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Ethics: A Doctrine Essential For Humanity

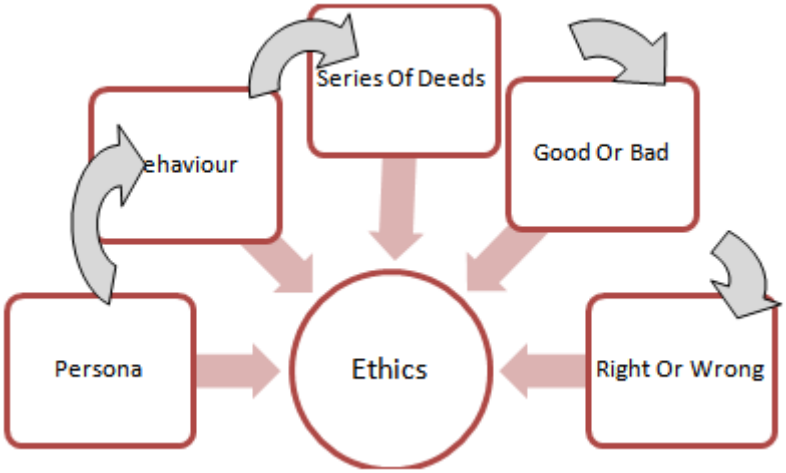
Rajendra Mahajan
Assistant Professor, Atharva College Of Engineering Malad, University Of Mumbai, India

Abstract: *Ethics are very essential in each and every profession to save humanity. Engineering is no exception to this theory as it is an important and learned profession. It is expected everywhere to show highest level of professionalism. While following the professionalism one should not neglect the ethics for the benefit of self and the employer. The ideas and projects of engineers have a direct and crucial impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. This paper aims to focus on the ethics and to generate the feelings of moral responsibility towards the society.*
Keywords: *Ethics, Professionalism, Humanity, Moral etc.*

I. Introduction

Ethics are the moral principles that administrate a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity. When most people think of ethics (or morals), they think of the rules for distinguishing between right and wrong. Each and everywhere, ethics play a key role in decision making. Personal integrity and ethical choices have impact on a successful life and career. Ethics is a structure of moral principles. They influence how people make decisions and march their lives. Ethics are worried about what is good for persons and humanity and also described as moral thinking. If we understand the term ethics we should go back to the Greek word 'ethos' which mean values, habit, custom, character or disposition. Business ethics has come to be considered a management discipline, especially since the birth of the social responsibility movement in the 1960s. In 1960's, it was expected that businessman should think of the society. Various movements were started and they expect that, companies should use their immense financial and social influence to deal with social problems such as poverty, equal rights, crime, environmental protection, public health, girl safety, child labor and improving education.

II. Meaning Of Ethics



III. Personal Ethics And Professional Ethics

Personal ethics are completely related with the individual's behavior with the others and the situations they face in day today life. Personal background, family, religion, region, society, teachers, neighbors, friends and their teaching have enormous influence on personal ethics.

Professional ethics means the ethics one should stick with. One should follow the standards and protocol while interacting with the colleagues and outsiders for professional purpose.

Professional ethics is the set of standards adopted by professionals in so far as they view themselves acting as professionals. Values are the manifestation of what an organization stands for, and should be the basis for the behavior of its members. The professional codes of ethics of a given profession focus on the issues that are important in that profession. When one is in a professional relationship, professional ethics is supposed to take precedence over personal morality

Kenneth R. Andrews, in "Ethics in Practice," contends that there are three aspects to ethical behavior in organizations: the development of the individual as an ethical person, the effect of the organization as an ethical or unethical environment, and the actions or procedures developed by the organization to encourage ethical behavior and discourage unethical behavior.

Most of an individual's ethical development occurs before entering an organization. The influence of family, church, community, and school will determine individual values. The organization, to a large extent, is dealing with individuals whose value base has been established. This might imply that ethical organizations are those fortunate enough to bring in ethical individuals, while unethical organizations brought in unethical people. But it is not that simple. While the internalized values of individuals are important, the organization has a major impact on the behavior of its members, and can have a positive or negative influence on their values. One example of the development of ethical individuals is the service academies. In their admissions processes, the academies attempt to get individuals of good character with the values integral to the military profession.

