# HSIR14 - Professional Ethics

# Assignment

Anurag Goyal - 106119014

Kartikey Agarwal - 106119058

Manmohan Prajapat - 106119072

Rajneesh Pandey - 106119100

Satyarth Pandey - 106119112

# Ethics, Indian godmen and their miracles
## - Anurag Goyal

India, a country rich in culture and tradition, is now engulfed in a web of self-proclaimed godmen and god women. The demand or condition where the common man needs something to rely on and have support in difficult times is the basic principle for the growth of this type of individual. However, the same support begins to exploit them in a variety of ways. The rise of Baba's, particularly in metropolitan areas, has created an unusual situation. Even intelligent people are included on the list of followers. The sociological and psychological factors are to blame. Both of these factors are intertwined.

India is currently undergoing a transitional and difficult period. Millions of people are dissatisfied, frustrated, and disappointed, with urban India being more affected than rural India. Unemployment, poverty, competition, work stress, work-life balance, marital problems, infidelity, love, and criminality are some of the root causes. People take a variety of steps to alleviate their issues. Some are escapists, while others find serenity inside themselves, and still, others seek Baba's assurance.

One of the main reasons for the godman's existence is the belief in his abilities to heal emotionally as well as physically suffering. The godman's image is pushed towards that of a divine parent, while the follower's image is pushed towards that of a little kid, due to the dominance of the healing moment in the meeting between the godman and the follower. Susceptibility of a follower to the charisma of a godman will look to individuals influenced by current egalitarian ideals emerging in the West as a reflection of an enfeebled self, of psychic impotence that has to be reversed by an idealization and identification with a godman.

Religion has been shown to influence how people act and what they say in studies. Religious views have an impact on a person's well-being. Faith is a powerful tool for internalizing religious concepts. Internalization has an impact on ethical decision-making.

Frequently, religion and ethics are conflated, with numerous religions claiming that their belief systems are the greatest way for people to live. Ethics, on the other hand, are universal decision-making tools that may be applied by people of all religious beliefs, even atheists. Religion offers statements about cosmology, social behavior, and how to treat others "properly," among other things. Logic and reason, rather than tradition or exhortation, are the foundations of ethics.

The fact that many media-savvy godmen have constructed empires for themselves may be contributing to the unfavorable image of godmen. Not all are, however, negative. Instead of polarizing or dividing society, a godman helps to strengthen it. In delivering mental calm to millions of people and raising moral and ethical standards, he is more valuable than our politicians and even therapists. Their outstanding contributions to the social fabric must not be overlooked. Warts and all, our godmen will continue to hold sway over our masses.

# Artificial Intelligence and Ethics
## - Kartikey Agarwal

Artificial intelligence (AI) is an exciting but very controversial field of informational technology. Some sources say that the further development of this field will be useful for humankind and will help us to solve many problems, for example, find cures for more diseases, increase the lifespan, give new possibilities in space travel and so on. At the same time, a lot of other sources claim that such kinds of technologies will be harmful to their own creators. The field of artificial intelligence indeed brings numerous ethical, social, professional and legal issues.

The greatest concern in this regard is the threat to security. Any AI program, regardless of the level of intelligence it demonstrates, remains only a software. Thus, it has all the drawbacks that the software has. First of all, an AI program can be copied – as long as there are people who can do this and the hardware that can store it (Bostrom 2003). Surely, it can not be easy or quick but it can happen and valuable data or software can get into the wrong hands. Secondly, machines can make mistakes, which threatens security as well. As an example, let us imagine that there is an intelligent vision program that scans people's baggage at the airport. What if there is the flaw in the algorithms, because of which the program is unable to recognize a bomb if a pistol is put next to it? Such a mistake threatens the security and safety of every person on the board.

