Group A

1. a. Explain pro-life and pro-choice arguments regarding morality of abortion.

Pro-life and pro-choice are two labels in describing abortion. These two terms put labels on people and divide them into two groups about their religious, moral, political, and practical beliefs on abortion. Pro-choice emphasizes the right of women to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy or unwanted pregnancy. Pro-choice highlights the right of the fetus to gestate to term and be born. Both these terms are very important for any debate regarding abortion.

Abortion is a very complex and large topic and every people have their own opinion about this. This is also one of the mainstream topics in this era. Many people think abortion is a morality issue and for this reason, they started many campaigns against it which is inflicted with political and legal issues. More and more countries in the world are expanding the anti-abortion laws. The safety of abortion is also questioned in those laws since it varies across the world.

The argument on pro-life and pro-choice regarding the morality of abortion is a vast area. For discussing that we need to see the point of view and point of conflict from both sides of the argument. The people with a pro-life perspective believe that every human life is sacred and must be protected by the government. They believe that killing life even an undeveloped fetus is murder. The pro-choice people emphasize more on the rights of women. They believe that women should have the right to make decisions on abortion. If the pregnancy is unhealthy for the women’s body or if it’s an unwanted pregnancy, they should have the power to do abortion. The pro-choice movement argues that the government should not give any statements or laws from preventing a woman from performing an abortion. Another big point in this discussion is religion. A big part of morality comes from religious views. In many religions, abortion is described as a sin and people think it’s ethically wrong. People with the pro-life movement thinks it should not matter if the child is born in a poor economy or born with any diseases. They also think the woman should take the blame for unwanted pregnancy and she does not have the right to destroy a life. On the other hand, the pro-choice movement has a belief that it’s better not to give birth to a child than to make a child suffer in life. They think if a child is born with major disabilities or diseases, he will suffer his whole life and it’s better if the child is not born at all. They also think that the woman who is giving birth knows her body the best. If she thinks this will harm her, it should be her choice to decide on that matter.

Ultimately the pro-life and pro-choice movements overlap to an extent where they share the same goal which is reducing the number of abortions. But, their methods, ideology, and point of view differ in many aspects.

1. b. How far is Judith Thomson’s argument for pro-choice position justified?

Judith Thomson talked about the position of pro-choice movements in the paper “ A Defense of Abortion “. She used thought experiments to prove her points. Her point was that the fetus’s right to life does not win over the pregnant woman’s right to have jurisdiction over her body.

Judith Thomson’s argument for the pro-choice position was shown with an experiment called “The Violinist”.

“ You wake up in a hospital bed and see a violinist next to you. He has fatal kidney problems and you are the only person with the right blood type. So, his fans kidnapped you and brought you to hospital and the doctors plugged the violinist’s circulatory system in you. The doctors gave you two choices. Either you can unplug and walk away but the other person will die or you can stay here for 9 months and you both will live”

Her theory explained that one can permissibly unplug himself there even if the violinist dies because of the right to life. No one has the right to endanger another life for saving a life. But, the Violinist was just a metaphor here. The violinist here portrays the fetus and the person portrays the woman carrying that fetus.

Being plugged with the violinist is analogous to having unwanted pregnancy and one is not morally obligated to remain plugged there. Therefore, one is not morally required to carry a pregnancy to term.

Thomson’s argument grants the claim by pro-lifers that a fetus is a human being and even a person and has the same moral status as an adult human person, but argues that abortion is still permissible which is more towards the pro-choice movement. She argues that abortion is still permissible because the morality of abortion does not depend on the nature of the fetus but its relation to its mother. According to her argument, nobody is morally obligated to make large sacrifices, of health, of all other interests and concerns, of all other duties and commitments to keep another person alive.

This argument by Judith Thomson can be justified but with few flaws. These flaws should not be ignored. You do not give tacit consent to the violinist case but you do in a wanted pregnancy. You are responsible for the fetus’s situation and need for aid where you’re not to the violinist. The case of a violinist has no relationship with parental responsibilities which you have with the fetus. When you unplug and let the violinist die, it’s passive killing. He dies due to kidney failure which he would in any way if you weren’t there. But killing a fetus willingly is active killing. Here, you are the cause of the killing. Though her argument did not cover the whole scene with her experiments, I still think she showed some valid points which are justified for a pro-choice position.

Group B

4. Explain the role of business ethics in the Bangladesh context.

Business ethics is a big branch of ethics. The moral principles which guide the way a business behaves are considered business ethics. Ethics is a key factor in business decision making.

