



GILLIGANS THEORY



- Gilligan was a student of Developmental Psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg, who introduced the theory of stages of moral development
- Carol Giligan opined that Kohlberg's theory on morality was biased upon male thinking process and did not address the gender differences of moral development
- She believed men and women exhibit different behaviour where women are more emotional, caring and understand inter-personal relationship well



GILLIGANS THEORY ON MORALITY



GILLIGAN'S THEORY/Professional
Ethics /AI&DS / SNSCE

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Care based Morality

- Avoidance of violence
- Helping those in need
- Respect and dignity
- Linked to emotion and feeling
- Maintenance of harmony & relation
- Found mostly in girls

Justice based Morality

- Focuses on equality
- Avoidance of discrimination
- Duties and obligation
- Rational decision making
- Impartiality
- Found mostly in boys



CASE STUDY OF GILLIGANS THEORY:

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Carol Gilligan's theory of moral development offers an alternative to Lawrence Kohlberg's framework, emphasizing an ethic of care and focusing on how gender and relational dynamics impact moral reasoning. Gilligan proposed that Kohlberg's theory, which was based largely on male subjects, did not fully capture the moral development of women. Instead, she argued for a perspective that centers on relationships and care.



Gilligan's theory can be summarized through three main levels of moral development:

1. Preconventional:

1. The focus is on individual survival, with an emphasis on self-interest and basic needs.



Gilligan's theory can be summarized through three main levels of moral development:

2.conventional:

The focus shifts to self-sacrifice and maintaining relationships, prioritizing the needs and welfare of others.



Gilligan's theory can be summarized through three main levels of moral development:

3. Post-conventional:

The focus is on the interconnectedness of relationships and the integration of care with justice. The individual recognizes that personal and communal needs must be balanced.



Case Study: Application of Gilligan's Theory

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Scenario:

Emily, a college student, is faced with a moral dilemma involving a close friend, Rachel, who has been struggling academically. Rachel asks Emily to help her with an important assignment, which Emily knows is against the school's academic integrity policies.



Scenario:

Here's how Emily's reasoning might differ according to each level of Gilligan's theory.

1. Preconventional Level:

Survival and Self-Interest:

Emily might focus on her own immediate needs and interests. She may consider how helping Rachel might affect her own academic standing or the consequences she might face if caught.



Scenario:

Conventional Level:

Self-Sacrifice and Relationship Maintenance: Emily places a high value on her relationship with Rachel and might prioritize helping her friend to support her emotionally and academically. She views the situation through the lens of maintaining and nurturing personal relationships, possibly even at the expense of her own academic integrity.



Scenario:

Postconventional Level:

Balancing Care and Justice:

Emily recognizes the importance of her relationship with Rachel but also considers the broader implications of her actions. She might contemplate how helping Rachel could affect their relationship in the long term and how it aligns with ethical standards of fairness and integrity. Emily seeks a balance between caring for her friend and upholding principles of academic honesty. She might decide to help Rachel in a way that is supportive but does not involve cheating, perhaps by offering guidance on how to approach the assignment or encouraging Rachel to seek legitimate help.

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Scenario:

Analysis:

In this case study, Gilligan's theory highlights the importance of relational dynamics and care ethics in moral decision-making. Emily's process illustrates how moral development can be influenced by the value placed on relationships and the needs of others. Unlike Kohlberg's more justice-oriented framework, Gilligan's theory offers insight into how individuals might prioritize care and empathy in their decision-making, demonstrating the complexity and depth of moral reasoning in contexts where relationships and ethical principles are intertwined.