



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Coimbatore-107



19GE701 - PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN ENGINEERING

UNIT-1

ENGINEERING ETHICS



THEORIES ABOUT RIGHT ACTION



- Utilitarianism
- Duty Ethics
- Rights Ethics
- Virtue Ethics



UTILITARIANISM JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873)



- Considers a balance of good & bad consequences for everyone affected (society)
- Actions are good that serve to promote human well-being
- Cost-Benefit analysis is an application
- Consideration of most benefit to the most people outweighs needs of a few individuals



DUTY ETHICS IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804)

- There are duties that should be performed(e.g.. Duty to treat others fairly or not to injure others) regardless of whether these acts do the most good or not.



RIGHTS ETHICS JOHN LOCKE (1632-1704)



- People have fundamental rights (like life, liberty, & property) that others have a duty to respect.



TESTING ETHICAL THEORIES



- ✘ Five widely used tests for evaluating ethical theories:
- + The theory must be clear
- + It must be consistent
- + Neither the theory nor its defense can rely upon false information
- + It must be sufficiently comprehensive to provide guidance in specific situations of interest to us.



SELF-INTEREST AND ETHICAL EGOISM



- is being good and acceptable to oneself
- It is pursuing what is good for oneself.
- ✘ It is very ethical to possess self- interest.
- ✘ A view that tries to reduce morality to the pursuit of self-interest is called ethical egoism.
- ✘ “Ethical “ because it is a theory about morality and “egoism” because it says that the sole duty of each of us is to maximize his or her own good.



CUSTOMS AND ETHICAL RELATIVISM



- Various culture in our pluralistic society lead to tolerance for various customs, beliefs and outlooks.
- Ethical pluralism is the view that there may be alternative perspectives that are reasonable, but no one of which must be accepted completely by all rational and morally concerned persons.
- Ethical relativism says that actions are morally right when they are approved by law or custom; they are wrong when they violate laws or customs.
- Moral rationalism is the view that moral judgments should be made in relation to factors that may vary from case to case.



RELIGION



- Religions have played major roles in shaping moral views and moral values.
- ✘ Each religion lays stress on certain high moral standards.
- + Hinduism holds polytheistic view and virtues of devotion and surrender to high order.
- + Christianity believes in one deity and emphasizes on virtues of love, faith and hope.
- + Islam on one deity and adherence to ishan
- and prayer.
- ✘ But many religious sects have adopted poor moral standards.



DIVINE COMMAND ETHICS



- As per this principle, the right action is defined by the commands by God.
- ✘ It implies that to be moral, a person should believe in god and an action is right only if it is commanded by God.



USES OF ETHICAL THEORIES



- Ethical theories are useful
- for justifying moral obligations.
- + for resolving moral dilemmas.
- + in relating professional and ordinary morality.



THANK YOU