
Unit 2: Research Questions, the Literature Review and the Research Proposal

Peer Response 3:

Collaborative Discussion 1: Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct

In reply to Mohammed Younes

Peer response

by Andrius Busilas - Monday, 3 February 2025, 3:46 PM

Hi Mohammed,

Thank you for your interesting reading. Your post outlined the ethical assessment of Max's workplace misconduct, which aligns closely with ethical standards in corporate governance, particularly regarding leadership responsibility, honesty, and ethical organizational culture. This comparison is especially relevant when considering the ACM and BCS Codes of Ethics (BCS, 2022; ACM, N.D.).

Ethical leadership is the cornerstone of corporate governance. The UK Corporate Governance Code (FRC, 2018) underscores the importance of boards in promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability. Leaders are expected to cultivate environments that encourage respect, fairness, and ethical conduct, areas where Max has fallen short. His abusive actions, including verbal mistreatment and unfair attribution of work, violated the principles essential for a healthy, productive work environment.

When viewed through the lens of the ACM Code of Ethics, Max's behaviour infringes upon Principle 1.1 (avoiding harm), Principle 1.5 (honouring property rights), and Principle 2.2 (maintaining professional competence and conduct) (ACM, N.D.). In the corporate sphere, similar actions would be seen as governance failures, potentially resulting in legal repercussions for harassment, discrimination, or breach of fiduciary duties, depending on jurisdiction.

From a social perspective, Max's toxic leadership undermines team morale, trust, and cooperation, mirroring how unethical corporate leaders erode company culture and stakeholder trust. Professionally, his conduct tarnishes the organization's image,

discourages top talent, and diminishes productivity – issues that corporate governance codes aim to prevent by emphasizing ethical leadership and accountability.

Ethical leadership is crucial in corporate and computing environments to maintain organizational integrity and employee well-being. Leaders must be held responsible not only for business outcomes but also for their methods, fostering environments grounded in respect, fairness, and ethical behaviour.

References:

ACM (N.D.) Case study: Abusive Workplace Behavior. Association for Computing Machinery. Available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics/case-studies/abusive-workplace-behavior> [Accessed: 02 February 2025].

BCS (2022) Code of Conduct for BCS Members. BCS. Available from: <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed: 02 February 2025].

Financial Reporting Council (FRC) (2018). The UK Corporate Governance Code. Available at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/> [Accessed: 02 February 2025].