**DETAILED REPORT**

(In partial fulfillment of the requirements in COMP 2063)

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**A. Ethics3**

Definition and Other Important Terms3

Branches of Ethics3

Ethics Theories4

Professional Ethics5

B. Ethics in the Business World6

Normative Business Ethics6

Descriptive Business Ethics6

C. Ethics in Information and Technology6

Ethical Issues Relating to Computer Application6

Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics8

**References9**

1. **ETHICS**

**Definition and Other Important Terms**

Ethics, in common knowledge, deals with the observation of what is right and what is wrong. It is the study of the moral beliefs. It is derived from the Greek word “ethos” (ήθος), meaning “moral character”. Breaking down this phrase, we will have two independent words – *moral*, and *character*. Moral is a social rule from the society, meaning it is the rule that people can accept and follow. And character is the inner-driven view of one’s self. (Tzafestas, 2016)

Other terms that may be related to ethics are virtues, and attitude. Attitude is a person’s settled way of feeling or thinking about something. Virtue will be discussed in the further subtopics.

**Branches**

According to the book written by Tzafestas, ethics has three branches. These are:

* Meta ethics
* Normative ethics
* Applied ethics

**Meta ethics.** It is one of the fundamental branches which examines the nature of morality in general, including something that will justify the moral judgement. It bases on facts.

**Normative ethics.** It is the ethics which focuses on the good life, on how a person will live or act. It attempts to provide a rule on what a person should do or not, or simply, it attempts to place a standard where a person can compare if his action is morally acceptable.

**Applied ethics.** It is a branch of ethics wherein ethical theories are applied in actual life. Some of these applications are medical ethics, business ethics, legal ethics, etc.

**Theories**

**Virtue Theory (Aristotle).** It is concerned with the building of good personality. Virtue comes from the Greek word “areti” (αρετή, Latin: Virtus), meaning “excellence of a person”. The one who applies the virtues is called a virtuous agent. Virtue theory tells that “an action is right if it is what a virtuous agent would do in the situation at hand”.

**Deontological Theory (Kant).** The term deontology is derived from the Greek word “deontologia” (δεοντολογία) which is composed by two words “deon” (δέον, meaning: duty/obligation/right) and “logos” (λόγος, meaning: study).This theory is based on obligation, duties, and rights.

**Utilitarian Theory (Mill).** This theory focuses on the evaluation of actions to reach a certain goal or the “greatest good”.

**Justice as Fairness Theory (John Rawls, 1921-2002).** Combination of utilitarian and deontological theory, wherein it focuses on two divisions. The first one is the liberty principle, which refers to the right of every individual to the very basic type of liberty which is acceptable by others. The second one is the difference principle, which pertains to the differences of people if there are office positions attached to them. To summarize, Rawl’s theory talks about the respect for people, considering their status in life.

**Egoism Theory.** This theory focuses on one’s pleasure or for one’s sake only. It is derived from the Greek word “ego” (εγώ) meaning “myself”.

**Professional Ethics.**

It provides guidance for the professionals for them to serve the society well. One example of the oldest professional ethics is the *Hippocrates Oath*, wherein it is stated that a physician must not hurt his patient.

Other professional ethics of the modern-day world include the following:

* The code of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
* The code of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
* The code of the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
* The code for robotics engineers developed by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

1. **ETHICS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD**

Business ethics (also known as corporate ethics) is a form of applied ethics or professional ethics, that examines ethical principles and moral or ethical problems that can arise in a business environment. It applies to all aspects of business conduct and is relevant to the conduct of individuals and entire organizations. These ethics originate from individuals, organizational statements or from the legal system. These norms, values, ethical, and unethical practices are what is used to guide business. They help those businesses maintain a better connection with their stakeholders.

Business ethics refers to contemporary organizational standards, principles, sets of values and norms that govern the actions and behavior of an individual in the business organization. Business ethics have two dimensions, normative business ethics or descriptive business ethics. As a corporate practice and a career specialization, the field is primarily normative. Academics attempting to understand business behavior employ descriptive methods. The range and quantity of business ethical issues reflects the interaction of profit-maximizing behavior with non-economic concerns.

**Normative Business Ethics**. Normative ethics is about intrinsic value, right and wrong, and/or virtues. Normative ethics is about what actually has overriding importance for determining how we ought to act. Even if you want a million dollars, you ought not kill innocent people in order to get a million dollars in return. Etiquette is often said to be similar to normative ethics, except etiquette is not of overriding importance. Burping is considered to be rude, but it is not that big of a deal.

**Descriptive Business Ethics**. Descriptive ethics is about what motivates pro-social behavior, how people reason about ethics, what people believe to have overriding importance, and how societies regulate behavior (such as by punishing people for doing certain actions). We know that empathy helps motivate pro-social behavior (such as giving to charity) and we know that our beliefs about what has overriding importance is somewhat based on the culture we live in.

1. **ETHICS IN INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Ethical Issues Relating to Computer Application**

1. Security Threats
   1. Computer Viruses
   2. Cyber Crime
   3. Software piracy and Hacking
   4. Computer crime prevention
   5. Ethical dilemmas and consideration
2. Computer Ethics

* Computer ethics defined as the application of classical ethical principles to the use of computer technology.
* Ethical problems related to computers:
  1. Privacy
* Computers create a false sense of security
* People do not realize how vulnerable information stored on computers are –
  + - * 1. Property
* Physical property
* Intellectual property
* Data as property
  + - * 1. Access
* Access to computing technology
* Access to data
  + - * 1. Accuracy
* Accuracy of information stored

Hacking, cracking and virus creation

Software piracy

**Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics**

The Ten Commandments of computer ethics have been defined by the Computer Ethics Institute.

1. Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.
2. Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
3. Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's files.
4. Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
5. Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
6. Thou shalt not use or copy software for which you have not paid.
7. Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization.
8. Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
9. Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you write.
10. Thou shalt use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect.

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