**Part 1:** Which of the ethical frameworks that we have explored, i.e.,

* utilitarianism
* deontology
* feminist ethics/ethics of care
* virtue ethics
* Confucian ethics
* African ethics

seem(s) to be most in play in your reflections and decision making? Explain your response here with some care, giving an example or two that makes clear for yourself (and your readers) how your analyses and resolutions fit the patterns and approaches of a given ethical framework.

Part 2: Choose a framework that seems very far away from your own ethical starting points (defined in part 1). Take up the example(s) given in part 1 and, as best you can, provide an analysis and resolution of the issue using this alternative framework. How far are the results similar to and/or different for the results using your original ethical theory/theories?

Part 3: How do you respond to these differences? That is, given what we've now learned about

* ethical relativism
* ethical monism/absolutism
* ethical pluralism

which of these three meta-ethical frameworks are you most likely/able to apply to any differences that may emerge between the analyses and resolutions you have developed in parts 1 and 2?

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Response

**Part 1:**

The ethical framework I most identify with comprises the Confucian ethics. Confucian ethics provides a lens into the different roles of a person. As humans, we essay several roles and each of these need a specific approach to ethics and moral values. Confucian ethics puts the emphasis on the relational aspect of the being and considers the human being analogous to the layers of an onion. Individual layers indicate major facets of a person’s being. As opposed to the Confucian approach, Christianity subscribes to a fissiparous view where the soul and the body are considered discrete. While the body develops and changes through worldly experiences, the real self remains the same through time. Achieving perfect harmony between the soul and the body is completely predicated by an individual.

The Confucian thought emphasizes on humans as self and based on the multiple roles that they slip into in the social construct. Each role or relationship is unique in terms of the dynamic between the people involved. A person cannot be crudely considered a single entity. A lot of elements need to synergize for a person to function effectively and achieve professional and personal goals. Citing the example of a tree through its gestation, vertical growth is largely dependent on the scattering of the root system and ability to interlink with soil particles and nourish the shoot. As the tree increases in girth, height and branches out, it is pertinent for the root system to expand in strength. Drawing parallels to one’s life, I am of the conviction that professional ascent should not be at the expense of tradeoffs in other pivotal aspects of life. Not losing sight of what matters and honing abilities to achieve a fully formed personality are steps towards attaining an exemplary stance. It is imperative to believe that human is not the center of being and not all of God’s creation is meant to serve the human. Relationships are vastly codependent and thrive with nurture. Believing that human existence serves a greater purpose, intrinsic elements of one’s personality need to be sustained.

As an example, to illustrate this thought, I would like to consider the different constituents of my life as a graduate student. I have a multitude of roles ranging from professional roles such as that of a student and a researcher to personal roles that I have always essayed like that of a son, brother and a friend. I believe that sustaining these roles and performing them dutifully are essential to my well-being. I need success in all these to fuel my professional aspirations and develop me in all dimensions. As an international graduate student thousands of miles away from my parents, it is very easy for me to become preoccupied and busy with my own chores and studies. Despite the difficult time difference of 12 hours, I like spending quality time conversing with my parents daily and connecting with them on events happening back home and be a part of their lives. Maintaining my relations help me sustain and thrive in all my other roles. I gather positivity from these aspects and feed it into other aspects to make me a better person overall. For instance, I always like to know what are the different things that my mother or father do in a day and their experiences though knowing that would not help me in any direct way. On the flip side, a negative experience in my relationships can dampen my sense of well-being and I make all efforts to set it right. Whenever I get into petty quarrels with my sister back home, I make it my utmost priority to take the time to hear her out and patch up before the issue gets out of hand. All these aspects help me develop skills that are transferable to the community I am part of at school as well. Being part of a community and nurturing relationships impart in me a sense of harmony and well-being.

**Part 2:**

On the contrary, a utilitarian view of life which emphasizes the cost-benefit analysis to the greatest number of people is not a view I entirely subscribe to. I believe that experiences and relationships are multi-dimensional and complicated to be boxed into a single console. For example, applying a utilitarian view to the aforementioned instance would jeopardize my personal relationships in the pursuit of career advancement. Therefore, despite knowing that sustaining relations takes time away from my role as a student or a researcher, I nonetheless focus on developing all these aspects of my life as a whole and not putting one above the other. As a consequence of this, I might not be able to do well on a test or homework due tomorrow if there is a glitch in my relationships but I am likely to be in peace with myself if I practice cultivating harmony in them. This helps me not lose sight of the big picture and provides a sense of contentment and satisfaction. Furthermore, character, which comprises all the values, virtues and conduct I practice is of utmost importance to me and I see to it that I practice utmost propriety and integrity in my relationships. This, I strongly feel can be developed by practicing helping one attain excellence as a human being. This for me, is the idea of success and not the one attained through fame or wealth or professional brilliance alone. The harmony of the wholeness of being is central to my idea of success. Modesty and Integrity of being are cornerstones of this notion which is based on being a part of something bigger than myself.

**Part 3:**

Applying the idea of meta-ethical frameworks, I learn that in a multi-cultural and multi-articular society one must assimilate all the different experiences and account for the diversity of people. This is crucial when I consider and evaluate my relationships with people. For instance, in the research group to which I belong, there are 3 people from Taiwan, 2 people from the USA, 1 person from Bangladesh and I am from India. So, it is quite natural to expect differences in the way we view things because of the different lens through which we view them owing primarily to the different experiences we have had in our lives. For example, we differ in the way we think and write about aspects of research projects, but it is important to understand everyone’s perspective since research is not marginal and is applicable across the board to all the subsections of society. Thus, while we are considerate and tolerant of our differences, we also keep in mind the fact that there are some norms and standards we adhere to as a group to ensure we have the highest chances of success. For instance, all of us understand and know that compromising on the quality of research is a strict no and that everyone deserves a patient ear to listen to their views and opinions before judging them. Thus, I make a conscious effort to practice ethical pluralism since it is the way forward in this pluralistic society.