Professional Ethics

&

Human Values

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Ethics is that branch of philosophy that deals with morality. An engineer with ethics is a person who is expected to possess the moral integrity with rich ethical values. The ethics are mainly divided into two categories depending upon the morality of humanity. They are −

Consequential Ethics

The Consequential ethics are values the outcome of which determine the morality behind a particular action. A lie which saves a life, comes under this.
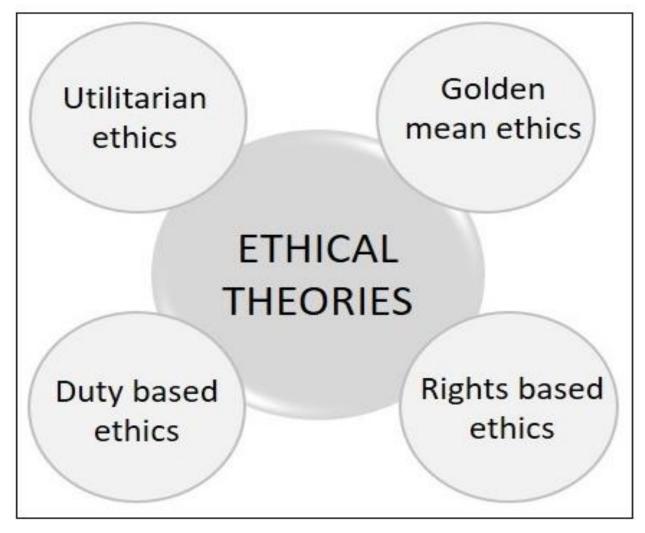
Non-consequential Ethics

The non-consequential ethics are values followed where the source of morality comes from the standard values. The moral law which states that a lie is a lie, and shouldn't be done, though it ends in a good deed can be taken as an example of non-consequential ethics.

TYPES OF ETHICAL THEORIES

Golden Mean

The Golden Mean ethical theory was proposed by **Aristotle**. According to this theory, the solution to a problem is found by analyzing the reason and the logic. A "**Mean value of solution**" which will be between the extremes of excess and deficiency.

For example, the solution to the problem of environment pollution is neither by avoiding industrialization and civilization, nor by neglecting the environment completely. A mean solution that will work towards controlling the pollution and protecting the environment will also help.

Problem in Application

The application of this theory varies from one person to another with their powers of reasoning and the difficulty in applying the theory to ethical problems.

Rights-based Ethical Theory

The Rights based ethical theory was proposed by **John Locke**. According to this theory, the solution to a problem is by realizing that every person has a right to live. Live and let live is the philosophy behind this theory. The rights of a person towards life, health, liberty, possession, etc. are taken care of under this theory.

For example, any action in terms of Capital punishment, Jails, Income taxes and Medical charges etc. come under this category.

Problem in Application

One rights of a person may be in conflict with rights of the other.

Duty-based Ethical Theory

The duty-based ethical theory was proposed by **Immanuel Kant**. According to this theory, every person

has a duty to follow which is accepted universally, with no exceptions.

An example of this can be expecting all to be honest, kind, generous and peaceful.

Problem in Application

The universal application of this theory can be misleading

There are **four virtues** that come under this law,

Prudence   **Fortitude**

Justice   **Temperance**

Utilitarian Ethics

The Utilitarian ethics was proposed by **John Stuart.** According to this theory, the happiness or pleasure of a greatest number of people in the society is considered as the greatest good. According to this philosophy, an action is morally right if its consequences lead to happiness of people and wrong if they lead to their unhappiness.

An example of this can be the removal of reservation system in education and government jobs, which can really benefit the talented. But this can have an impact on the rights of the minorities.

Problem of Application

Qualification of the benefits can be difficult.

THANK YOU