

Professional Ethics & Human Values

K.M.Eazhil
Assistant Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering
SNS College of Engineering

K.M.Eazhil

AP/Mech/SNSCE

PEHV



Variety of Moral Issues

Engineers face a variety of moral issues, such as:

Safety: Ensuring the safety of the public and users of engineering products.

Environmental Impact: Minimizing harm to the environment.

Honesty and Integrity: Avoiding deceitful practices, plagiarism, and ensuring truthful representation of data and results.

Confidentiality: Respecting the confidentiality of sensitive information.

Conflict of Interest: Avoiding situations where personal interests could compromise professional judgment.

Fairness: Ensuring fairness in treatment, opportunities, and resource distribution.



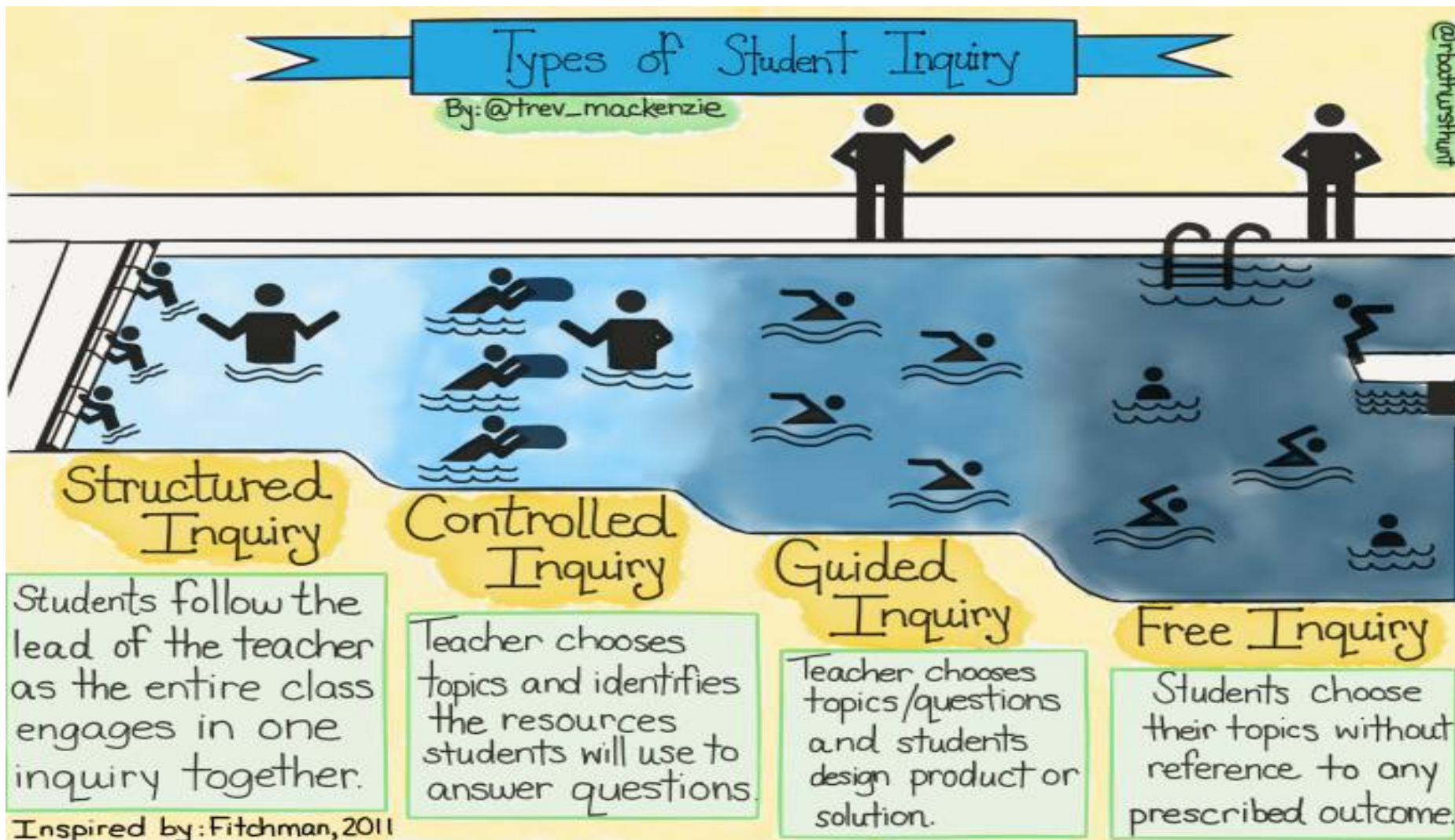
TYPES OF INQUIRY

Ethical inquiries can be classified into:

