UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

COURSE TITLE: DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

COURSE CODE: DS 112

SEMINAR INSTURCTOR: MADAM SUZANNA

SEMINAR DAY: MONDAY

SEMINAR TIME: 12:00 – 13:00

SEMINAR VENUE: SR - 09

TYPE OF WORK: GROUP ASSIGNMENT

DEGREE PROGRAM: BSc. COMPUTER SCIENCE

PARTICIPANT

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QUESTION:

1. It is one thing to design ethical precepts and institutions, quite another to educate or persuade citizens and leaders to live by those ethical precepts. "with examples from any countries of your choice, justify the validity of this statement.

Ethics is described in oxford English dictionary as "moral principles that govern a person behavior or the conducting of any activity", this is to say most the things that human do or perform are governed by ethics that control their daily activities. Percepts in Wikipedia is defined as "commitments to abstain from killing living beings, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying and intoxication". Ethical precepts are therefore a set of ethical codes of conduct or principles which social worker should observe when delivering services to target groups. The following are the point to justify the validity of the statement as described.

Integrity. It explains about being honest in what is kept under your command and trustworthy. Taking Banks as one of the institutions. There are some of the people who have been given the mandate of controlling in flow and outflow of money (bursaries) regardless of the trust encamped in them some of them go far even in stealing the money that was kept under them and hence leads into hardness in maintaining the ethical as prescribed.

Competence, is described as the ability to do something successfully or efficiently. Therefore, as one of the ethical precepts it explains as being excellent in your field by giving out all that you have. Taking in consideration Schools as one of institutions, it's so said That specific teachers should teach on their specific subjects regardless of what happens but this is not seen due some conditions where you might find that some teachers are forced to teach subjects that they are not professional into which leads to breaking of those ethics precept.

Objectivity. This is also one of the ethical precepts, this is the quality or character of being objective at which it involves lack of favoritism toward one side or another. Objectivity is critical when a company begins an investigation into a matter that happened at the workplace. For example, from our country if an employee complaint of sexual harassment from another employee, the company would use objective methods to verify these complaints without any favoritism. But in the other side most of the employees regardless they find guilt to his colleague they tend to favor one side more than the other.

Dignity and worth of the person. This also justifies the validity of the statement as it involves responsibility of social workers to treat people in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Example of institution in our country which have this dignity and worth of the people is University of Dar es Salaam where by lectures tend to respect students and themselves in all fields in provision of services. But also, in the hospitals where doctors and nurses need to keep secrets of his or her patient disease information to other people. When people's dignity is not respected then their privacy was not respected too during intimate care.

Presence of Communication Barriers. We all communicate in our daily lives so as to portray our feelings and messages to those around us. As we know that Ethics touches all the spheres; social, political, economical, environmental etc. we find ourselves, directly and/or indirectly, communicating numerous numbers of messages concerning Ethics. But when this communication encounters a barrier, it will be very hard to give out a prosperous message (educating and/or persuading) to our fellow citizens and leaders too. For instance; Use of jargon, Emotional barriers and taboos, Differences in perception and viewpoints, Physical disabilities, Cultural differences, Psychological barriers, Attitudinal barriers, and Semantic barriers all forms/examples of Communication Barriers. When one of them occurs, the message (educating and/or persuading) will be affected too and in turn making citizens and/or leaders not to follow the Ethics made/designed. Well, Technological backwardness too, affecting most of African countries, makes citizens not aware of these Ethics and thus not putting them in practice.

Confidentiality. These are ethical principle or legal right that a professional will hold secret all information that has been disclosed to them and is under their control appropriately. Different organizations and company have got important information that is not to be kept public. Example the Coca Cola brand in Tanzania has got formula that is not known by all of its workers and outsiders this is to make sure that is not known by other companies in same sector. The company managed to create this principle and to persuade its workers to work by this principle, hence it brought success in the company's business.

Controlled emotional involvement. This is one of the key principles of ethical precepts. It involves maintaining careful attention to the person's emotions and know how to appropriately respond in a way that is helpful. The involvement is "controlled" by self-discipline of the worker and the purpose of the case. For example, worker's sensitivity to the client's feelings is very important as they have to adhere to the verbal and non-verbal cues such as tone of voice, body posture and facial expressions so as to serve them accurately. These feelings arise from events occurring within or outside us which includes social workers such as health professional or councilors. Sometimes it is hard to persuade people to live by such ethical precepts as many are influenced by unconscious factors like fear and anxiety.

Therefore, there are some problems associated with applying ethical principles in real life as they are based to citizens and leaders. This is because, people do not always act and justify their actions rationally; most are intuitive and spontaneously. Also, people are not moral in and of themselves. Furthermore, ethics develops over time in terms of content, excluding behavior that was once ethically permissible. In such cases, alternative solution is that we should practice by starting with concrete decisions, actions, and judgements and not with general rules. This will help us induce moral facts like self-consciousness and idea of personal duties and rights as morality engenders ethics.

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