SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.
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COURSE NAME : 19GET201 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & HUMAN VALUES

IV YEAR/ VII SEMESTER

UNIT – I ENGINEERING ETHICS
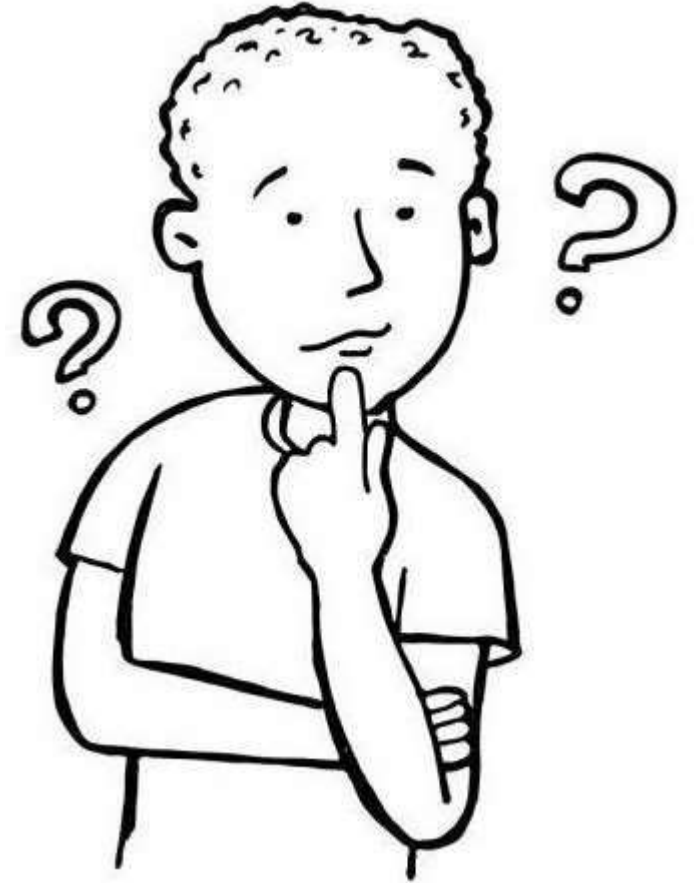
Topic: Moral Dilemmas

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At times, the situations occur where one cannot make immediate decisions as the moral reasons come into conflict.

The moral reasons can be rights, duties, goods or obligations, which make the decision making complex.

The difficulties in arriving to a solution, when segregated, can be divided into the following three sections

Vagueness

condition where the doubt lies in whether the action refers to good or bad.
Unwritten rules like being loyal, having respect, maintaining confidentiality, etc.

Conflicting reasons

When you know about the solutions you have, the making of better choice among the ones you have, will be the internal conflict.

Disagreement

When there are two or more solutions and none among them is mandatory, the final solution selected should be best suitable under existing and the most probable conditions.

Identification

The step of identification involves the following –

- The issue has to be thoroughly understood.
- The duties and the responsibilities of the persons involved are to be clearly known.
- The moral factors related to the issue are to be understood.
- The conflicting responsibilities, the competing rights and the clashing ideas involved are to be identified.

Ranking

The considerations in the issue are to be listed down

Consider Moral Aspect and No partiality

Inquiries

All the facts related to the issue are brought into light.

Discussions

complete analysis of a problem gives chances to different viewpoints, perspectives and opinions from which a better solution can be drawn.

Final Solution

Moral Autonomy

Moral Autonomy is the philosophy which is self-governing or self-determining, i.e., **acting independently** without the influence or distortion of others.

The moral autonomy relates to the individual ideas whether right or wrong conduct which is independent of ethical issues. The concept of moral autonomy helps in improving self-determination.

Moral Autonomy is concerned with independent attitude of a person related to moral/ethical issues. This concept is found in moral, ethical and even in political philosophy.

Moral Autonomy

- **Ability to relate the problems with the problems of law, economics and religious principles**

- **Skill to process, clarify and understand the arguments against the moral issues**

- **Ability to suggest the solutions to moral issues on the basis of facts**

- **Must have the imaginative skill to view the problems from all the viewpoints –**

- **Tolerance while giving moral judgment, which may cause trouble**

Moral autonomy reflects the concept of individuality. This relates to the idea of building one's self with the moral values one has while **developing psychologically**.

To have moral autonomy in all the aspects, one should have a lot of **patience** and interest.
One should adhere to the basic principles of humanity and should be strict with the Don'ts he has in mind and liberal with his Do's.