Normative Inquiry: Determining what is morally right or wrong.

Conceptual Inquiry: Clarifying the meaning of ethical terms and concepts.

Factual or Descriptive Inquiry: Investigating how things actually are, including human behavior and societal norms.





TYPES OF MORAL ISSUES

There are mainly two types of Moral issues that we mostly come across while keeping the ethical aspects in mind to respond. They are –

Micro-ethics

This approach stresses more on the problems that occur on a daily basis in the field of engineering and its practice by engineers.

Macro-ethics

This approach deals with social problems which are unknown. However, these problems may unexpectedly face the heat at both regional and national levels.

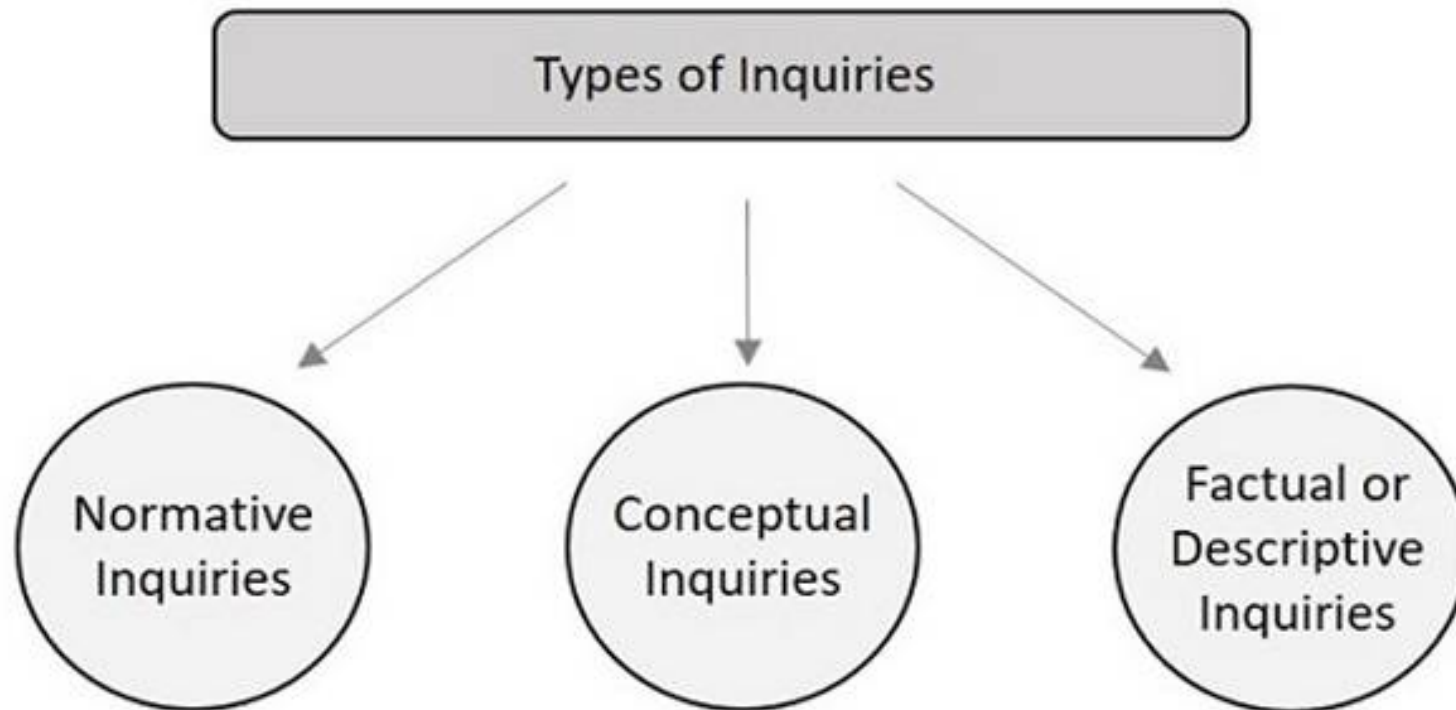


EXAMPLE 1

After a recent collapse of a structure in which many people died, an Engineer came to know about a bridge which is marginally safe. He informed his superior who asked him to stay calm and not to discuss with anyone, while waiting for the next year budget sessions to get some financial help for the repair required. What should the engineer do?



TYPES OF INQUIRIES





MORAL DILEMMAS

