

Types of Ethical Frameworks

The various types of ethical frameworks are classified as follows:

Let's delve into the classifications of ethical frameworks.

Ethical frameworks for AI can be categorized into two main types: sector-based and value-based frameworks.

1. Sector-based Frameworks:

These are frameworks tailored to specific sectors or industries. In the context of AI, one common sector-based framework is Bioethics, which focuses on ethical considerations in healthcare. It addresses issues such as patient privacy, data security, and the ethical use of AI in medical decision-making. Sector-based ethical frameworks may also apply to domains such as finance, education, transportation, agriculture, governance, and law enforcement.

2. Value-based Frameworks:

Value-based frameworks focus on fundamental ethical principles and values guiding decision-making. It reflects the different moral philosophies that inform ethical reasoning. Value-based frameworks are concerned with assessing the moral worth of actions and guiding ethical behaviour. They can be further classified into three categories:

- i. Rights-based: Prioritizes the protection of human rights and dignity, valuing human life over other considerations. It emphasizes the importance of respecting individual autonomy, dignity, and freedoms. In the context of AI, this could involve ensuring that AI systems do not violate human rights or discriminate against certain groups.
- ii. Utility-based: Evaluates actions based on the principle of maximizing utility or overall good,

aiming to achieve outcomes that offer the greatest benefit and minimize harm. It seeks to

maximize overall utility or benefit for the greatest number of people. In AI, this might involve

weighing the potential benefits of AI applications against the risks they pose to society, such as

job displacement or privacy concerns.

iii. Virtue-based: This framework focuses on the character and intentions of the individuals

involved in decision-making. It asks whether the actions of individuals or organizations align

with virtuous principles such as honesty, compassion, and integrity. In the context of AI, virtue

ethics could involve considering whether developers, users, and regulators uphold ethical

values throughout the AI lifecycle.

These classifications provide a structured approach for addressing ethical concerns in AI

development and deployment, ensuring that considerations relevant to specific sectors and

fundamental ethical values are adequately addressed.