A Person must have adequate knowledge and understanding about the use of ethical language so as to defend or support his views with others.

He must have better **knowledge** in understanding the importance of suggestions and better solutions while resolving moral problems and also about the importance of tolerance on some critical situations.
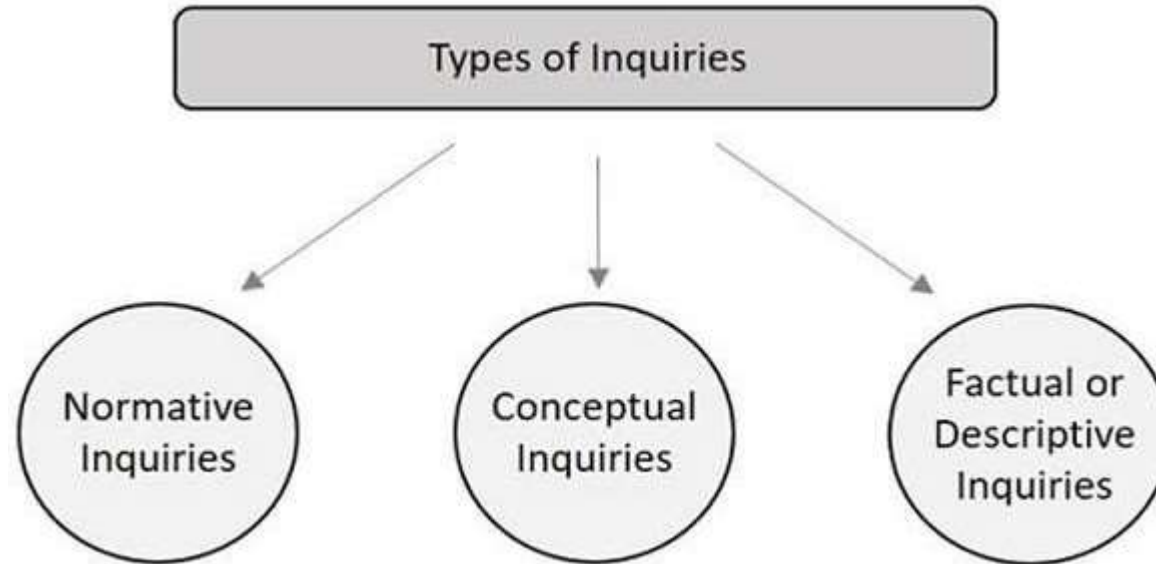
Above all, one must understand the importance of maintaining **moral honesty** and should be liberal to understand the human behavior under certain circumstances.

The issues can be resolved by following an investigation procedure, step by step in order to have a clear understanding towards the issue.

Three different types of inquiries

Normative Inquiries

Normative Inquiry refers to the description that describes **what one ought to do** under a specific

circumstance.

Expected ideal response, which might differ from what one believes to be right or wrong.

This list identifies and justifies the morally desirable nature for guiding individuals or groups.

This includes the responsibility of engineers to **protect the public safety** and how they should respond

under such dangerous practices.

Quote the **laws and procedures** that affect the engineering practice on moral grounds.

They refer to the thought process where the moral rights are to be implemented in order to fulfil their

professional obligations.

Eg: *Whose values ought to be primary in making judgment about acceptable risks in design for a public*

transport system or a nuclear plant?

Conceptual Inquiries

Conceptual Inquiry refers to the description of the *meaning of concepts, principles and issues* related to engineering ethics. The ethics that an engineer should possess to *protect the safety, health and welfare of the public*, etc. are described under conceptual inquiries.

It describes what safety is and mentions the *marginal issues of safety* along with the precautions an engineer should take to avoid risk. Conceptual inquiries mention the *moral aspects of bribery* and how its effects, along with the professional ethics and professionalism.

Eg: *What is meant by safety? How it is related to risk?*

Factual Inquiry or the descriptive inquiry help to provide the *facts for understanding and finding solutions to the value based issues*. The engineer has to conduct factual inquiries by using *scientific techniques*.

This helps in providing the information *regarding the business realities* such as engineering practice, history of engineering profession, the effectiveness of professional societies, the procedures to be adopted when assessing risks and psychological profiles of engineers.

Eg: *What are short-term and long-term effects of drinking water being polluted*

Moral Dilemmas/19GET201 –Professional Ethics/ A.Vetrivel/Mech/SNSCT