

# **UCS1704 – Management and Ethical Practices**

**UNIT – III  
Uses of Ethical Theories**

**Semester – VII**

**Dr. G. Raghuraman, Associate Professor/CSE**



# OUTLINE

- Senses of Engineering Ethics
- Variety of moral issues
- Types of inquiry
- Moral dilemmas
- Moral Autonomy
- Kohlberg's theory & Gilligan's theory
- Consensus and Controversy
- Professions and Professionalism
- Professional Ideals and Virtues and Uses of Ethical Theories.

# Types of Ethical Theories

| Theory                | Basic Concept                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Virtue Ethics Theory  | Virtues and Vices             |
| Right Ethics Theory   | Human Rights                  |
| Duty Ethics Theory    | Duties to respect persons     |
| Utilitarianism theory | Most good for the most people |

# Aristotle's theory of the “Golden Mean”

- In this theory virtue of wisdom or good judgement is highly essential for accomplishing the rational activities successfully
- As per this theory, virtues to find the ‘golden mean’ between the extremes of excess and deficiency

## Example

- Courage is ‘golden mean’ between the two extreme moral grounds foolhardiness(the excess of rashness) and cowardice(the deficiency of self control)
- (one should be courageous but should not go to extreme of being violent)
- The skills in avoiding offences and confidentiality

# Macintyre's Theory of virtue

- Alasdair Macintyre, a contemporary ethicst, related virtues with the social practices ie., cooperative activities that are aimed at achieving public goods.
- According to him, any profession should develop for the sake of public goods
- He calls public goods as internal goods

## Example

- The primary internal good of medicine is promotion of health
- Law is social justice
- Engineering is safety, health and welfare of public

# Uses Of Ethical Theories

- Ethical theories aid in identifying the moral considerations or reasons that constitute a dilemma.
- They provide a precise sense of what kinds of information are relevant to solving moral development.
- They sometimes, offer ways to rank the relevant moral considerations in order of importance and provide a rough guidance in solving moral problems.
- The theories help us identify the full moral ramifications of alternative courses of action, urging a wide perspective on the moral implications of the options and providing a systematic framework of comparing alternatives.
- The theories augment the precision with which we use moral terms and they provide frame works for moral reasoning when discussing moral issues with colleagues.
- By providing frame works for development of moral arguments, the theories strengthen our ability to reach balanced and insightful judgments

## USES OF ETHICAL THEORIES

Ethical theories have so many uses. Out of them, the following three are the most

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

# Senses of responsibility

- Responsibility is a moral virtue
- Responsibility is moral obligation
- Responsibility is about general moral capacities of people
- Responsibility means accountability and liability for actions
- Responsibility means blameworthiness

# Uses of ethics

- When students enter the professional world, they will be expected to follow an explicit or implicit ethical code.
- To responsibly confront moral issues raised by technological activity
- How to deal with ethical dilemmas in their professional lives?
- To achieve moral autonomy
- \* Confront - challenge