

DEFINITIONS OF PE :

WHISTLEBLOWING:

Definition: Whistleblowing is the act of exposing or reporting unethical, illegal, or harmful activities within an organization by an employee or insider. A whistleblower typically brings attention to misconduct, fraud, corruption, safety violations, or other unethical practices that are either concealed or ignored by the organization. The individual usually reports this information to external authorities, such as regulators, law enforcement, or the media, when internal channels fail or are compromised

Cost-Benefit Analysis:

- Definition: Cost-benefit analysis is a decision-making process that compares the costs and benefits of a given action or project to determine its overall value or efficiency. In this process, both costs (e.g., financial, environmental, social) and benefits (e.g., economic gains, improved welfare) are quantified and compared. The action with the greatest net benefit (benefits minus costs) is typically considered the best option. It is commonly used in economics, business, and policy-making.

Rights Ethics:

- Definition: Rights ethics is an ethical theory that emphasizes the importance of protecting individual rights. According to this theory, people have inherent, fundamental rights that must be respected, such as the right to life, liberty, property, and privacy. Ethical actions are those that respect these rights, and everyone has a duty to ensure that they are not violated. Rights ethics was significantly influenced by philosophers like John Locke, who argued that respecting the rights of individuals is paramount, even when it may conflict with societal or utilitarian considerations.

Duty Ethics (Deontological Ethics):

Definition: Duty ethics, also known as deontological ethics, is an ethical theory that holds that people have moral obligations or duties, and ethical actions are those that fulfill these duties. Unlike utilitarianism, which focuses on the outcomes of actions, duty ethics focuses on the inherent morality of the actions themselves. Immanuel Kant is a major proponent of duty ethics, which argues that individuals have duties such as being honest, avoiding harm, and treating others fairly. These duties are universal and must be followed, regardless of the consequences. Conflict of interest

VIRTUE ETHICS

Definition: Virtue ethics is an ethical theory that focuses on the moral character of individuals rather than on specific actions or consequences. It emphasizes becoming a virtuous person by cultivating good character traits (virtues) such as honesty, loyalty, responsibility, trustworthiness, and fairness. According to virtue ethics, actions are considered morally right if they reflect and support virtuous traits, and wrong if they stem from vices such as dishonesty, irresponsibility, or disloyalty. The theory encourages

individuals to live in ways that foster positive character and moral excellence, seeking to develop personal integrity in both personal and professional life.

Ethics

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that addresses the concepts of right and wrong or good and evil. Ethics can also be called moral philosophy.

(Adjectives 'moral' and 'ethical' can be used fairly synonymously.)

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Personal ethics deals with how we treat others in our day-to-day lives. Professional, or business, ethics often involves choices on an organizational level rather than a personal level. Professional ethics is exercised when the problem involves a relationship between two corporations, between a corporation and the government, or between corporations and groups of individuals.

ENGINEERING ETHICS

Engineering ethics is the rules and standards governing the moral conduct of engineers in their role as professionals. Engineering ethics encompasses situations involving the practice of engineering. It is a philosophy that guides engineers as to how to conduct themselves in a professional capacity

Business Ethics:

Definition: Business ethics refers to the principles and standards that guide behavior in the world of business. It involves the application of ethical values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, and responsibility to business practices and decision-making. Business ethics ensures that companies operate in a morally sound manner, considering the welfare of stakeholders, including employees, customers, investors, communities, and the environment. It covers issues such as corporate governance, transparency, fair labor practices, environmental sustainability, and compliance with laws and regulations.

UTILITARIANISM:

Definition of Utilitarianism: Utilitarianism is a moral theory that suggests an action is good if it maximizes the well-being or happiness of the greatest number of people. Unlike other ethical approaches that focus on the individual, utilitarianism emphasizes the collective benefit of society as a whole. It aims for the greatest good for the greatest number, often requiring difficult decisions when the needs of the majority conflict with those of a minority.

Line Drawing:

Definition: Line drawing is an ethical analysis technique used to clarify ethical issues by creating a spectrum or continuum between two extremes: a clearly ethical action and a clearly unethical action. This method helps to determine where a particular situation falls between these two points by examining similarities and differences in relevant cases. For example, in engineering or business ethics, line drawing can help determine if a specific action is more aligned with ethical conduct or with unethical behavior by comparing it to clear examples of both.

Application: Line drawing is often used in situations where ethical boundaries are not clear, providing a structured way to assess whether an action is ethically acceptable by positioning it relative to extreme cases.

Flow Charting:

Definition: Flow charting is the process of using a visual diagram to map out the steps or decision points in a process, including ethical decision-making. It involves representing decisions and their potential consequences through various paths. In ethics, flow charts can illustrate the different outcomes of ethical choices and help identify where issues or conflicts may arise.

Application: In an ethical analysis, a flow chart can help track the consequences of each decision, providing a clear overview of how a particular ethical situation might unfold. It helps in organizing complex ethical issues by breaking them down into decision points that guide appropriate action.

Conflict Problems:

Definition: Conflict problems in ethics occur when there are competing moral obligations, principles, or interests that make it difficult to determine the right course of action. These problems arise when different ethical principles or duties clash, and resolving them requires careful consideration of the values and consequences involved. For instance, in a business context, there might be a conflict between upholding honesty with customers and maintaining confidentiality of company secrets.

Application: Conflict problems often require balancing conflicting values such as fairness vs. profitability, loyalty vs. honesty, or individual rights vs. societal welfare. Finding a resolution involves prioritizing one principle over another, which can be challenging.

Ethical Dilemma:

Definition: An ethical dilemma is a situation in which an individual or organization faces a difficult decision involving two or more conflicting moral principles, where choosing one course of action means violating another. Ethical dilemmas occur when there is no clear right or wrong answer, and all possible choices have significant ethical consequences. The dilemma forces the decision-maker to choose between competing ethical values, such as justice vs. mercy, or personal gain vs. public good.

Application: In professional settings, an ethical dilemma might involve choosing between protecting a whistleblower and maintaining loyalty to an employer, or between cost-cutting measures and ensuring worker safety. Ethical dilemmas require critical thinking and ethical reasoning to find the most morally justifiable solution.