
VAJIRAM & RAVI CASE STUDY

Suppose you are a woman and an ex-employee of the Supreme Court. You have been dismissed from your service by a Supreme Court judge for the reasons that you believe were not compelling enough for your dismissal. In addition, you have been framed in a fake case of bribery and your husband has also been suspended from the service on frivolous grounds. You feel that your voice is not being heard in these cases and you are being unfairly victimized because of that judge.

In this circumstance, a group of some disgruntled staff sacked earlier from the Supreme Court by the same judge, who has now become the Chief Justice of India, reaches out to you with a plan to frame him in a fake sexual harassment case. The group insists you to participate in their plan and make allegations of sexual harassment on the CJI, so that you all can teach him a lesson and your victimization can be provided some background. They also assure you that they will fix the judgement in this case for a price with the help of some powerful lobbyists and you will be out of all these problems. Given the situation, answer the following questions-

- a) What are the options available to you? Evaluate their merits and demerits.
- b) What course of action will you take? Provide justification for it.

Approach

- **Introduce the case with the dilemmas involved in it.**
- **Identify the stakeholders**
- **Identify the ethical issues and dilemmas involved in the case.**
- **Suggest options available to and evaluate them.**
- **Write the course of action with appropriate justification.**

Answer:The case involves the ethical dilemmas of Truthfulness vs. Justice for self and Credibility and independence of judiciary Vs. Empathy towards the group.

Stakeholders Involved

- Me and my family.
- Other disgruntled staff.
- The CJI and the Judiciary.
- The lobbyists.

Ethical Issues Involved

- **Feeling of injustice and victimization.**
- **Orchestration of a conspiracy.**
- Judgement fixing harming the **credibility and independence** of the judiciary.
- **Misuse of a benevolent law.**

a) Options Available And Their Evaluation

Option 1- Participate in their plan and frame the CJI in sexual harassment case.

Merits

- My voice will be heard by the authority.
- The CJI will learn a lesson for framing in fake cases, if he is involved in a fake case against me.

Demerits

- This will demean the independence of the judiciary.
- It will be against the values of truthfulness and honesty.

Option 2- Refuse to participate in the plan and warn the group against doing it.

Merits

- I will be truthful.
- The group may drop their plan of fake case.

Demerits

- The group may take revenge from me.
- They may continue the plan involving someone else.

Option 3- Refuse participation and leak this information in media.

Merits

- It will prevent potential misuse of a benevolent law.
- This will expose the ill-intentions of the group and issue of judgement fixing in public.

Demerits

- Exposing the judgement fixing issues in public without any proof would malign the image of the judiciary.
- I may be targeted by that group and the powerful lobbyists.

Options 4- Refuse participation and inform the top judges about the issue secretly.

Merits

- The CJI and the judiciary would be prepared in advance for any such event in the future.
- They would possibly take action against judgement fixings.

Demerits

- I may have to face the repercussions for going against that group and the powerful lobbyists.

b) Course Of Action And Justification

I would go with option 4 and also convince the group to drop the idea of conspiracy because-

- My participation would have demeaned the suffering of the victims of sexual harassment at the workplace and the law against it.
- Eye for an eye makes the whole world blind and hence revenge should be discouraged.
- Moreover, the group is trying to leverage my negative feeling towards the CJI, I shouldn't allow.
- Secretly informing the judiciary will maintain the credibility and independence of the Judiciary.