fellow citizens. This may involve reporting criminal activity or aiding someone in distress. The nation is also urged to implement the Responsibility to Protect principle by the UN as per the Resolution of the UN; (Resolution 1674) and (Resolution 1894).

c, Duty to Pay Taxes

Citizens have a duty to pay taxes, which fund essential public services such as healthcare and education. This duty supports the collective right to these services.

iv. MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT

The principle of reciprocity establishes a mutually reinforcing relationship between rights and duties:

a, Balancing Act

Rights and duties act as a balance. The right to a fair trial, for example, requires individuals to serve on juries when called upon; a duty that ensures the right's preservation.

b, Social Cohesion

By adhering to duties that uphold the rights of others, individuals contribute to social cohesion. The duty to respect one another's religious beliefs, for instance, supports religious freedom as a right.

"The right to religious freedom is the corner-stone of a just and tolerant society."

(John F. Kerry)

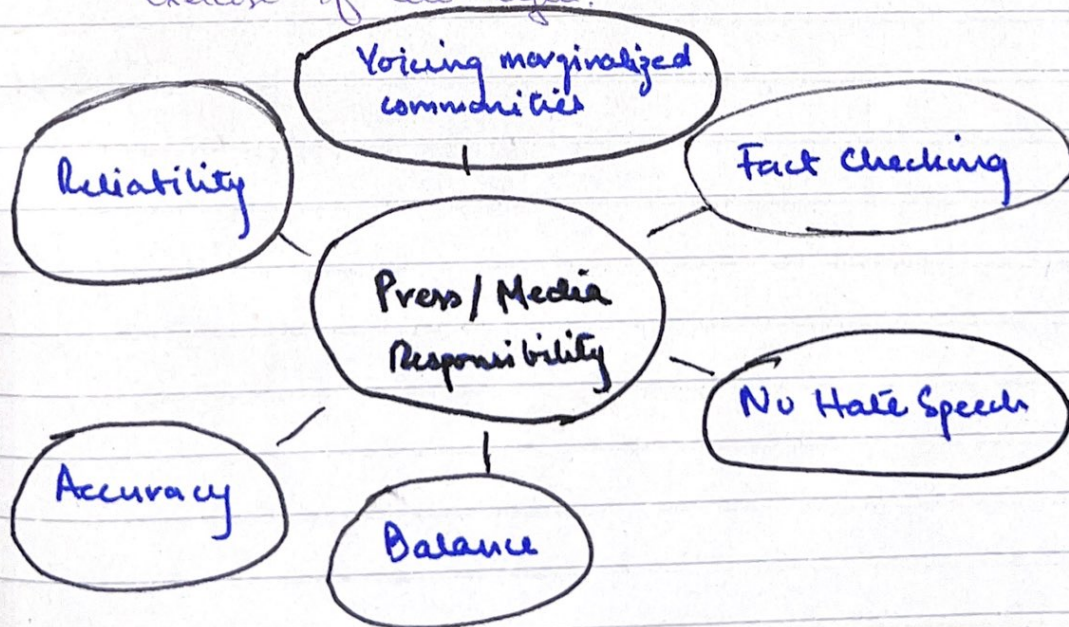
c, Environmental Conservation

Citizens have the right to live in a clean environment, but they also have the duty to minimize pollution and protect natural resources. This reciprocal relationship helps maintain ecological balance. Islam as a religion also compels Muslims to care for their community and preaches environmentalism. (Green

Deen: What Islam Teaches about Protecting our Planet, Abdul-Matin & Ellison, 2010)

d, Freedom of the Press

The media has the right to report news freely, but it also has a duty to provide accurate and unbiased information. This ensures the responsible exercise of their right.



V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the principle of reciprocity is the underpinning of a just and orderly society. Rights empower individuals to pursue their interests and values, but duties compel them to do so in a manner that respects the rights and well-being of others. This delicate equilibrium between rights and duties is essential for creating a harmonious, rights-respecting, and responsible community.