Assignment-III
(Week-3)

Q.1 Explain ethics as skill.

Ans. One should possess a few skills in order to sort out the problem. The issues that engineers face have to be dealt with patience and few moral goals have to be kept in mind while dealing with such issues. Ethics as skill can be understood as follows:

- **Moral Awareness** – One should be able to recognize the moral problems and issues that occur in Engineering. The analysis on the problem is necessary in order to differentiate and judge according to ethics or according to the rules to follow.

- **Cogent Moral Reasoning** – In order to come to a conclusion on an issue, the argument has to be assessed and comprehended. The argument on both sides has to be considered with all the probabilities and the nature of the argument should be logical and moral.

- **Moral Coherence** –After having gone through all the logical and moral facts, consistent and comprehensive view points are to be formed based upon a consideration of relevant facts.

- **Moral Imagination** –The moral issues and the practical issues have to be dealt separately. Alternative responses are to be found out for dealing with moral issues while creative solutions should be found out for practical difficulties.

- **Moral Communication** –The language to communicate about one's moral views should be so precise and clear, that the expression or words should not alter the original meaning.

At work place; Ethics can be used as way of performing tasks in a manner where are stakeholder can be benefited and get appropriate credits and rewards.

At family; A family is made up of people who live together with the ethical behavior of elder member and this tendency transfers from seniors to juniors members which help in living with peace and harmony.

In social group; In society different types of people live with different religion, ethnicity, faith, region and thoughts ethics brings togetherness among these groups and build a sound relationship, harmony, peace and brotherhood.

Behavior- ethics determine our behavior which reflects our values, thoughts and education. These elements make people happy in the society.

To obey the law -Ethical practices in society endorse people to obey the law and follow the rules of the society and nation.

Practices of values- People use their value education to behave in the society so ethics also enhance value education in every stratum of society to run routine life.

Harmony builder- Ethics is the one of the best tool which maintains harmony at every aspects of the life.

Team spirit- Ethics create feelings of team spirit in the society, family and workplace by:

- *Creating Synergy*
- *Image building*
- *Promoting Loyalty*

Q.2 Explain Theistic and Atheistic Approaches.

Ans. In order to deal with arising questions such as –Is it necessary to be religious in order to be ethical? If an individual is not religious, does it mean he is not ethical as well?

Theists, believe in existence of God and Atheists don't believe in the existence of God have two different perspectives to deal with above mentioned questions.

Theistic Approach says-
- *Only those who believe in God know what is right or wrong.*
- *To be ethical one needs to believe in God.*
- *Only a religious person can be ethical*
- *All of the ethical principles have emerged from religion itself.*
- *These are type of rules and laws made by God.*
- *Ethical and moral principles can never be important for those who don't believe in God.*
- *One follows ethics or is moral when he/she has fear of God and that he/she will be punished for their sins.*
- *It is necessary to rely on sacred books and their interpretations to know good and evil.*
- *Without being a theistic an individual becomes selfish and his/her goals are self oriented.*

Atheistic Approach says-
- *It is not necessary for an individual to believe God in order to be ethical.*
- *Ethical principles are formed and given by society itself.*
- *Even an individual who doesn't believe in God can resolve conflicts, disputes and bifurcate between good and bad.*
- *How can we know what God exactly wants from us and what is correct according to him?*
- *Every sacred or religious book has its own different interpretation. So how can we say which sacred book to rely on in order to become ethical?*
- *Can all religious authorities interpreting the sacred holy books can be trusted?*
- *Even Atheists and agnostics can be ethical.*

There are other possible connections between religion and ethics. It has been said that, even if standards of good and evil exist independently of God or the gods, divine revelation is the only reliable means of finding out what these standards are. An obvious problem with this view is that those who receive divine revelations, or who consider themselves qualified to interpret them, do not always agree on what is good and what is evil. Without an accepted criterion for the authenticity of a revelation or an interpretation, people are no better off, so far as reaching moral agreement is concerned, than they would be if they were to decide on good and evil themselves, with no assistance from religion.

Traditionally, a more important link between religion and ethics was that religious teachings were thought to provide a reason for doing what is right. In its crudest form, the reason was that those who obey the moral law will be rewarded by an eternity of bliss while everyone else roasts in hell. The motivation provided by religion is more inspirational and less self-interested.

A modern theist (*see* theism) might say that, since God is good, God could not possibly approve of torturing children nor disapprove of helping neighbors. In saying this, however, the theist would have tacitly admitted that there is a standard of goodness that is independent of God.

