

Categorical Imperative :-

According to Kant, there is only one Categorical Imperative but it can have different forms. —

Two important Categorical Imperative →

- 1) Universalize your Maxim
(universality principle)

Always act on such a maxim that you can universalize without creating any contradiction in it.

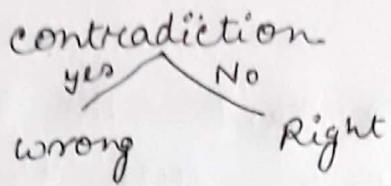
Maxim is a subjective principle which gives the reasons for our action.

Example

Example

Case of Making a false promise

- 1) Make a Maxim
I make a false promise, to fulfill my financial needs
Action / Means
Ends / purpose
 - 2) Universalize your Maxim
Everyone " " " " " " one's ...
 - 3) Check for any contradiction → contradiction means that universalise maxim will defeat its own purpose.



(Act in such a manner that you always maintain your Integrity.)

ii) "Treat Persons as End"

("Principle of humanity"
or
Humanity as end principle)

"Always act in

"Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of anyone else, never simply as a means but always at the same time as an end."

According to Kant, we can't base a moral law on any particular interest, purpose or end because in that case it will only be relative to the person whose end it serves.

The command of morality can be based only & only on that thing whose existence has an intrinsic or inherent value & which exists in itself.

According to Kant, the only thing that can have such an absolute & intrinsic value is the Humanity

Every rational being exists as an end in itself. rather than as a means for some arbitrary use. This is the fundamental difference between persons & things. Things have a relative & instrumental value. They are important because they serve a purpose. Once they stop serving that purpose they ^{lose} their value. Thus, they can be used merely as a means. But persons are Rational Being. They do not just have a relative value. Along with that they have an absolute & inherent value & because of that they have a dignity.

Things
↓
Price
Equivalence
Replaced

This categorical imperative commands us to Respect the Rational Being. It is our duty to respect the Rational Beings. & this respect has nothing to do with who in particular that person is.

(4)

Kantian respect differs from all other forms of human attachment like love, friendliness, sympathy, solidarity etc. because these are the moral sentiments which brings us closer to some people than to others. Kantian respect is the respect for humanity that resides in all of us in an undifferentiated form. This respect has nothing to do with anything particular about that person like who he is, where he is from, etc.

Using persons as means → Objectification
& commodification
of persons

Problem
with
Family Planning
in India

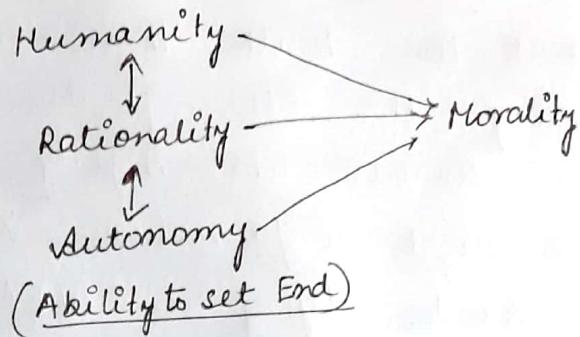
↓
Target Based
Approach

→ Dr.s bribe
the male
members in
the villages &
try to fulfill
the sterilisation
numbers of
women.

So, women
become the
means to
fulfill the
end of Target.

{ 98% → Women
Sterilisation
2% → men
Sterilisation
Due to Patriarchy

50.4%
choice based
Approach



Applications of Kantianism:

1) Suicide:

According to Kant, Suicide is wrong because in this person uses himself merely as a means to achieve the end of eliminating his own suffering. Respect for humanity includes the respect for the self as well.

Thus, according to Kant, Suicide & murder both are wrong & exactly for the same reason as well. There is no qualitative difference between the two.

2) Lying → Enslavement

According to Kant, Lying is wrong because in this we use the other person merely as a means

to achieve our ends. But when we speak the truth then along with using the other person as a means we respect his "Dignity" by giving him the right information. Thus, according to Kant, lying is ALWAYS wrong & Truth is always right.

ethical
controversy
in this arena

← Lying with Good Intention (white lie)
 " " Bad Intention → wrong.

Plato talks about
"Noble lie"
for benefit of people
by philosopher King.
This is a paternalistic philosophy.

Mill →
Soft-Paternalism

• Gandhi says lying is a form of violence.
Truth & non-violence are always related.

Nietzsche
→ negative consequences of lying

- ↘ trust.
- ↘ relationship creates distance.
- ↘ Reduces our freedom.
- ↗ Distance — lonely • weakness
- ↗ waives creative energy

- increases cognitive burden.

According to Kant,

- Morality is not Prescriptive.
Morality is proscriptive (always tells what not to do)

But sometimes doing the right thing or speaking truth may become very difficult. In such cases also we should not lie or do the wrong. But in such cases, we can try to find a third way out like speaking a deceptive truth. This very attempt to find a third way & uphold the values of truth & morality will give some moral value to our action.

3) Prostitution/ casual sex / Adultery :-

According to Kant, Prostitution is wrong because in this both the men & the women use the body of the women merely as a means to achieve the end of satisfying their sexual desire or earning money.

same argument applies to Pornography

Moral → commitment → Promise-Making

4. Sale of Organ ↗ wrong
 vs
Donation of organ ↗ Right with proper precautions in certain cases

5. Surrogacy → Altruistic → in some cases Right
 → commercial → wrong

6. Euthanasia : ↗ Passive ✓
 ↗ Active X

* (we can't use anyone as a mere means to achieve certain other ends)

* we can't put price on human lives. As it is all about Dignity which can't be compromised.

①

