

RAJKUMAR MONE

PRESENTS

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

AND

CASE STUDIES

IN

ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

# Ethical Dilemmas

**Let's play some quick game to understand what an ethical dilemma is!**

**I ask you a question, you can pause the video, think for a few seconds to come up with a possible answer. And then compare your answer with mine...**

**Ready?**

# Ethical Dilemmas

- You're the DM of a district in Kashmir.
  - Army has captured a teenager who has information regarding a terrorist attack
  - When the boy refuses to talk, the Army wants to use 'third degree torture' to get the information.
  - Torturing a minor suspect is against your moral beliefs and law.
- ➔ What would you do?

# Ethical Dilemmas

- You're the auditor of a company.
  - You discover that a senior employee, who is also a friend has been diverting company's money.
  - Reporting the scam will destroy your friend's life.
  - But hiding the matter can damage your company's trust.
- ➔ What would you do?

# Ethical Dilemmas

- You're a doctor working in a remote village.
  - Two patients arrive in critical condition:
    - One patient is an 80-year-old woman, the mother of the local leader.
    - The other is a 30-year-old man, the sole breadwinner of his family of 4 dependents.
  - You only have one life-saving treatment left.
- ➔ Whom would you save?

# Ethical Dilemmas

- You're the officer in charge of awarding a government contract.
  - A local don offers you a bribe to secure the contract. No other bidder wants to risk his life by opposing the don's bid.
  - Refusing the bribe would hurt development in the area.
  - Accepting it is against your ethics and the law.
- ➔ What would you do?"

# Ethical Dilemmas

- **An ethical dilemma is a situation where a person has to choose between two or more options, and each option has both right and wrong aspects attached to it.**
- **No choice is entirely right or entirely wrong.**
- **The line between right and wrong is blurred.**
- **Sometimes, the choice could be between two right actions, requiring you to decide which is more right.**

# Ethical Dilemmas

- Sometimes, a wrong action may seem like the right thing to do whereas a right action may appear insensitive.
- Sometimes, the choice could be between two wrong actions, requiring you to decide which is more wrong and harmful.
- In such cases, it is difficult to decide what the morally correct action is.
- You have to prioritize your values and principles to make a decision.



# Ethical Dilemmas

- ✓ An **ethical dilemma** is a situation where you have to choose between two or more actions, but **none of the choices feels completely right**.
- ✓ It's like being stuck between a rock and a hard place, where every option has a downside, and it's tough to decide what's best.
- ✓ It's a situation when you're faced with a **difficult choice between right and right, wrong and wrong, or even right and wrong**, but both options have merits and demerits.



# Ethical Dilemmas

**You can consider the following points while making the right decision:**

- 1.Think about the consequences:** What will happen to everyone involved?
- 2.Stick to your values:** Be honest, fair, and do what feels morally right.
- 3.Follow the law:** Make sure your decision is legal and follows rules.
- 4.Look at both sides:** Choose between helping the most people or doing what's fair to each individual.
- 5.Be compassionate:** Imagine how others would feel in the situation.
- 6.Ask for advice:** Talk to people you trust for different perspectives.
- 7.Be open:** Can you explain your decision to others without feeling guilty?
- 8.Stay consistent:** Make choices that match your past decisions and principles.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

Rajesh is a civil servant in charge of disaster relief in a district hit by severe floods. The government has provided him with a limited supply of food and medicines. He must decide where to send the relief first:

**1.Village A** – a small, remote village with 200 people, mostly elderly and children, in desperate need of supplies.

**2.Town B** – a larger town with 1,000 people, where conditions are tough but not yet critical.

Rajesh knows if he sends the supplies to **Village A**, the immediate crisis for vulnerable people will be averted, but **Town B** might face severe shortages soon. If he prioritizes **Town B**, the larger population will be helped, but the vulnerable people in **Village A** could face serious consequences.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma



<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/rescue-team-with-rescue-helicopter-and-boat-rescue-gm1043376212-279295110>



<https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/humanitarian-aid-box-with-food-supplies-hygiene-products-medicines->

[C](#)  
[C](#)



[https://www.shutterstock.com/search/flood-worker?image\\_type=illustration](https://www.shutterstock.com/search/flood-worker?image_type=illustration)  
2502864673



<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/rescue-team-vector-illustration-cartoon-character-gm1069895154-286213320>

<https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/rescue-worker-flood>



<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/rain-flooded-the-city-gm959860030-262115407>

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Discussion Points:

- Should Rajesh prioritize the **vulnerable smaller group** or the **larger population**?
- How does he balance **immediate need** vs. **potential future need**?
- What would you do in his place, and why?

➔ This case challenges the balance between:

- ✓ helping a few vulnerable people now, or
- ✓ saving more people from a future crisis

➔ What would you do?



# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/rear-view-businessman-front-crossroad-fork-1069268519>



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/businessman-having-choose-between-two-different-741258577>



<https://stock.adobe.com/images/choose-your-way-woman-standing-at-crossroads-taking-important-decision/335699141>

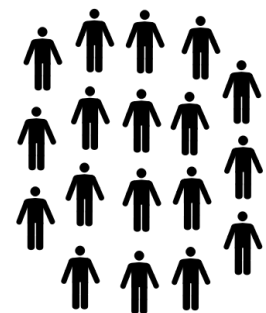


<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/business-meeting-negotiations-foreign-partner-investor-1396807424>



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/indian-rural-village-gathering-discussion-20521-1976537003>

Many



Few



[https://openclipart.org/detail/216524/many-and-few#google\\_vignette](https://openclipart.org/detail/216524/many-and-few#google_vignette)

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Conflicting Values

### 1. Utilitarianism vs. Deontological Ethics:

- ✓ **Utilitarianism** is about doing what brings the greatest good for the greatest number. It's like choosing what's best for the group, not just for one person... or for a large number of people as opposed to a few people. Prioritizing Town B, where a larger population (1,000 people) could benefit, aligns with the utilitarian principle of maximizing the overall good. Helping a greater number of people reduces the risk of a more widespread crisis later.
- ✓ **Deontological Ethics** requires doing the right thing because it's your responsibility or duty, even if it leads to a bad outcome. Deontologists ask, "Is this the right thing to do based on rules or principles?" Helping Village A, which has more vulnerable groups like the elderly and children, aligns with the deontological approach of prioritizing those in desperate, immediate need, regardless of the overall numbers. This reflects a duty to protect the most vulnerable, even if the total number of beneficiaries is smaller.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Conflicting Values

### 2. Equity vs. Equality:

- ✓ **Equality** means **treating everyone the same** and giving them the same opportunities or resources, regardless of their individual needs or circumstances. Imagine giving **everyone the same size pair of shoes** whereas some people's feet are too big or too small. Town B, represents an equal distribution of resources where more people are helped, and future critical shortages are averted. But, this approach ignores those with immediate needs.
- ✓ **Equity** means **giving people what they need** based on their individual situations. It's about fairness by recognizing different needs of people. **Equity would mean giving each person a pair of shoes that fits their feet.** That way, everyone can walk comfortably because they got what they specifically needed. Sending supplies to Village A may align with the principle of equity, which focuses on giving help based on the severity of the need. The village's population—mostly elderly and children—is particularly vulnerable.



# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Conflicting Values

### 3. Short-term Relief vs. Long-term Stability:

- ✓ **Short-term Relief:** Providing immediate assistance to Village A addresses the urgent crisis and helps those who cannot survive without immediate aid.
- ✓ **Long-term Stability:** Addressing the less urgent but growing needs in Town B helps ensure stability for a larger population in the future, potentially preventing a more significant disaster.



➔ Rajesh's decision will involve balancing these competing values and considering the ethical framework that he believes should guide his actions in this dilemma.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Assess the Immediate Needs

- **Village A:** The population is small but includes mostly elderly and children, who are at higher risk in disaster situations. Immediate relief could prevent severe health consequences and potential loss of life.
- **Town B:** Larger population, and although conditions are tough, they are not yet critical. Relief here could help a larger number of people, but the situation might not be as dire as Village A's.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Consider the Impact of Each Option

- **Sending Supplies to Village A:** Provides immediate relief to a highly vulnerable group, potentially saving lives and preventing a severe crisis. However, it might leave Town B in a precarious situation if the relief is not provided soon.
- **Sending Supplies to Town B:** Addresses the needs of a larger population and might prevent the situation from worsening. However, it risks leaving Village A in a critical condition, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Explore Possible Compromises

- **Staggered Relief:** Consider sending a smaller portion of supplies to Village A immediately to address the most urgent needs, while planning to send the remainder to Town B as soon as possible.
- **Local Assistance:** If possible, coordinate with local resources or NGOs to provide temporary relief to Village A while the main supplies are directed to Town B.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## **Make the Decision Based on Prioritization**

- . **Priority to Village A:** Given the presence of vulnerable populations and the immediate risk to their well-being, it might be more ethical to prioritize Village A. The potential loss of life and health issues could be more severe if not addressed promptly.
- . **Plan for Town B:** Ensure that a plan is in place to address Town B's needs as soon as additional supplies or resources become available.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

## Resolution

Rajesh should:

- ✓ send the relief supplies to Village A due to the immediate and severe risk to vulnerable populations
  - ✓ develop a contingency plan to send additional supplies to Town B to ensure that their needs are met and that they do not face a critical shortage in the near future
- ➔ This approach balances immediate humanitarian needs with long-term planning.

# Case Study: The Flood Relief Dilemma

**Would you have resolved the dilemma any differently?**

**Tell us HOW?**

# Let's Sum Up...

**In this video/session, we learned that:**

- ✓ An ethical dilemma occurs when you face a tough choice, where no option is completely right or wrong.
- ✓ These dilemmas often involve a conflict between right vs wrong, right vs. right or wrong vs. wrong.
- ✓ Civil servants are required to make such decisions that can impact vulnerable group.
- ✓ Some conflicting values involved can be:
  - Utilitarianism vs. Deontological Ethics: Greatest good for the most people vs. duty to help the vulnerable.
  - Equity vs. Equality: Helping those in immediate need vs. distributing resources fairly to all.
  - Short-term Relief vs. Long-term Stability: Immediate help for the vulnerable vs. preventing future crises for more people.