

## Ethics Case Study Class 03

26th July, 2024 at 5:00 PM

### GENERAL APPROACH TO CASE STUDY (5:02 PM)

- Short summary
- Stakeholders
- Ethical Issues
- Options and Merits/Demerits
- Recommended options
- Way Forward/Conclusion

### CASE STUDY 1:"Sunil has been posted as a DM...."(5:07 PM)

- **Approach:** Write the case study in this order:
  - Briefly state the facts of the case study and the key stakeholders involved.
  - Discuss the issues being faced by Sunil as a District Magistrate.
  - Mention his priorities in such a case and accordingly provide a course of action.
- **Introduction:** Sunil, the newly appointed District Magistrate in a hilly district, faces a major earthquake leading to high casualties, trapped locals and tourists, and damaged infrastructure. He must balance rescuing an international convoy and maintaining law and order.
- **Conclusion:** Sunil must balance immediate rescue efforts with maintaining order and ensuring transparency. Periodic information dissemination and prudent resource allocation are crucial for effective disaster management.

### CASE STUDY 2:"You are the District Magistrate of a hilly district...."(5:40 PM)

- **Approach:**
  - Give a brief introduction about the case.
  - Highlight various stakeholders and issues involved in the case.
  - Then discuss the course that can be taken as District magistrate in the case with relevant reasoning.
- **Introduction:** A hilly district struck by flash floods and landslides faces cut-off supply routes, leading to price gouging by local shopkeepers. This has caused law and order issues due to public backlash against the inflated prices.
- **Conclusion:** Balancing the needs of the public, and shopkeepers, and maintaining law and order requires decisive and immediate action. By regulating prices, ensuring equitable distribution, and seeking government support, the administration can address the crisis effectively.

### CASE STUDY 3:"In the face of acute famine in the district...."(6:11 PM)

- **Approach:**
  - The answer should begin with the context and the gravity of the situation.
  - In this context, one should evaluate all the given options with possible merits and demerits.
  - In conclusion, one should choose any of the given options or any other option of his/her choice with adequate reasons.
- **Introduction:** Acute famine in a district necessitates immediate procurement of food grains from FCI godowns in adjoining districts. Truck operators have formed a cartel, demanding triple the usual transportation rate, complicating the relief efforts.
- **Conclusion:** This approach balances immediate relief with long-term accountability, ensuring both the welfare of the affected population and the integrity of the relief process.

**CASE STUDY 4:**"You are a young IAS officer posted as SDM...."(6:29 PM)

- **Approach:**
- Discuss various qualities of a good civil servant that come into play in such situations.
- Evaluate the various options that are available to the SDM.
- Conclude by suggesting the course of action that the SDM should take.
- **Introduction:** The SDM faces an imminent dam collapse that threatens several villages. The villagers, fear-stricken, have abandoned repair efforts, and urgent action is needed to prevent disaster.
- **Conclusion:** This approach utilizes available resources quickly, engages the community, and demonstrates strong leadership, essential for managing the crisis effectively.

**CASE STUDY 5:**"You work as a marketing consultant for a multinational company...."(6:47 PM)

- **Approach:**
- Give a brief overview of the case.
- Identify the stakeholders in the situation.
- Mention the ethical issues in the given scenario.
- Evaluate your options as an employee of the company who is responsible for marketing the product.
- State your final action in the given situation with reasoning.
- **Introduction:** The case involves ethical concerns about marketing a weight loss pill, 'X', that has no proven benefits, only a placebo effect, despite the company's claims.
- **Conclusion:** This approach balances ethical responsibility, professional duty, and practical considerations, ensuring the public is not misled while giving the company a chance to correct its course.

**CASE STUDY 6:**"You are working as a senior doctor in the oncology department...."(7:12 PM)

- **Approach:**
- Briefly introduce the concerns of the case, in a larger framework.
- Identify the main stakeholders and ethical issues present in the case.
- Suggest some possible solutions for addressing the main issues at hand by analyzing the merits and demerits of each case.
- Discuss the final course of action along with its rationale. Also, suggest some long terms solutions which can help eradicate the problem right from its root.
- **Introduction:** The case involves unethical practices by a hospital administration and pharmaceutical companies to overcharge cancer patients for drugs despite the availability of low-cost alternatives. The senior doctor has the opportunity to expose this to the Health Minister but faces pressure from colleagues to conceal the truth.
- **Conclusion:** By choosing to expose the truth, the senior doctor upholds the core values of medical ethics, ensuring the welfare of patients and reinforcing the trust in healthcare systems.

### **CASE STUDY 7:"Regulation and procedure of human clinical trials...."(7:32 PM)**

- **Approach:**
- Give a brief introduction about human clinical trials and identify the ethical issues in clinical trials.
- Discuss the merits and demerits of shifting lab location and state your final stand on shifting the lab from the home country.
- Give a framework of standard procedure to minimize ethical conflicts and speed up the approval process of new medicines.
- **Introduction:** The situation involves conducting clinical trials for a new Tissue Engineering system designed to regenerate heart tissue. The stringent regulatory environment in the home country would delay approval while conducting trials in countries with lax regulations could expedite the process. This scenario raises several ethical issues.
- **Conclusion:** By adhering to a comprehensive ethical framework, we can balance the need for timely medical advancements with the imperative to protect and respect human participants in clinical trials. This approach not only upholds the integrity of the medical profession but also ensures equitable access to healthcare advancements.

**TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: CONTINUATION OF CASE STUDIES**