



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



Coimbatore-35
An Autonomous Institution

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING 19GET201 – PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & HUMAN VALUES IV YEAR VII SEM

UNIT 1 – Engineering Ethics

TOPIC – Uses of Ethical Theories



Ethics

Ethics is that branch of philosophy that deals with morality. An engineer with ethics is a person who is expected to possess the moral integrity with rich ethical values. The ethics are mainly divided into two categories depending upon the morality of humanity. They are –

- X Consequential Ethics
- X Non-consequential Ethics



Types of Ethical Theories

- X Depending upon the ethics a person is intended to follow, four theories were postulated by four different philosophers
- X These theories help to create the fundamentals of obligation suitable and applicable to professional and personal conduct of a person in his everyday life
- X The Consequential ethics are values the outcome of which determine the morality behind a particular action. A lie which saves a life, comes under this

Golden Mean

- X The Golden Mean ethical theory was proposed by Aristotle. According to this theory, the solution to a problem is found by analyzing the reason and the logic. A “Mean value of solution” which will be between the extremes of excess and deficiency
- X For example, the solution to the problem of environment pollution is neither by avoiding industrialization and civilization, nor by neglecting the environment completely. A mean solution that will work towards controlling the pollution and protecting the environment will also help

What is Golden Mean?

- X The Golden Mean virtue can be understood as the virtue of reaching a proper balance between extremes in conduct, emotion, desire and attitude
- X This theory phrased by Aristotle states that virtues are tendencies to find the golden mean between the extremes of too much (excess) and too little (deficiency) with regard to particular aspects of our lives

Rights-based Ethical Theory

- X The Rights based ethical theory was proposed by John Locke. According to this theory, the solution to a problem is by realizing that every person has a right to live. Live and let live is the philosophy behind this theory
- X The rights of a person towards life, health, liberty, possession, etc. are taken care of under this theory
- X For example, any action in terms of Capital punishment, Jails, Income taxes and Medical charges etc. come under this category

Duty-based Ethical Theory

X The duty-based ethical theory was proposed by Immanuel Kant.

According to this theory, every person has a duty to follow which is accepted universally, with no exceptions

X An example of this can be expecting all to be honest, kind, generous and peaceful



What are these ethics?

- X Kant observed that everyone is bound to follow some moral laws
- X It is the choice we make to be morally sound though we have chances to do anything
- X This theory can also be called as Deontological theory or the Absolutist theory
- X According to this, it is our duty to obey the categorical imperative rules
- X To have good will, is to perform one's duty for the sake of duty and for no other reason

four virtues

Prudence

X The quality of prudence states that every individual has a life that should be respected and every individual has duties which should be done without any exception. One should always be cautious to perform one's duties

Temperance

X Temperance is the voluntary self-restraint from the attractions. The temptations that might lead to the violation of duties and ethics have to be restrained. No false promises are to be made as they contradict the principles of duties

Four virtues

Fortitude

X Fortitude is the sense of having tolerance. No perfection can be maintained if happiness alone is sought and no happiness is achieved if perfection alone is sought. Both may or may not go with each other

Justice

X Every individual is a human being with a set of intrinsic values and morals. Truth and fairness are the aspects one should always bear in mind. People should be treated as separate individuals but never as a mere means of existence

Utilitarian Ethics

- X The Utilitarian ethics was proposed by John Stuart. According to this theory, the happiness or pleasure of a greatest number of people in the society is considered as the greatest good
- X According to this philosophy, an action is morally right if its consequences lead to happiness of people and wrong if they lead to their unhappiness

Act Utilitarianism

- X The Act Utilitarianism focuses on each situation and the alternative actions possible in the situation
- X Act Utilitarianism states that “A particular action is right if it is likely to produce the higher level of good for the most people in a given situation, compared to alternative choices that might be made.”

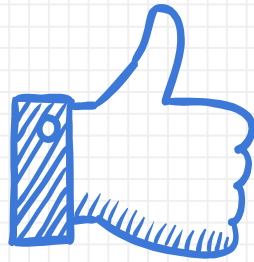
Rule Utilitarianism

- X The Rule Utilitarianism states that “Right actions are those required by rules that produce the higher level of good for the most people.”
- X We need to consider a set of rules, where they interact with each other
- X This was developed to clear the problem that occurs with act-utilitarianism

ASSESSMENT

DISCUSSION:

- X** Understanding moral dilemmas.
- X** Justifying professional obligations and ideas.
- X** Relating ordinary and professional morality.



THANKS!

Any questions?

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