



# MORAL DILEMMA



- Dilemmas are situations in which
- Moral reasons come into conflict
- Moral reasons could be rights, duties, goods or obligations.
- These situations do not mean that things had gone wrong, but they only indicate the presence of moral complexity. This makes the decision making complex.



# SITUATIONS LEADING TO MORAL DILEMMA



- The three complex situations leading to moral dilemmas are:
- The problem of vagueness
  - One is unable to distinguish between good and bad (right or wrong) principle. Good means an action that is obligatory. For example, code of ethic specifies that one should obey the laws and follow standards. Refuse bribe or accept the gift, and maintain confidentiality



# Situations leading to Moral Dilemma



- The problem of conflicting reasons
  - One is unable to choose between two good moral solutions. One has to fix priority, through knowledge or value system.
- The problem of disagreement
  - There may be two or more solutions and none of them mandatory. These solutions may be better or worse in some respects but not in all aspects. One has to interpret, apply different morally reasons, and analyze and rank the decisions. Select the best suitable, under the existing and the most probable condition.



# STEPS TO SOLVE DILEMMA



- Identification of the moral factors and reasons.
- Collection of all information, data, and facts
- Rank the moral options
- Generate alternate courses of action to resolve the dilemma
- Discuss with colleagues and obtain their perspectives, priorities, and suggestions on various alternatives
- Decide upon a final course of action, based on priority fixed or assumed



# MORAL AUTONOMY



- Moral autonomy is defined as, decisions and actions exercised on the basis of moral concern for other people and recognition of good moral reasons.
- Alternatively, moral autonomy means ‘self determinant or independent’.
- The autonomous people hold moral beliefs and attitudes based on their critical reflection rather than on passive adoption of the conventions of the society or profession.
- Moral autonomy may also be defined as a skill and habit of thinking rationally about the ethical issues, on the basis of moral concern.



# MORAL AUTONOMY



- If management views profitability is more important than consistent quality and retention of the moral autonomy, engineers are compelled to seek the support from their professional societies and outside organizations for moral support.