

## Issue Study: Moral Machine

Before I started the quiz I recalled the definitions of the two main ethical theories and the two types of rights discussed in our class. Deontology basically meant that good will always be considered good and bad will always be bad. It states that the nature of an action is already set and it can only be explicitly good or bad, not both. On the other hand, utilitarianism determines if an action is good or bad based on the consequences of the action. It states that if an action leads to good results then it is said to be good and if the results are bad then it is said to be bad. It is more lenient on the judgement and can differ from one situation to another. For example, if one person is faced with a bad and a more bad option and that person chooses the bad option then utilitarianism will set that action as good. When I read one of the situations on the Moral Machine Assessment I came across two choices where people were crossing the road and should I consider to switch lanes or not. I read the descriptions provided and learned that one group of people were breaking the law by crossing on red light while the other group had the right of way because of the green light. I chose to save the group that was abiding by the law because they are good citizens. The rest of the questions in the set required me to make decisions. In one case I had to choose between law-abiding male athlete and a female athlete who was breaking the law by crossing on red. The first thought that came to my mind is she is not a good citizen and then I thought about the pay gap between the athletes. I also considered the popularity of the athletes in our society. All this thought process was based on utilitarianism as there was no good or bad choice. Both choices resulted into harm. I realized that deontology only works some times because it doesn't always show us a solution to a situation. As humans I think we need that

positive satisfaction after we make a choice. When we are faced with two bad situations we always try to compare both situations and choose which one is more beneficial and less destruction. We can use the definition of deontology to determine if one situation is better than the other but for two good situations or two bad situation we have to consider utilitarianism. For example, in one situation I had homeless people on one side and on the other side I had athletes and doctors. At first I thought of it through the theory of deontology but since both situations caused harm I looked at it on the basis of utilitarianism. This situation made me think of what will be beneficial for our society and the future. I chose to save the athletes and doctors. Since, utilitarianism allows us to make a choice between two bad situations I could pick an option and move forward to the next one. If I would have only thought of it through the theory of deontology I wouldn't have been able to make a decision or would have made a decision that would label me bad forever. Hence, for our society to work efficiently we need to use deontology in conjunction with utilitarianism. In real life, the positive rights are preserved when somebody does something for us to retain those rights whereas the negative rights are the rights accessible without having somebody do something. In the virtual world, however, the roles of the positive and negative rights are switched. This is because we need somebody to give us access to these rights through blog site, social media, etc. I think the two theories and rights are reflected in the tech industry because we have to make an ethical choice in situations we have been provided. This helps in the decision making while working alone and in a team which is important in life and for the society. I was not surprised by the statistics because it reflected my morals and ethics. It showed my thinking process and who or what I give more importance to.