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Case Study

Mr. X is your close friend. He worked as a part of a group of top scientists in the national space agency, where he had been tasked to scout for an advanced technology to propel the space programme. Later, a false case against him was conspired in which he was accused of selling the secrets of that advanced technology to the enemy country. On account of this he was arrested and removed from his post due to which the development of technology is getting delayed. For years after the case surfaced, he and his entire family were humiliated and ostracised as anti-national. The police had subjected him to torture in custody.

However, a few years later he proved to be innocent. The apex court of the country dismissed all charges against him and ordered for payment of compensation to him. The government has also offered him to reinstate on the same post.

Mr. X comes to you for your advice on that offer and expressed that he is against rejoining the post as he feels that justice to him is elusive and the damage done to his reputation is hard to undo. He believes that those who tortured him should be punished for providing complete justice to him and in the absence of complete justice, he wouldn't be able to work with the passion he used to. Given the situation answer the following:

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in the case?
- b) What course of action would you suggest him and why?

Approach:

- **Introduce the case.**
- **Identify the stakeholders.**
- **Identify the ethical issues and dilemmas involved in the case.**
- **Suggest a course of action and justify.**

Answer: The case involves challenges at the front of providing complete justice, ensuring national interest and upholding the dignity of Mr. X and his wife.

Stakeholders involved in the case

- Mr. X and his family
- Other scientists
- The state
- Foreign countries involved
- Public at large

Ethical dilemmas involved

- Upholding the dignity of Mr.X and his family Vs. National interest in terms of technological development.

- Sense of complete justice to Mr.X vs. Public welfare.

Ethical Issues Involved In The Case

- **Absence of complete justice:** Despite various efforts from the apex court and the government to compensate Mr. X for loss incurred to him, there is a sense of elusive justice in him. This also reflects that monetary compensation could not compensate the psychological impacts of the loss.
- **Disrespect to the dignity of an individual right:** By framing a false case against a renowned scientist and subjecting him to humiliation, people have disrespected the dignity of Mr.X, which violation of his right to dignified life under article 21 of the constitution.
- **Abuse of power against the rule of law:** The law enforcement agency has abused their power by torturing him in custody, which is against the rule of law as the law prohibits the custodial torture.
- **Lack of accountability:** Mr. X had to bear all this disrespect due to the false case framed by the law enforcement agencies but there is no action against them for this. The state officials should be held accountable for their every action.
- **Ill-intended conspiracy:** As there was a conspiracy behind the case, it would have been well planned with some motives. Those who conspired the case used Mr. X as a means to achieve an ill-intended end, which is against humanism. Humans should be considered as an end in itself and not as a means to achieve something.
- **Delayed progress of the country:** The conspiracy case led to delay in advancement of the technology thus delaying the progress of the country.
- **Lack of passion or motivation to work:** The humiliation, custodial torture and disrespect to the dignity of Mr.X have reduced his enthusiasm towards work and he is demotivated to resume the work.

Course Of Action To Be Suggested

Considering the above ethical issues and dilemmas involved in the case I will suggest my friend for the following:

- I will ask him to resume the work, as he is a renowned scientist and he should use his knowledge for the larger good. I will convince him that he could regain his dignity by taking the country on the progress track.
- Meanwhile, I will ask him to appeal the apex court for providing him complete justice by holding the state officials accountable for the wrongly filed case and torturing him in custody.
- I will convince him to continue the work as the ill-intension of the conspirators was to delay country's progress and the best reply to their ill-intention would be to pace up the technological advancement of the country.
- I would express my empathy towards his state of demotivation and I will also try to motivate him for resuming his work by showing a picture of the larger good.
- After this persuasion I will leave the decision to him because the strategies with excessive persuasion can fireback.

At last, I will assure him that despite all this if he takes a decision against resuming the job, I will support and respect his decision because an individual requires dignity to participate in society. So, if he is not getting a sense of dignity or self-worth he should wait for the apex court's decision to provide complete justice to him and after that he can resume the job.