

1- Kantian Ethics / Immanuel Kant Moral Philosophy:-

→ This theory was given by Immanuel Kant. He was a German philosopher.

Comparison:-

→ Utilitarianism: According to this philosophy, consequences of an action decides that action is moral or not. If consequences have maximum pleasure for maximum number of people so that action is moral. But consequences have maximum pain or unhappiness so that action is immoral.

→ For example, we ~~steal~~^{take} money from rich person and distribute to the poor people, so according to the utilitarianism our action is moral because due to this process maximum number of people have maximum pleasure.

→ Kant Moral philosophy

According to this philosophy, motives of an action decides that action is moral or not.

Why Motives?

When we perform any action, so the consequences of that action may be positive or negative.

For example, a child is drowning and I am going to save the child. But I cannot to save the child. And according to utilitarianism this is not a moral action because in which maximum number of people have pain because I cannot save the child.

→ According to Kant, motive can rightly define the morality of our action.

→ For example, A child is drowning and I tried to save the child but child was drowned. people were standing around the child and I jumped to the pool for saving the child. If I am doing this action for popularity, so according to the Kant, this action is immoral. According to Kant, If I am doing this action due to compassion, so that action is also immoral.

Kant says that, If you saved the child as a sense of your

duty, so your action is moral, ~~but~~ although the consequences of your action is negative.

→ According to Kant, sense of duty is a right motive.

Moral Action:-

According to Kant, moral action is one which is performed out of a sense of duty rather than some kind of feelings, personal gains or any other motive.

Example:-

If we do charity for popularity and due to compassion, so according to Kant, that action is not moral. But we do charity as a sense of duty, ~~so~~ than according to Kant, that action is moral.

Maxim:- → A sentence expressing general rule of behavior is called maxim. For instance, do not lie, work hard if you want to be successful, you will be rewarded if you help needy people are all maxim.

→ Kant described the intentions behind any act as the maxim. The maxim is the general principle underlying the action.

Hypothetical vs categorical Imperative :-

(commands)

→ Hypothetical Imperatives :- → (conditional commands)

→ Moral commands that are conditional and based on personal desires or motives are called hypothetical imperatives.

→ For example, If you want to be respected, then you ought to respect others.

→ It is conditional maxims.

→ Kant says that, being human, there are certain categorical duties we must obey unconditionally. He has problems with hypothetical imperatives.

Categorical Imperatives :- → (Absolutely clear commands)

→ Moral commands that you must follow as a duty irrespective of your desires and other motives are called categorical

2. The imperatives. For instance, you ought always to respect others because it is your duty to do so.

→ It is unconditional maxims.

→ According to Kant, conversion of hypothetical imperatives into categorical imperatives.

Hypothetical imperatives

→

categorical imperatives

1. If you want to avoid going to prison, then you ought not to kill anyone

1- you ought never to kill anyone.

2- You will be rewarded, if you help needy people.

2- Always help those in need, because it is your duty to do

→ Universalizability:-

Act only on those maxims which you can at the same time, want to apply to everybody or want to be universal laws. In which, you are taking the responsibility of your actions.

Example:- → I want to steal money because I am poor. It is a maxim. When we apply the principle of universalizability on this maxim, so that result concludes that, everyone can steal money if they are poor.

Means and Ends:-

Kant says that, treat other people as ends in themselves, never as means to achieve an end.

→ He says that, don't use other people for your personal goals. According to him, it is wrong that you use humans as a means. For example, if someone is pleasant to you simply because they know that you can give them a job. Then, they are treating you as means to get that job, and not as a person in itself.

Criticisms of Kantian Ethics:-

- * Degradation of emotions or feelings.
- * conflict of duties

* Degradation of emotions or feelings:-

Kant says that, actions we perform, is moral only in this way, that perform as a sense of duty. When a child is drowning and we save the child due to compassion. According to Kant, it is not a moral action. According to him, people perform action due to sympathy and compassion, these actions are not moral. But critics say that, we cannot neglect the feeling of sympathy because everyone has the feeling of sympathy.

→ So, sympathy, compassion, love and guilt cannot be separated from morality.

* Conflict of duties:-

We have one maxim to tell truth. On the other side, we have another maxim to protect humans. In the moral philosophy of Kant, two duties will come at the same time, so confliction is produced.

→ For example, a mad man with an axe and is running behind

the people to beat them. And people come into my home and after sometime, a mad man comes at the door of my house and asks me where are those people? And that time we have two duties, to tell the truth and to protect humans. And that time what will I do? So, conflict of duties is a major criticism of the Kant moral philosophy.