

GIS4 - Human beings should always be treated as "ends" in themselves and never as "means".
 Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (2014)

IMMANUEL KANT in his second categorical imperative, stresses that Humans should always be treated as "ends" in themselves rather than "means". This implies the following,

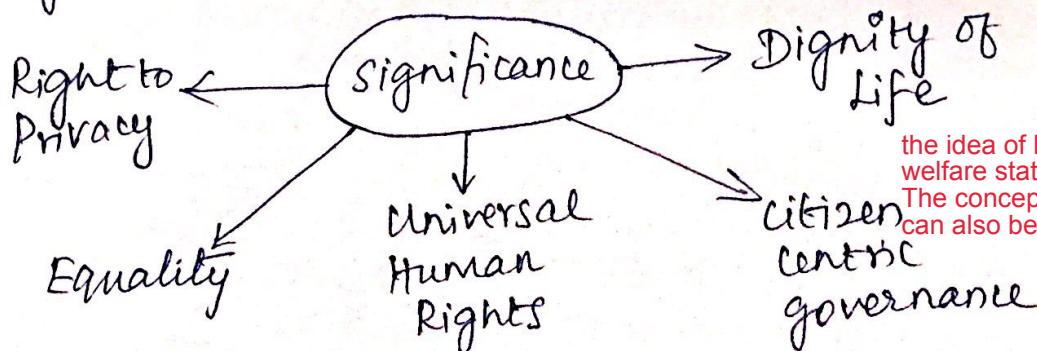
- i). It is immoral to use humans as a means to achieve some "ends".
- ii) Every person has some intrinsic value, irrespective of their use to others.
- iii) Just by being a human, everybody in this world need some basic rights.

also, endorses the golden rule of "treating others as one's self would wish to be treated."

can mention the that it was essentially an anti thesis to the utilitarian theory that justified use of fellow humans as a means.

Significance

The given statement gives rise to many ideological principles/concepts that we follow today.



the idea of liberty welfare state and The concept of Human Development can also be included

Implications in today's society

i) Today's consumer based society, treats humans (consumers) as mere rational beings whose value is only of monetary value.

ii) Cambridge Analytica scandal clearly shows that humans are treated as mere dots in graphs

iii) In the concept of surrogacy, organ transplantation, humans and their bodies are seen as potential solutions for problems of today.

Thus humans must not be treated as means for monetary gains which goes against the categorical imperative of Kant. It must be acknowledged that every human being has some intrinsic worth of its own.

Also, the question dealing with ethics should be observed more holistically. You have restricted the scope of the answer by categorically mentioning 'monetary gains' in the conclusion while the question mentions the techno-economic society. The term society should have been dealt with properly by positioning it around the economic repercussions

the 'alienation of labour' in the neo capitalist society that is positioned around MNCs located in the third world nations for a cheaper labor

the deteriorating mental health because of the rushed judgements passed by the social media age and its calculations over likes and shares, violates the dignity of life of individuals

not to ignore the parallel marginalisation of those who are a part of the tech-oriented society and who are not. Hence a clear demarcation is made about who is useful and who is not by the tech driven companies.

also, the gender based biases prevalent in the society where their value for work is often under paid and are often the most exploited.

Also the role of the PR agencies that are playing an important role in creating propagandas just to fulfill their own ends in this tech-savvy world

the intent of the state to evaluate the the value of a certain section of a population in terms of a targeted vote bank not as humans that deserve a quality life

the conclusion can be a bit more crisp. It appears to be written too much in a hurry and lacks the content. (repetitive)