

UCS1704 – Management and Ethical Practices

UNIT – III

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

Semester – VII



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
- 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

* good moral qualities

Professional Responsibility

1. SELF DIRECTIONAL 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)

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 the most benefit to the most people outweighs the 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

- ✖ It 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 our 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.