

# UCS1704 – Management and Ethical Practices

UNIT – III  
Consensus & Controversy  
Models of Professional Roles

Semester – VII

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# 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.

# CONSENSUS AND CONTROVERSY

- Consensus – Agreement
- Controversy – Disagreement

# CONTROVERSY

- All individuals will not arrive at same verdict during their exercising their moral autonomy.
- Aristotle noted long ago that morality is not as precise and clear-cut as arithmetic.
- Aim of teaching engineering ethics is not to get unanimous conformity of outlook by indoctrination, authoritarian and dogmatic teaching, to improve promotion of tolerance in the exercise of moral autonomy hypnotism or any other technique but.
- [\* unanimous – Common \* verdict- decision \* indoctrination – instruction \* authoritarian, dogmatic - strict]

# CONSENSUS

- The conductor of a music orchestra has authority over the musicians and his authority is respected by them by consensus as otherwise the music performance will suffer. Hence the authority and autonomy are compatible.
- On the other hand, tension arises between the needs for autonomy and the need for concerns about authority. The difference between the two should be discussed openly to resolve the issue to the common good.

# Membership Criteria

- Complete Bachelors degree
- Performing work commonly recognized as what engineers do
- Being officially and licensed as a PE.
- Acting in morally responsive ways while practicing engineers

# Differing views on Professionals

- “Only consulting engineers who are basically independent and have freedom from coercion can be called as professionals.” -Robert L.Whitelaw
- “Professionals have to meet the expectations of clients and employers. Professional restraints are to be imposed by only laws and government regulations and not by personal conscience.” -  
Samuel Florman

\* Coercion – Pressure

\* Restraints- limits

# Characteristics of Professions

- Profession- meet the following criteria

- Knowledge
- Organization
- Public Good

## Who is Professional?

- Knowledge:- skills cant be mechanized
- Organization: IEEE, ASME
- Public Good: to protect public health safety welfare

# Professionalism

- Qualities, competencies and Skills of professionals

# MOTIVES FOR PROFESSIONALISM

- A desire for interesting and challenging work and the pleasure in the act of changing the world.
- The joy of creative efforts. Where a scientist's interest is in discovering new technology, engineers interest is derived from creatively solving practical problems.
- The engineer shares the scientist's job in understanding the laws and riddles of the universe.
- The sheer magnitude of the nature – oceans, rivers, mountains and prairies – leads engineers to build engineering marvels like ships, bridges, tunnels, etc., which appeal to human passion.

\*Sheer - pure

# **MODELS OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

- **SAVIOR:** The representative engineer is a savior who will redeem society from poverty, inefficiency, waste and the drudgery of manual labor.
- **GUARDIAN:** Engineers know, the directions in which and pace at which, technology should develop.
- **BUREAUCRATIC SERVANT:** The engineer as the loyal organization person uses special skills to solve problems.
- **SOCIAL SERVANT:** Engineers, in co-operation with management, have the task of receiving society's directives and satisfying society's desires.
- **Social ENABLER AND CATALYST**
- **GAME PLAYER**

\* Savior – Rescuer

# **Professional Ethics & Virtues**

- Virtue means Good character of an individual
- It is defined as moral distinction of goodness
- It can be defined as excellence of moral behavior

# The Four Main Virtues

- **Prudence** (mind): to think about a moral problem clearly and completely
- **Temperance** (emotions) : control attraction to positive emotions
- **Fortitude** (emotions) : control aversion for negative emotions
- **Justice** (will) : choose according to truth and fairness.

# Virtue Ethics

Focuses on the type of person we should strive to be

- Actions which reflect *good character* traits (virtues) are inherently *right*
- Actions which reflect *bad character* traits (vices) are inherently *wrong*
- Virtue ethics are tied more to individual behavior than to that of an organization (e.g. business, government)

