



# **SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

## **Coimbatore-107**



### **19GE701 - PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN ENGINEERING**

## **UNIT-1**

# **ENGINEERING ETHICS**



# KOHLBERG THEORY



- **Kohlberg suggested there are three levels of moral development, based on the type of reasoning and motivation of the individuals in response to moral questions**
  - **+ Pre-conventional**
  - **+ Conventional**
  - **+ Post-conventional**



# KOHLBERG THEORY



- **Pre-Conventional**

- Right conduct for an individual is regarded as whatever directly benefits oneself.
- At this level, individuals are motivated by obedience or the desire to avoid punishment or to satisfy their own needs
- All young children exhibit this tendency.

- **Conventional**

- **People respect the law and authority**

- **Post Conventional**

- **People begin to account for the differing values, opinions and beliefs of other people.**



# KOHLBERG THEORY



- The following is one example of the dilemmas Kohlberg presented.
- "Heinz Steals the Drug" In Europe, a woman was near death from a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. It was a form of radium that a druggist in the same town had recently discovered. The drug was expensive to make, but the druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. He paid
  - \$200 for the radium and charged
  - \$2,000 for a small dose of the drug



# Kohlberg Theory



- The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money, but he could only get together about \$ 1,000 which is half of what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said: "No, I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So Heinz got desperate and broke into the man's store to steal the drug-for his wife. Should the husband have done that?
- Kohlberg was not interested so much in the answer to the question of whether Heinz was wrong or right, but in the reasoning for each participant's decision. The responses were then classified into various stages of reasoning in his theory of moral development.



# KOHLBERG THEORY



- Level 1. Preconventional Morality
- Stage 1 - Obedience and Punishment The earliest stage of moral development is especially common in young children, but adults are also capable of expressing this type of reasoning. At this stage, children see rules as fixed and absolute. Obeying the rules is important because it is a means to avoid punishment.
- Stage 2 - Individualism and Exchange At this stage of moral development, children account for individual points of view and judge actions based on how they serve individual needs. In the Heinz dilemma, children argued that the best course of action was the choice that best-served Heinz's needs. Reciprocity is possible, but only if it serves one's own interests.



# Kohlberg Theory



- Level 2. Conventional Morality
- Stage 3 - Interpersonal often referred to as the "good Relationships boy-good girl" orientation, this stage of moral development is focused on living up to social expectations and roles. There is an emphasis on conformity, being "nice," and consideration of how choices influence relationships.
- Stage 4 - Maintaining Social Order At this stage of moral development, people begin to consider society as a whole when making judgments. The focus is on maintaining law and order by following the rules, doing one's duty and respecting authority.

# Level 3. Post conventional Morality



- **Stage 5 - Social Contract and Individual Rights**
- At this stage, people begin to account for the differing values, opinions and beliefs of other people. Rules of law are important for maintaining a society, but members of the society should agree upon these standards.
- **Stage 6 - Universal Principles** Kohlberg's final level of moral reasoning is based upon universal ethical principles and abstract reasoning. At this stage, people follow these internalized principles of justice, even if they conflict with laws and rules.