Mayur Suresh

CSC 301

10-18-2021

Article Review #1

Article Review of “Codes of Ethics in a Post-Truth World”

First, I had very low expectations for this article to catch my interest but as I started to read this, even the introduction to this article caught my interest. I choose this article out of the other available articles because I already read the ACM packet for a lab assignment and wanted to read something new.

The article starts with how code of ethics in organizations revolve around “weasel words” such as purport, clarify, avowed and core. It also starts to explore on how these ethics were rarely enforced in the workplace but were used for a press conference or in a public setting. Another topic which this article sadly covers in a huge way is the topic of sexual harassment/assault. Even when it is clearly a fact, whether it be from a moral standpoint or under the code of ethics, that sexual harassment/assault is not right in any way somehow people got away with it. Until famous figures such as Harvey Weinstein or Bill Cosby or political figures. This led to new laws which penalized people who were involved. Despite this, the article draws on a study that show that politicians are not remorseful of the fact that they participated in these horrible acts, but only because these things were bought to the public eyes.

This article brings forth another key fact about codes of ethics. Laws and Ethical codes are both not to preempt bad behavior but review them once exposed. But unlike laws ethical codes, when broken cannot be penalized.

Another key topic is the APA Torture scandal, which not only involves the violation on a smaller scale like in a company but involves the U.S. The APA scandal rotates around their handling of war prisoners. This took place under the Bush administration, right when 9/11 took place. The APA are the organization that makes the code of ethics for the U.S. government but was later leaked that the APA leadership was basically a whipped dog for the administration. By this I mean APA changing their code to please the administration of that time. This was a huge violation because this administration basically disguised “torture” as “humane” treatment of prisoners this goes against their very founding principal of “do no harm”!

In the latter half, the author goes on to discuss more such violation like with an army psychiatrist who killed 13 and injured 30 prisoners due to his religious beliefs. And much more examples, but the author keys in on two points made from examples. The first point is all the various types of ethical codes are and have always been violated. Second, is that people will always find reasons to violate it, whether religious, self-interest and many others.

This article really dived deep into how Ethical codes have been used in the professional settings. Especially with the APA scandal when the government were talking about laws and rules in torturing people, but I couldn’t find one thing about morality or human rights when they were discussing the topic.