

# Shelving Hard Decisions is the Least Ethical Course

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Sometimes, life puts us at crossroads where the easier path 'tempts us' , but the harder one 'shapes us'. It is in this resilience that faith to the fearful, fire to the fading, and light to the lost become our guiding forces .Just like a rabbit that must choose between the comfort of its burrow and the risk of venturing out in search of nourishment, we too face decisions where safety feels easier, but growth demands courage. It's in taking that difficult step forward that we find the most ethical and transformative course of action.

**KEYWORDS:** Faith, Ethical Course & Hard Decisions.

And the winner is Sudha Chandran!! as popped up on the television that Madhu was watching. She had been on the hospital bed for a week now, fighting cancer and almost giving up on her dream of becoming a fashion designer .when she came to know about the life story of Sudha Chandran— how she took the hard decision not to give up on her dream of becoming a dancer even after losing her legs in an accident. It suddenly brought a ray of hope to Madhu's eyes to move forward towards the most ethical course of action.

In this article we will critically examine what a hard decision is, how refraining from it leads to the least ethical course, and analyse it from personal , professional, societal dimensions & through real life examples & philosophical analysis.

## **What is a hard decision?**

A "Hard Decision" refers to a situation where a person, an organization, or a government has to choose a certain path that may lead to radical changes and impact the lives of several people as well as the surrounding environment. For instance, for parents, sending their child to a boarding school situated far away from home can be termed a hard decision. Apart from change, a hard decision also involves a situation of dilemma, where a person has to choose one alternative with the best possible outcome. For instance, the ethical dilemma faced by an IPS officer to arrest a close relative indulged in crime.

Last but not least, a hard decision is always subject to various challenges like economic, environmental, and ethical issues. For instance, the hard decision of making India a secular country led to various challenges like communalism, secessionism, etc.

Thus, hard decisions are difficult, but at the same time, they often pave the way for an ethical course. Now, let's try to understand what an ethical course is.

An "Ethical Course" is referred to as certain conduct that does not undermine established ethical standards like honesty, integrity, compassion, etc. For instance, honesty and integrity shown by whistleblowers in

various cases. In professional sphere exemplified by Satyendra Dubey (e.g., Satyendra Dubey in the case of the National Highway Authority of India, exposing the scam which often demands integrity & courage). Another example could be of Gandhiji, where he took the hard decision to follow the path of non-violence to achieve independence. This also led to an ethical course.

Now let us understand how hard decisions and ethical courses are related.

Relation between a hard decision and an ethical course As we are moving towards a developed society, we are also coming across various complexities and ethical issues. Thereby, sticking to an ethical course in itself has become a hard decision. For example, the increase in crime rates, self-centered attitudes, and cowardice have refrained people from taking hard decisions in various phases of their lives.

Thus, such decisions are backed by unethical standards, and in this way the ethical course of action would also be the least. Let's take the example of a soldier in the movie Sita Raman, where he was trapped by the Pakistani army to disclose certain confidential information. He agreed to disclose it without choosing the hard decision to refrain from sharing any classified information. Hereby, such a decision led to the least ethical course and the undermining of various ethical standards like integrity, commitment, dutifulness, courage, etc.

Another example from societal dimension is of Vikram Sarabhai, where he took the hard decision to move forward with a space mission despite India's economic issues, but such a decision led to the establishment of the most ethical course like courage, dedication to service, objectivity & promotion of collective good & National development.

Through this, to a large extent, we can justify that not taking a hard decision may lead to the compromise of an ethical course.

But is it true in all cases? Let us try to understand it from another dimension.

Does a "Hard Decision" always lead to an "Ethical Course"? There can also be instances where refraining from a hard decision may lead to the protection of an ethical course. For instance, the hard decision taken by the United States during World War II to defeat Japan using nuclear weapons further worsened conditions and resulted in the least ethical courses — examples of "inhumanity", "destruction of empathy", "revenge attitudes" etc.

If the US had refrained from such a decision, it would not have led to such an unethical course. There is ethical compromise due to misguided judgment.

Hereby, we can confirm that not all hard decisions uphold ethical courses. So, there is a need and requirement to develop the ability to decide what is the right kind of hard decision.

How to understand the right kind of hard decision? It is important to take care of the ethical course and eventually take decisions. For this, we must focus on developing the correct attitude and emotional intelligence to further enhance our decision-making skills. Parents, family, and school become the primary sources of forming attitudes. Thus, children must be taught ethical standards like 'courage', 'tolerance', 'empathy', 'compassion', etc., in such a way that even if they have to take a hard decision, they won't refrain from taking it.



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Similarly, the government has also taken various steps like the “managerial grid”, “sensitivity training”, etc., in civil service training to develop the right kind of attitude.

In a nutshell, running away from a hard decision establishes a symbol of weakness and cowardice and sets a wrong example for people. Thus, stepping forward and facing the hard decision will curb the unethical course. Rabbit that once ventured out of its burrow in search of nourishment despite fear, it eventually finds not just survival but a home —cared for and loved by the gentle hands of beautiful girl who sees its courage, cherishes it and nurtures it with kindness & affection. Similarly, when we take the leap of courage and choose the harder but ethical path, we often find not just success but fulfillment, respect, and the warmth of doing what is right.

And thus, Madhu stood strong with full courage and passion in her eyes and took the hard decision of continuing with her dream of becoming a fashion designer despite the hurdles and eventually became successful. Like the prevalent proverb goes, ‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way,’ Madhu’s determination led her to success despite the hurdles. Thereby, she set an example of an ethical course along with her idol, Sudha Chandran!.

When Krishna spoke of duty’s way,  
Arjuna’s fear began to sway.

Like the rabbit that left its safe old ground,  
In righteous/Hard decisions, true strength is found.

## References:

Gita

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