In Bangladesh, the practice of business ethics is not yet practiced properly but it is evolving since the 1990s. According to a few research, small companies haven’t started practicing yet but the major companies are already following business ethics. Business ethics is playing a vital role in our country.

Being ethical is a human need and every worker in a company wants to work in an ethical business environment. Many big companies are trying to achieve that ethical business environment goal. Companies like Grameenphone, bKash, Uber, and Pathao maintain the rules and regulations and practice the ethical standard in a business environment to reach that productive and ethical business model.

The companies driven by moral values are respected by everyone. For doing business, having a good public image of the company is very important. Few companies in Bangladesh prioritize mostly on the moral values in their business value and also acknowledged for doing that. Almost all the big companies from Rahimafrooz to Navana are following these ethics for a decade. Cheating or being unfair with customers won’t make any profit. Also, few companies in Bangladesh are taking social initiatives which is a good practice of business model. The British American Tobacco company and companies like Saif Power Electronics are taking these kinds of initiatives. They are creating opportunities with these initiatives.

Another good practice of business ethics is creating a good relationship between employees through the business model. Companies in Bangladesh arrange parties, get together, and seminars so the coworkers can create a good business relationship between themselves. This also breaks the barriers between the boss and the employees.

Bangladeshi companies are aiming for long time investments and profits. In the short run they lose money but they tend to hold themselves and eventually making profits. Companies like Khan Powertech, Bangla Cat, and many well-known restaurants in Bangladesh did not make good money at first. They followed the business ethics and slowly kept improving and eventually they achieved profits.

Being sustainable is a very important part of a business and most growing companies here are running behind the sustainable business. Their one product is selling the other product line and this is a good practice of business ethics. For example, Bashundhara Group started as a real estate venture in 1987 and now they have Tissue, cement, toilet paper, media, LPG, and many more business lineups which is also supporting their real estate. This group currently has over 50000 employees all over the country and proved to be one of the biggest companies in Bangladesh. Business ethics and following them precisely played a major role in their development.

Negative publicity is a viral way in business now. But, it has both pros and cons. Negative publicity often impacts negatively on the business. Most food franchises in Bangladesh practice negative publicity for gaining customer attention. Few times, it works but most times they become a laughing material to the consumers. The practice of negative marketing is increasing highly in Bangladesh.

The role of business ethics in production in Bangladesh is immense. Companies are providing better customer service. They are also trying to make their products less harmful for the consumers. The tobacco companies are labeling and also highlighting the fact that smoking is injurious to health. Many companies are trying to go green. They are using eco-friendly materials to save the environment. People are appreciating this.

The tech companies also practicing good business ethics. The privacy and data of users are not compromised. Companies in Bangladesh are trying to protect the privacy and data of the workers and consumers. For example bKash is running a campaign for a long time for letting consumers know about how to keep their information secure. Though there had been few violations of this ethics in Bangladesh. The bike-sharing app Pathao was accused of information-stealing back in 2018.

Every worker should have a reason or goal in a firm for being productive. One of the best ways of that is rewarding them for their good work. Almost every company in Bangladesh has events like the employee of the month and commission-based reward system. The keeps the activities of the employees fresh and active. This simple tactic boosted the performance of firms by a lot specifically in the marketing sector.

The top management of a company has to answer to the authority. For this reason, mismanagement is occurring less. Every position holder has to answer to someone. A business goes rock bottom when the management system is bad. In Bangladesh, every company is trying to keep records of the activities of the management. There are many laws regarding this that everyone has to abide by so they cant misuse the power of their position.

No company in Bangladesh can increase the price of their product without proper cause. Fair usage policy law and Consumer right protection law has been introduced in Bangladesh. Any consumer can report a case against companies if they think they are not being fair with the prices. Also, Companies cant sell products way lower than other companies. There are laws for that too. This prohibits unhealthy business environment.

Following business ethics is also working for women's rights and their movements for a career. Companies like Unilever have taken many projects for upbringing women in our country. They have introduced the “ Fair & Lovely Foundation” for aiding talented women. They are providing scholarships. But, they also took some unethical approaches like the television advertisement of using skin whitening creams which raise question towards racism also has no scientific proof that it will make your skin fairer.

The goal of business is to serve the consumers and make a profit by providing a service. For having that maintaining business ethics is a must. Our policymakers and top executives should be fairer with the system and take more steps for making stakeholders and employees follow business ethics.