From autonomous vehicles to smart personal assistants, artificial intelligence is a rapidly advancing technology of the 21st century, bringing along many concerns for humanity. Machine learning allows AI to make its own decisions based on its input (limited) and past experiences (positive or negative) but we simply cannot rely on AI to make life-and-death decisions when it comes to autonomous weapons and self-driving cars. Additionally, the film "I, Robot", successfully portrays the moral and ethical issues with AI, making it clear that machine learning will enable it to challenge what is right and wrong. If AI was created in the future, it must remember that "with great power comes great responsibility", otherwise this could become our final invention. Finally, AI can lead to super-intelligence and that can happen suddenly (Bostrom 2003). Although it will probably solve

or at least help humankind to solve many problems, including poverty, incurable diseases, global environmental problems, and so on, but if it is used for evil purposes, it can exacerbate many other problems.

AI can also contribute to warfare by creating advanced weaponry – autonomous weapons and military robots (Romportl, Zackova  Kelemen 2014). Some semi-autonomous weapons have already been used by the United States and North Korea, for example (Romportl, Zackova  Kelemen 2014). But even though these weapons did some part of work by themselves (identified the target, for instance), they were not fully autonomous. In future if autonomous drones were used they may wrongly target civilians also.

However, many ethical issues and risks associated with artificial intelligence can be eliminated or at least minimized by particular precautions. Bostrom and Yudkowsky (2014) write that, in order to be safe, AI technologies should be predictable and transparent to inspections (to make the error detection possible and simple) and robust to manipulations to avoid such situations as the one with a bomb and a pistol described above. Although artificial intelligence is fraught with some new ethical problems and concerns, those can and should be solved as it has already been done with any other technological development.

**Challenges through tolerance - a cultural, ethical and gender perspective**

**- Manmohan Prajapat**

Tolerance is the willingness to accept behavior and beliefs that are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them. An example of tolerance is Muslims, Christians, and Atheists being friends. It's also an ability to endure unfavorable environmental conditions. So there should be an environment where everyone is treated equally regardless of their culture or gender.

India has a population of over 138 crores and you will find all sorts of people. This diversity has inevitably resulted in a mix of violence, political crises, and economic concerns along with other negative consequences for the nation.People tend to have different attitudes and beliefs concerning others simply due to their presumption about others dues to their religion, society, etc. Their attitudes about others result entirely different from their attitude about themselves. So sometimes they can't accept others' opinions.

The race is a categorization of humans to which people are assigned based on their skin color. Colorful skin is more attractive than dark skin to human beings. This concept has been in existence since the beginning of mankind. This means there are individuals who do not accept the diversity of skin colors. These people are intolerant. They cannot accept the skin color of their neighbors. They are not open to the color of their own skin.

Status is not simple to come by, therefore, one's social position is not within their control. Cultural tolerance is still a big issue even though illiteracy has begun to fade. As a long-term phenomenon, it is likely to continue. This is partly due to past indoctrination and partly due to today's media. It is not reasonable to pass judgment on and treat someone negatively based on what you have heard about their religion, language, or skin color.

Many people who are disgusted by non-binary people resort to hate crimes against them. Although

gender tolerance has more and more obstacles than cultural tolerance, it's even more difficult to identify people with genders who are different from their own. However, these obstacles are starting to disappear due to people's tendency to be more conscious and educated, which has led people to the realization that there are people of various genders. In addition, being raised with no people of all genders has led most people to have limited knowledge.

The hatred that the other gender has toward non-binary people can cause some people to resort to violence and physical harm to others. Thus, it is the main source of insecurity among non-binary people.

People who want To change the world need to develop respect for other people, not only for themselves, their families, their environment, and their school.

## Weapon Development and Ethics
### - Rajneesh Pandey

Engineering is the process of developing an efficient mechanism that quickens and eases the work using limited resources with the help of technology. Ethics are the principles accepted by society, which also equate to the moral standards of human beings. An engineer with ethics can help an organization in a better way. The study of Engineering ethics, where the engineers implement ethics, is necessary for the good of society. Engineering Ethics is the study of decisions, policies, and values that are morally desirable in engineering practice and research.

Based on the size of expenditures, direct or indirect involvement of engineers, and innovative developments, military technology is an area that calls for serious discussion on engineering ethics. For some engineers, their participation with weapons develops conflicts with personal consciences, such as knowing that making weapons in a company is the job that would be done by someone else if he doesn't do it and cannot change the results.

