

Question #02

Ethics and Types of Ethics

Ethics:

According To Oxford Dictionary:

"Moral principles that governs a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity."

"The branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles."

"neither metaphysics nor ethics is the home of religion."

According To Business Dictionary:

The basic concepts and fundamental principles of human's decent conduct. It includes study of universal values such as the essential equality of all men, and women, human or natural rights, obedience to the law of land, concern for health and safety and increasingly, also for the natural environment.

Types of Ethics:

Most general types of ethics are:

- Personal Ethics
- Social Ethics
- Religious Ethics
- Professional Ethics
- Business Ethics

Personal Ethics:

Personal ethics is any system that has been chosen in some way as a moral guide in the particular life style.

Social Ethics:

Standards that govern how members of a society are to deal with each other on issue such as fairness, justice, poverty and the rights of the individuals.

OR

The rightness of an action is based on the customs and norms of a particular society or community (e.g., the usual way things are done around here)

Religious Ethics:

Most religions have an ethical component, often derived from purported supernatural revelation or guidance.

According To Simon Blackburn,

For many people ethics is not only tied up with religion, but is completely settled by it. Such people do not need to think too much about ethics, because there is an authoritative code of instructions, a handbook of how to live.

Professional Ethics:

Professional ethics are principles that govern the behaviour of a person or group of persons in a business environment. Like values, professional ethics, provide rules on how a person should act towards other people and institutions in such an environment.

Business Ethics:

- Business ethics is the study of good or bad/evil, right and wrong, a just and unjust actions in business

- Although all managers face difficult ethical conflicts, applying clear guidelines resolves the vast majority of them.
- Ethical traditions that apply to business support through telling ~~the~~ truth, honesty, protection of life, respect for rights, fairness, and obedience of law.
- Eliminating unethical behaviour may be difficult, but knowing the rightness or wrongness of each action is usually easy.

Branches of Ethics

- Descriptive Ethics
- Normative Ethics
- Meta Ethics
- Applied Ethics

Descriptive Ethics:

Descriptive ethics deals with what people actually ~~was~~ believe (or made to believe) to be right or wrong, and accordingly holds up the human actions acceptable or not acceptable or punishable under a custom or law.

Normative Ethics:

Normative Ethics deals with "norms" or set of consideration how one should act.

Thus, it's a study of "ethical action" and set out rightness or wrongness of the actions. It is also called **Prescriptive Ethics**. The golden rule of normative ethics is

"doing to others as we want to do to us."

Types of Normative Ethics:

- Virtue Ethics of Aristotle
- Deontological Ethics of Kant
- Consequentialism (Utilitarianism) of Mill

Virtue Ethics:

Virtue ethics focuses on one's character and the virtues for determining or evaluating ethical behaviour.

Deontological Ethics:

Deontological ethics or duty ethics focuses on the rightness and wrongness of the actions rather than the consequences of those actions.

Consequentialism (Teleology):

Consequentialism or teleological ethics says that the morality of an action is contingent with the outcome of that action.

So morally right action will produce good outcome while morally wrong action produces bad outcome.

Meta Ethics

Meta ethics or analytical ethics deals with the origin of the ethical concepts themselves. It does not consider whether an action is good or bad, right or wrong. Rather, it questions what goodness or rightness or morality itself is. It is basically a highly abstract way of thinking about ethics.

Applied Ethics

Applied ethics deals with philosophical examinations, from a moral standpoint, of particular issues in private and public life which are matters of moral judgment.

This branch of ethics is most important for professionals in different walks of life. One type of ethics is cyber ethics also.

Cyber Ethics

It is the study of ethics pertaining to computers, covering user behavior and what computers are programmed to do, and how it affects individuals and society.