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The Problem of Dirty Hands in Politics: A Philosophical Study

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Abstract : *Politics is the science of state and the art of government. It is concerned with the activities associated with the governance of a country. The problem of dirty hands is central to the study of political ethics. This study concentrates on good governance as the parameter of politics. A nation's peace and prosperity depends on its system of governance and administration. Corruption, selflessness, greed, dishonesty, indiscipline, absenteeism are some of the problems that are highly prevalent today. In this project we have tried to solve these problems in the light of the views of some Indian and western philosophers. We find that different*

schools hold divergent views regarding the problem of dirty hands. Realists maintain that dirty hands are inescapable. In contrast, Idealists hold that so-called problem of dirty hands is merely an excuse adduced by those who lack moral fiber to do what they really ought to do in governmental context. According to Pragmatists, there is nothing to the notion of goodness above and beyond efficacy, for there is no transcendent concept of goodness to which good action might correspond. Kautilya's Arthashastra also provides a systematic treatment of ancient theory of government providing priority to the welfare of the citizens. Hence, in the current scenario we need to keep up an idealist view regarding corruption and have a zero-tolerance approach to it. Kautilyan methodologies need to be adopted as Kautilyan welfare state corresponds most to present India.

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