Traditionally, a more important link between religion and ethics was that religious teachings were thought to provide a reason for doing what is right. In its crudest form, the reason was that those who obey the moral law will be rewarded by an eternity of bliss while everyone else roasts in hell. In more sophisticated versions, the motivation provided by religion was more inspirational and less blatantly self-interested. Whether in its crude or its sophisticated version, or something in between, religion does provide an answer to one of the great questions of ethics: "Why should I be moral?"

Q.3 What is Corporate Social Responsibility? Explain the aspects included in Corporate Social Responsibility.

Ans. "CSR is a gesture of showing the company's concern and commitment towards society's sustainability and development."

Aspects included in CSR:

1. EMPLOYEE WELFARE PROGRAMMES

A socially responsible company is responsive to the various needs of its employees. It voluntarily takes proactive steps to advance their well- being by providing the workers with housing and health care facilities, schools, hygienic working conditions etc.

For example: some companies provide flexible working hours to suit the needs of women employees, provide professional counseling to solve personal problems, hiring physically challenged persons and training them for suitable jobs etc.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Increasing number of companies realizing that they need to be a good neighbor for community where they are located. Companies support a social cause and advertise this fact to promote marketing of their products. Companies tend to help the rural communities with different beneficial schemes.

For Example: TISCO has a separate Community and Social Welfare Department for tribal and poor village communities around their plant area.

3. CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Under this companies often earmark or contribute a part of their earnings (five percent or ten percent) for charitable purposes. Many companies also spend money for religious activities like renovating temples and dharamshalas; spend money in orphanages, NGOs etc.

For Example: Companies such as Microsoft, Coca-Cola are considered as most prominent philanthropists

4. CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Like individuals, corporations are also citizens of a nation. As such they have citizenship rights as well as citizenship duties. Fulfilling these duties is their social responsibility. These activities include:

- ✓ Promoting the economic growth of the country. An example of such a line of thinking is shown by NTPC.
- ✓ Paying taxes
- ✓ Obeying laws
- ✓ Preserving environment and non renewable resources.
- ✓ Preserving National and Cultural heritage.
- ✓ Lending helping hand in times of natural calamities and other national emergencies.

Q.4 Code of ethics at the workplace and ethical issues at workplace.

The primary aspect of code of ethics is to provide the basic framework for ethical judgment for a professional. Code of Ethics are guidelines for specific group of professionals to help them perform their roles, to know how to conduct themselves and know how to resolve various ethical issues. Code of Ethics helps to clarify the profession's values and provide a reference point for decision making.

The Engineering Code of Ethics

For the fulfillment of their professional duties engineers must keep in mind the fundamental principles, professional obligations and rules of practice.

I. Fundamental Principles

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.

2. They should perform services only in areas of their competence.

3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.

5. Avoid deceptive acts.

6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

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II. Professional Obligations of Engineers

Some of the professional obligations for engineers include:

1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity

2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.

3. They shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public. a. Engineers shall avoid the use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact.

4. They shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer, or public body.

5. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods. They shall not, without consent, use equipment, supplies, laboratory, or office facilities of an employer to carry on outside private practice.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS/ETHICAL ISSUES AT WORKPLACE

An ethical dilemma is a problem in the decision-making process between two possible options, neither of which is absolutely acceptable from an ethical perspective. It involves unclear choices of what is right and what is wrong.

Some basic issues of ethics at workplace include:

- *Discrimination issues i.e. discrimination on the bases of age, gender, race, religion, disabilities, weight etc.*
- *Sexual harassment.*
- *Issues surrounding the representation of Issues affecting the privacy of the employee: workplace surveillance, drug testing.*
- *Issues affecting the privacy of the employer*
- *Whistle-blowing.*
- *Issues relating to the fairness of the employment contract and the balance of power between employer and employee.*
- *Occupational safety and health.*

'Ethical dilemma is a moral situation where a choice has to be made between two equally undesirable alternatives'.

5 STEPS RESOLVING ETHICAL DILEMMA

I) IDENTIFY THE RELEVANT MORAL VALUES: Identifying moral values and reasons applicable in the situation is the very first step. These values might be obligations, duties, rights or good ideals.

II) CLARIFY KEY CONCEPTS: This means clarifying- what is more important and correct-'Doing what one's supervisor directs or doing what is good for the corporation in the long run?'

III) OBTAIN RELEVANT INFORMATION:

- Check and recheck the findings
- Ask other colleagues for other perspectives

IV) CONSIDER ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS: Analyzing and looking for additional options or alternatives.

V) MAKE A REASONABLE DECISION: By considering all the relevant moral reasons and facts, making a reasonable decision, which might not necessarily be an ideal solution but at least a satisfactory one.