

Assignment- IV
(Week-4)

Q.1 Critically examine the issues in professional ethics in the current scenario. Mention some of the unethical practices in society today.

Ans. *Professional Ethics encompass corporate standards or behavior expected from professionals.*

Professional ethics may be defined as a form of applied ethics that examines ethical principles and moral or ethical problems that arise in a business environment. Ethical human conduct is the foundation of professional ethics. The only effective way to ensure professional ethics is through correct appraisal and systematic development of ethical competence in the professional (the human being). Ethical conduct of profession implies the right utilization of one's professional skills towards the fulfillment of comprehensive human goal and thus, meaningfully participates in the larger order.

Professional ethics concerns the moral issues that arise because of the specialist knowledge that professionals attain, and how the use of this knowledge should be governed when providing a service to the public.

The centre for professional ethics was established at Case Western Reserve University. CANADA

The unethical practices are rapidly increasing and their impact is also becoming far-reaching. Corruption in multifarious manifestations is afflicting all the professions like a virus. As a result of unethical practices, we are frequently coming across serious scams, major economic offences and kickbacks in large scale purchases. Lapses on the part of big organizations in ethical conduct of profession have led to large scale disasters, such as Bhopal Gas Tragedy, the Chernobyl Disaster, etc. endangering public life and prosperity, and causing serious degradation to environment. The unethical politics are adopted collectively by large industries, cartels, multinational corporations and even national governments.

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Some Unethical practices include:

- Corruption in multiple forms and at various levels.
- Tax evasion, misappropriation and misuse of public funds.
- Misleading propaganda, unethical advertisements and sale promotion.
- Cut-throat competition.
- Exploiting the weakness of consumers through various enticements
- Adulteration and spurious production
- Endangering the health and safety of public at large.
- Hoarding and over-charging etc.

Q.2 What do you understand by competence in professional ethics? Explain the importance of ethics relating to engineering.

Ans. Professional ethics means to develop professional competence with ethical human conduct.

Developing ethical competence in the individual (profession) is the only effective way to ensure professional ethics. The development of ethical competence is a long term process to be achieved through appropriate value education. As profession is only a subset of the life activities, the competence in profession will only be the manifestation of one right understands. The salient features characterizing this competence can be summarized as follows:

1. Clarity about comprehensive human goal and its fulfillment through universal human order.
2. Confidence in oneself: Based on the right understanding of oneself and the rest of existence.
3. Mutually fulfilling behavior: Clarity and confidence in ethical human conduct and its correlation with sustained personal as well as collective happiness and prosperity.
4. Mutually enriching interaction with nature: Self-sufficiency in fulfillment of physical needs; ability to assess the needs for physical facilities for the family and their fulfillment through production systems ensuring harmony in the nature. In the light of the above, one acquires the ability to identify and develop appropriate (people-friendly and eco-friendly) technologies, production systems etc.

ETHICS AS RELATING TO ENGINEERING

The study of related questions about moral ideals, character, policies and relationships of people and organizations involved in technological activity, can be termed as Engineering ethics.

- ❖ An engineer whether he works individually or works for a company, has to go through some ethical issues, mostly under the conditions such as, conceptualization of a product, issues arising in design and testing departments, or may be on the issues involving the manufacturing, sales and services. Questions related to morality also arise during supervision and team works.
- ❖ The ethical decisions and moral values of an engineer need to be considered because the decisions of an engineer have an impact the products and services –how safe they are to use, the company and its shareholders who believe in the goodwill of the company, the public and the society who trusts the company regarding the benefits of the people, the job and his moral responsibilities and about how the environment gets affected, etc.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ENGINEERS

- ❖ Engineers uphold and advance the *integrity, honor and dignity* of the engineering profession by:
 - ❖ I. Using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare;
 - ❖ II. Being honest and impartial, and servicing with fidelity.
 - ❖ III. Striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession; and
 - ❖ IV. Supporting the professional and technical societies of their disciplines.

Engineering often is based on Preventative Ethics which is based on two dimensions:

- ✚ Engineers must be able to think ahead to anticipate possible consequences of their professional actions.
- ✚ Engineers must be able to think effectively about those consequences and decide what is the 'ethically' correct manner to handle the situation.

Q.3 Comment on Profession in the light of comprehensive human goal.

Ans. Any profession is a channel for participation by human beings in the larger order in pursuance of comprehensive human goal. All the activities do require a certain degree of skill and are expected to be performed in consonance with the comprehensive human goal. Then only, these will be conducive to the sustained welfare of the individual as well as the society. The excellence or the success of any professional activity is to be judged from this comprehensive point of view only and not in terms of just wealth generation. Accordingly, the profession is not only a means of earning one's livelihood but a means of one's evolution by appropriate participation in the larger order. It is an important activity to authenticate one understands, whereby interact with other human beings and with rest of nature in a mutually fulfilling manner. Thus, profession is a 'service'.

Ethical values in pursuance of comprehensive human goal include:

- HONESTY
- INTEGRITY
- TRANSPARENCY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- CONFIDENTIALITY
- RESPECTFULNESS
- OBJECTIVITY
- OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW
- WHISTLEBLOWING

(A whistleblower is a person who raises concern about frauds, corruption, and wrong doings and exposes corruptive practices within the organization. He tells someone in authority about dishonest or illegal activities occurring in a government department or any private organization.)