A moral dilemma occurs when an individual faces a situation where they must choose between two or more conflicting moral principles, and each choice leads to some ethical transgression. Examples include:

Safety vs. Cost: Balancing the cost of safety improvements against the potential risk to users.

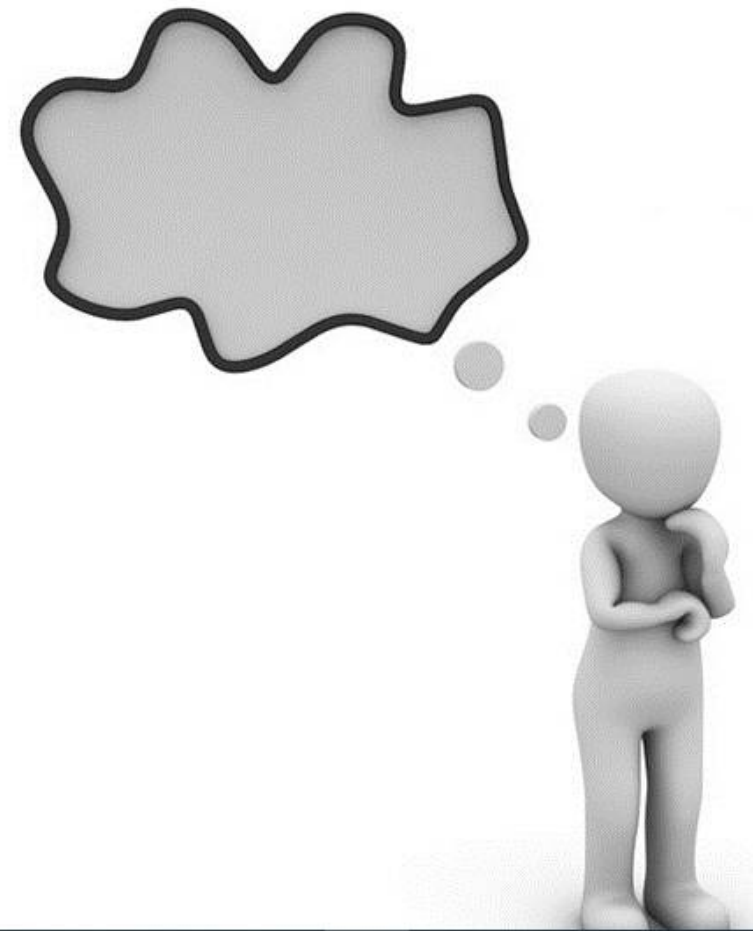
Confidentiality vs. Public Interest: Deciding whether to reveal confidential information that could prevent harm to the public.





MORAL AUTONOMY

Moral Autonomy is the philosophy which is self-governing or self-determining, i.e., **acting independently** without the influence or distortion of others. The moral autonomy relates to the individual ideas whether right or wrong conduct which is independent of ethical issues. The concept of moral autonomy helps in improving self-determination.





MORAL AUTONOMY – SKILLS NEEDED

- Ability to relate the problems with the problems of law, economics and religious principles
- Skill to process, clarify and understand the arguments against the moral issues
- Ability to suggest the solutions to moral issues on the basis of facts
- Must have the imaginative skill to view the problems from all the viewpoints
- Tolerance while giving moral judgment, which may cause trouble
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THANK YOU