

UCS1704 – Management and Ethical Practices

Semester – VII

UNIT – III

Moral Dilemma and Moral Autonomy



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.

MORAL DILEMMMA

- Dilemmas are certain kind of situations in which a difficult choice has to be made.
- Moral dilemmas have two or more foldings - moral obligations, duties, rights, goods or ideals come into disagreement with each other.
- One moral principle can have two or more conflicting applications for a particular given situation.

MORAL DILEMMMA

There are three types of complexities.

- **VAGUENESS:**

- This complexity arises due to the fact that it is not clear to individuals as to which moral considerations or principles apply to their situation.

- **CONFLICTING REASONS:**

- Even when it is perfectly clear as to which moral principle is applicable to one's situation, there could develop a situation where in two or more clearly applicable moral principles come into conflict.

- **DISAGREEMENT:**

- Individuals and groups may disagree how to interpret, apply and balance moral reasons in particular situations.

STEPS / PROCEDURES IN FACING MORAL DILEMMAS

- Identifying the relevant moral factors and reasons: i.e. Finding solutions for (i) the conflicting responsibilities (ii) the competing rights and (iii) the clashing ideals involved.
- Collecting and gathering all the available facts which are relevant to the moral factors while resolving.
- Ranking the moral considerations or principles on the basis of importance as applicable to the situation.
- Considering alternative courses of action for resolving the problems and tracing the full implications of each. i.e. conducting factual inquiries.
- Having talked with the colleagues, friend about the problem getting their suggestions and alternative ideas on resolving that dilemma.
- Arriving at a careful and reasonable judgment or solution by taking into consideration of all important moral factors and reasons on the basis of the facts or truths.

MORAL AUTONOMY

- Autonomy means self-governing or self-determining i.e act independently.
- Moral autonomy is concerned with the independent attitude of a person related to ethical issues.
- It helps to improve the self-determination among the individuals.
- Autonomous individuals think for themselves and do not assume that customs are always right.
- They seek to reason and live by general principles.
- Their motivation is to do what is morally reasonable for its own sake, maintaining integrity, self-respect, and respect for others.

SKILLS FOR IMPROVING MORAL AUTONOMY

- The engineers must have the ability to distinguish and relate these moral problems with the problems of law, economics, religions principles etc.
- They must possess(have) the skills of understanding, clarifying and assessing the arguments which are against the moral issues.
- They must have the ability to suggest the solutions to moral issues, on the basis of facts. These suggestions must be consistent and must include all the aspects of the problem.
- They must have the imaginative skill to view the problems from all view points and also be able to suggest a proper alternative solution.

SKILLS FOR IMPROVING MORAL AUTONOMY

- They must be able to tolerate while giving moral judgments and decisions which may cause trouble.(i.e. they have to understand the difficulties in making moral decisions.)
- They must have adequate knowledge and understanding about the use of ethical language so as to defend or support their views with others.
- They must have some better knowledge in understanding the importance of suggestions and better solutions while resolving moral problems and also about the importance of tolerance on some critical situations.
- They must understand the importance of maintaining the moral honesty i.e. the personal convictions and beliefs and individual's professional life must be integrated. They must have this skill of doing so.