One takes pride and honor in participating in the activities for the nation's defense. One believes that he fights war terrorism and thereby contributes to the peace and stability of the country. Ironically, the wars have never won peace. Only peace can prevail peace. The engineer reduces or eliminates the risk of enemy weapons through research and development and saves one's country from disaster. A government can force the rogue toward regulation by building-up arsenals and show of force.

Though war seems to be part of human nature, the development of weapons engineering can significantly reduce the harm produced by war. Hopefully, with the help of engineers, future wars can be fought more peacefully with more innovative weapons that protect the interests of soldiers and civilians alike.

These engineers face a multitude of ethical dilemmas. The primary aim of their daily work is to maximize the capabilities of the weapon owners to cause direct physical harm to people and structures. On the surface, this obviously goes against fundamental respect for life.

One positive aspect of weapon advancement is that automated and remotely controlled technologies have enabled countries to defend themselves with fewer human soldiers risking their lives. Conversely, this also implies that nations can fight wars with far fewer soldiers, which could have resulted in wealthier countries being more easily convinced into engaging in conflicts.

However, from a utilitarian perspective, the continued sustainment of a powerful military enables a country to defend its people as well as aid in foreign conflicts that may be causing suffering for the population in that area, thereby doing the best for the most people. For these reasons, it is ethically understandable why an engineer may wish to facilitate the continued development of technologies of violence.

With these advancements, infringements on the previously discussed moral 'law' against killing can be drastically reduced, perhaps allowing utilitarian priorities to take precedence. However, despite

the vast reductions in fatalities, the question remains. Can any violent loss of life be considered acceptable?

## Does being spiritual also mean being ethical?
### - Satyarth Pandey

Spirituality can be referred to in both religious and non-religious ways. In religious-based spirituality, certain inspirations from one or more religious traditions may be drawn upon as a means to an end. In non-religious spirituality, there is normally an absence of religious belief. Instead, such spirituality is based on secular or humanistic values, such as interconnectedness with others at work or in a society and serving a higher purpose in life without necessarily referring to God or a Creator.

Many People might argue in favor of spirituality clearly implying being ethical in the influence of their religious thoughts and thinking of spirituality and religion interchangeably. However, even religious-based spirituality could promote unethical behavior. For example, discriminating against another person who does not share one's belief system. It might even flow into hiring practices and how one treats another colleague at work.

However, being Spiritual in a healthy practical way might lead to the development of ethical virtues. These virtues can include empathy, justice, temperance, transparency, conscientiousness, wisdom, and moral fortitude. The virtues translate into competencies that help foster ethical actions. Empathy can relate to the variety of ways to connect with employees and foster quality working relationships. For Example, in a Corporate Office, Actions can include "nurturing a particular individual", "building friendly relations" and "not using seniority to get subordinates to do something unethical". Moreover, temperance focuses on personal integrity and assists in "avoiding contact with someone of dubious character" and "not wavering from one's ethical principles".

Conscientiousness embodies the ability to behave ethically in the face of temptation. Globalization and the movement of labor are rendering workplaces in both developed (Australia, Singapore) and developing (Brazil, Malaysia) economies diverse. In such multi-faith workplaces, having an

ethical approach that is inclusive and relies on the core virtues embedded in religiosity, spirituality and humanity might provide consistency in ethical decision-making.

Spirituality is seen to affect decision-making, not only in business or organizational contexts but also in matters that may affect larger-scale conditions like environmental problems. Spirituality is seen to be one of the strong factors in consumer habits and decisions as well. Surely, spirituality can play an efficient role in sustainability and the solution of new world problems, considering new changes and fast developments in the world order. So this is no wonder spirituality and ethics can play important roles in the well-being of a person and humanity/world a larger perspective in the coming decades.

In General, It might not be wrong to say that being in touch with spiritual principles and values helps to stimulate the moral imaginations of individuals and can provide depth of understanding of the many ethical problems that arise.