

Abstract

Moral sense is inborn in man and through the ages has served as the common man's standard of moral behavior, approving certain qualities and disapproving others. While this instinctive faculty may vary from person to person, human conscience has given more or less a uniform verdict in favour of certain moral qualities as being good and declared certain others as bad. On the side of moral virtue justice, courage, bravery, and truthfulness have always elicited praise. However, history does not record any period worth the name when injustice, dishonesty, deception, and falsehood have been upheld. Fellow feeling, compassion, fidelity and magnanimity have always been valued. On the other hand selfishness, cruelty, miserliness and bigotry have never received the approval of human society. In view of this instinctive background, I have attempted to analyze ethics, its origin and development, in philosophical, psychological, and social context.

Ethics could be defined as the study of what is morally good and what is bad. It concerns itself with discovering a system, one may use to determine, who or what is good. The pursuit of moral knowledge dates back to ancient Greek philosophers, but it is mostly the influence of enlightened moral thought that continues to shape ethics today. There are many well-known figures in history of ethics, including the Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle, but some of the most important modern influence includes such people as Immanuel Kant, Jermy Bentham, JS Mill, C.L Stevenson, Macintyre, and J. Rawls.

Professional Ethics however is the name of those specific codes that concern one's conduct of behavior and practice, when carrying out professional work. The institutionalization of codes of conduct and practice is common with many professional bodies. A code is adopted by a community or organization because its members accept the adherence to these rules including the restriction that apply. It must also be noted that there are professions such as Medicine and law where the loss of membership may also imply the loss of the right to practice. Apart from codes of ethics, professional ethics also concerns matters such as professional indemnity.

Ethics are more or less universal; however professional ethics vary by culture, by profession, and by discipline. They are concerned with a rang of issues such as

- *Academic honesty.*
- *Adherence to confidentiality agreements.*
- *Data privacy.*
- *Handling of human subjects.*
- *Impartiality in data analysis and professional consulting.*
- *Professional Accountability.*
- *Resolution of conflict of interest.*

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They enable us to:

- *Set out the ideals and responsibilities of the profession.*
- *Exert a de facto regulatory effect, protecting both clients and professionals.*
- *Motivate and inspire practitioners.*
- *Provide guidance on acceptable conduct.*
- *Raise awareness and consciousness of issues.*
- *Improve quality and consistency.*
- *Expand the skills in critical thinking, which enables to know what conclusions can and can not be drawn from a given trivia.*
- *Develop or intend to develop mature and calm mannerism.*

Our course targets especially at Engineering and urge professionals to avoid moral hazards, maintain professional courtesy, and serve greater public interest. Ethics in engineering provides an introduction to the key issues in engineering ethics, taking into account both specific organizational context and broader technological trends. It promotes thinking and discussion about moral and ethical issues that engineers face. It sensitizes future engineers to the ongoing construction of risk in mundane engineering practice. Prepare them to address issues of public health, safety and welfare before they require heroic intervention.

The course has been devised with special reference to Pakistan, and includes Constitutional Provisions and the Codes of Ethics of the Engineering Council of Pakistan, besides containing international engineering codes

Besides addressing Meta-ethics (the nature of moral right and wrong), and Normative ethics (fundamental theories of what's morally right and wrong), special emphasis has been given to Applied ethics (exploration of real life issues of moral right and wrong).

In the course we will study moral reasoning, we will cover some of the most influential theories and approaches, learn how to use them and examine their shortcomings and consequently our own shortcomings.

Muhammad Iqbal ud-Din