

# HEINZ'S DILEMMA

A Case Study in Moral Development

Based on Lawrence Kohlberg's Theory

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# THE STORY OF HEINZ

- Heinz is a middle-aged, ordinary man with a seriously ill wife.
- A newly invented drug can save her, but it costs \$2,000 while only costing \$20 to produce.
- Heinz can only collect \$1,000 despite his best efforts.
- The drug-seller refuses to lower the price.



# HEINZ'S DILEMMA

- With no other option, Heinz considers stealing the drug to save his wife.
- What should he do?
- This moral dilemma forms the basis for analyzing ethical reasoning.



# THINKER'S OPTIONS

- Heinz should not steal the drug because it breaks the law.
- Heinz can steal the drug but should be punished.
- Heinz can steal the drug and should not be punished.



# OPTION 1: OBEY THE LAW

- Heinz does not steal the drug.
- His wife dies; the drug-seller profits.
- Law is obeyed, but moral justice is not served.
- This reflects **\*\*Pre-Conventional\*\*** moral thinking.



# OPTION 2: STEAL AND FACE PUNISHMENT

- Heinz saves his wife.
- He accepts the legal punishment.
- A moral decision is made, but justice is partial.
- This reflects **\*\*Conventional\*\*** moral thinking.



# OPTION 3: STEAL WITHOUT PUNISHMENT

- Heinz saves his wife and avoids punishment.
- The decision is made on moral grounds, rejecting rigid law.
- This reflects **\*\*Post-Conventional\*\*** moral thinking.



# IMPLICATIONS OF HEINZ'S DILEMMA

- The dilemma challenges thinkers to balance law and morality.
- The choice reveals the stage of moral development.
- Encourages deeper reflection on ethical reasoning.





# CONCLUSION

- Heinz's dilemma illustrates Kohlberg's levels of moral development in real-life context.
- The responses to this scenario highlight different ethical reasoning paths individuals take.
- What would you choose, and what does that say about your moral development?

