

# **UCS1704 – Management and Ethical Practices**

**UNIT – III**

**Theories about Right Action, Self Interest,  
Customs and Religion**

**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.

# Professional Responsibility

- Virtues Defining Professional Responsibility.
- Professional responsibility means being morally responsible as a professional
- Classification of virtues:
  - Self Directional Virtues
  - Public Spirited Virtues
  - Teamwork Virtues
  - Proficiency Virtues

# **Professional Responsibility**

## **1. SELF DIRECTION VIRTUES:**

Fundamental virtues in exercising our moral autonomy and responsibility. e.g. self understanding, humility, good moral judgment, courage, self discipline, perseverance, commitments, self-respect and dignity

## **2. PUBLIC SPIRITED VIRTUES:**

- Focusing on the benefit of the clients and society.
- 3 important public spirited virtues
  - Justice, Sense of community, generosity

## **3. TEAMWORK VIRTUES:**

- Enables professionals to work successfully with others. E.g. collegiality, cooperativeness, the ability to communicate, respect for authority, loyalty to employers and leadership qualities.

## **4. PROFICIENCY VIRTUES: (intellectual Virtue)**

- Mastery of one's craft that characterize good engineering practice e.g. competence, diligence, creativity, self-renewal through continuous education
- (mastery over the profession)

# Integrity

- Is the unity of character on the basis of moral concern, and especially on the basis of honesty.
- The unity is consistency among our attitudes, emotions and conduct in relation to justified moral values.
- Integrity makes possible the virtues of self-respect and pride in one's work.

# HONESTY

- Honesty has two aspects:
  - Truthfulness
  - Meeting responsibilities concerning truth-telling
  - Trustworthiness
    - Meeting responsibilities concerning trust.
- List of specific virtues that truthfulness and trustworthiness imply:
  - Honesty in acts
  - Honesty in speech
  - Honesty in beliefs
  - Discretion

# SELF RESPECT

- is valuing oneself in morally appropriate ways.
- takes two forms:
- Recognition self-respect
- Appraisal self-respect
- specific virtues for self respect
- A sense of honor
- Self-control
- Courage
- Good judgment

# **SENSES OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- **Characteristic quality**
- **Obligations**
- **General moral capacity**
- **Liability and accountability**

# **TYPES OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- \* Moral responsibility**
  - + Obligations**
  - + Accountability**
  - + Praiseworthy/Blameworthy**
- \* Casual responsibility**
- \* Legal responsibility**

# THEORIES ABOUT RIGHT ACTION

- ✖ **Utilitarianism**
- ✖ **Duty Ethics**
- ✖ **Rights Ethics**
- ✖ **Virtue Ethics**

# UTILITARIANISM JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873)

- ✖ Considers a balance of good & bad consequences for everyone affected (society)
- ✖ Actions are good that serve to promote human well-being
- ✖ Cost-Benefit analysis is an application
- ✖ Consideration of most benefit to the most people outweighs needs of a few individuals

## DUTY ETHICS IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804)

- \* There are duties that should be performed (e.g.. Duty to treat others fairly or not to injure others) regardless of whether these acts do the most good or not.

# RIGHTS ETHICS JOHN LOCKE (1632-1704)

- ✖ People have fundamental rights (like life, liberty, & property) that others have a duty to respect.

# TESTING ETHICAL THEORIES

- ✖ Five widely used tests for evaluating ethical theories:
  - + The theory must be clear
  - + It must be consistent
  - + Neither the theory nor its defense can rely upon false information
  - + It must be sufficiently comprehensive to provide guidance in specific situations of interest to us.
  - + It must be compatible with our most carefully considered moral convictions about concrete situations.

# SELF-INTEREST AND ETHICAL EGOISM

- ✖ is being good and acceptable to oneself.
- ✖ It is pursuing what is good for oneself.
- ✖ It is very ethical to possess self-interest.
- ✖ A view that tries to reduce morality to the pursuit of self-interest is called ethical egoism.
- ✖ “Ethical” because it is a theory about morality and “egoism” because it says that the sole duty of each of us is to maximize his or her own good.

# CUSTOMS AND ETHICAL RELATIVISM

- ✖ Various culture in our pluralistic society lead to tolerance for various customs, beliefs and outlooks.
- ✖ Ethical pluralism is the view that there may be alternative perspectives that are reasonable, but no one of which must be accepted completely by all rational and morally concerned persons.
- ✖ Ethical relativism says that actions are morally right when they are approved by law or custom; they are wrong when they violate laws or customs.
- ✖ Moral rationalism is the view that moral judgments should be made in relation to factors that may vary from case to case.

# RELIGION

- ✖ Religions have played major roles in shaping moral views and moral values.
- ✖ Each religion lays stress on certain high moral standards.
- + Hinduism holds polytheistic view and virtues of devotion and surrender to high order.
- + Christianity believes in one deity and emphasizes on virtues of love, faith and hope.
- + Islam on one deity and adherence to *ishan* and prayer.
- ✖ But many religious sects have adopted poor moral standards.
  - + *People are killed in the name of religion.*

# DIVINE COMMAND ETHICS

As per this principle, the right action is defined by the commands by God.

It implies that to be moral, a person should believe in god and an action is right only if it is commanded by God.