There are three qualities individuals must possess to make ethical decisions. The first is the ability to recognize ethical issues and to reason through the ethical consequences of decisions. The ability to see second and third order effects, one of the elements of strategic thinking, is very important. The second is the ability to look at alternative points of view, deciding what is right in a particular set of circumstances. This is similar to the ability to reframe. And the third is the ability to deal with ambiguity and uncertainty; making a decision on the best information available.

IV. Ethical Dilemma

Ethical dilemma is considered as a multifaceted situation involving a mental conflict occurring between the ethical imperatives where obeying one would make to contravene the other. When more than one ethical value applies to a situation, but these values support contrary courses of action, an ethical conflict or dilemma exists. It is very difficult to expect that ethics give the correct answer to moral problems. Indeed many civilians feel that for many ethical issues there isn't a single right answer - just a set of principles that can be useful to particular cases to give those involved some clear choices. Some philosophers go further and say that all ethics can do is eradicate confusion and clarify the issues. After that it's up to each individual to come to their own conclusions. Many people want there to be a single right answer to ethical questions. They find ethical uncertainty hard to live with because they authentically want to do the 'right' thing, and even if they can't work out what that right thing is, they like the idea that there is one right answer at 'somewhere'.

But it’s not happened every time to get one right answer - there may be quite a few right answers, or just some least worst answers - and the character must choose between them. For others moral vagueness is not easy because it forces them to take liability for their own choices and actions, rather than falling back on convenient rules and customs.

RESULT OF ETHICAL EQUATION

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR	UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR
Quality products	Shoddy products
Conservation of resources	Waste, fraud, greed
Pride in work	Abuse of expertise
Public safety	Lack of safety
Timeliness	No Time Limit
Good Business	Cutting corners,disaster

V. Why Engineers Should Study Ethics?

Engineers should be studied ethics because it is vital, both in preventing severe consequences of faulty ethical reasoning and in giving meaning to engineers' efforts, but it is complex. It cannot be understood through casual surveillance. Professional communities are experiencing scandals involving unethical and illegal practices daily. Engineering graduates are expected to demonstrate that they are ethically and professionally grounded. Responsibility has to do with accountability, both for what one does in the present and future and for what one has done in the past. The commitment and responsibilities of engineers involve, not only stick to dogmatic norms and standard practices of engineering but also satisfying the standard of society. Engineers can expect to be held responsible, if not legally liable, for intentionally, negligently, and recklessly caused harms. Responsible engineering practice requires good judgment, not simply following algorithms. Learning of ethics helps engineers develop a moral personality, ability to think critically and independently about moral issues and ability to apply this moral thinking to situations that arise in the course of professional engineering practice.
Engineering decisions can impact public health, safety, business practices and politics. Engineers should be aware of moral implications as they make decisions in the workplace.

VI. The Engineering Ethics

As professional, we use our understandings, knowledge, data and skills for the benefit of the society to create engineering solutions for the betterment of the common civilians. While practicing, we endeavor to serve the community in advance of other personal or sectional interests.

Engineering is an significant and scholarly profession. It is expected that Engineers have to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity. The ideas and projects of engineers have a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Engineers shall evade all conduct or practice that deceives the public. Engineers shall not unveil anything, without approval, top secret information relating to the business affairs or technical processes of any current or previous client or employer, or public on which they serve. Engineers shall not be tempted by anything and they should not do anything by prejudice. Engineers shall not endeavor to harm, unkindly or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional status, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. If Engineers found some of the people are doing wrong and that will not be in fever of people or society or humanity, they should report the concerned authority about the same. Engineers originate the future and their work affects the lives of millions of people, for better or worse. While doing so that creates enormous ethical issues in every branch of engineering.

Scope of Engineering Ethics

VII. Conclusion

Ethics are playing very vital role not only at professional level but in the different levels of life because it is a crucial part of the establishment on which of a civilized society is build. An individual or any profession or society or any religion that lacks moral values is bound to fail sooner or later.

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