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COURSE NAME : 19GET201 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & HUMAN VALUES

IV YEAR/ VII SEMESTER

UNIT – I ENGINEERING ETHICS

Topic: Consensus and Controversy, Profession and Professionalism

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The moral judgment may lead to conflicts if they are not delivered properly without hurting the feelings of the persons involved.

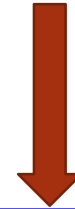**2 stages after the judgement**

Consensus

Controversy

General Agreement

Disagreement / Argument

Need of Consensus and Controversy

- The consensus and the controversies are playing the vital roles while considering the **moral autonomy.**

- When an individual exercises the moral autonomy, he cannot get the same results as others get in applying moral autonomy. Surely there must be some **moral differences** i.e. the results or verdicts will be of **controversy**. This kind of **disagreements** is unavoidable. These disagreements require some **tolerances** among individuals those who are autonomous, reasonable and responsible.

Relationship between Consensus, Authority

- One major goal of engineering ethics is to promote authority while exercising consensus.

- Consensus concerning the role of authority.

- Ex: Teachers having authority over students and managers having authority over engineers.

- So authority provides framework in which learning ,tolerance , consensus take place.

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Profession

Profession means a job or an occupation, that helps a person earn his living. The main criteria of a profession involves the following.

Advanced expertise – The criteria of a profession is to have sound knowledge in both technical aspects and liberal arts as well. In general, continuing education and updating knowledge are also important.

Self-regulation – An organization that provides a profession, plays a major role in setting standards for the admission to the profession, drafting codes of ethics, enforcing the standards of conduct and representing the profession before the public and the government.

Public good – Any occupation serves some public good by maintaining high ethical standards throughout a profession. This is a part of professional ethics where each occupation is intended to serve for the welfare of the public, directly or indirectly to a certain extent.

Professionals

A person who is paid for getting onvolved in a particular profession in order to earn a living as well as to satisfy the laws of that profession can be understood as a Professional.

"Only consulting engineers who are basically independent and have freedom from coercion can be called as professionals." – **Robert L. Whitelaw**

"Professionals have to meet the expectations of clients and employers. Professional restrains are to be imposed by only laws and government regulations and not by personal conscience." – **Samuel Florman**

"Engineers are professionals when they attain standards of achievement in education, job performance or creativity in engineering and accept the most basic moral responsibilities to the public as well as employers, clients, colleagues and subordinates." - **Mike martin and Ronald Schinzinger**

An engineer who is a professional, has some tasks to perform by which he acts as any of the following, which can be termed as Models of Professional Engineers.

Savior – A person who saves someone or something from any danger

Guardian – A person who knows the direction towards a better future is known to be the Guardian for the same

Bureaucratic Servant – A person who is loyal and can solve problems when they occur using his own skills

Social Servant – A person who works for the benefit of the society without any selfish interest and does not work on any business grounds

Social Enabler or Catalyst – A person who makes the society understand its welfare and works towards the benefits of the people in it

Game Player – A person who plays a game according to the rules given is a Game player in general.

Professionalism

All areas of practice of a particular profession.

Requires skills and responsibilities involved in engineering profession

➤ The art of **Professionalism** can be understood as the practice of doing the right thing, not because how one feels but regardless of how one feels.

➤ Professionals make a profession of the specific kind of activity

➤ Conduct to which they commit themselves and to which they can be expected to conform.

➤ Moral ideals specify virtue, i.e., desirable feature of character.

➤ Virtues are desirable ways of relating to other individuals, groups and organizations. Virtues involve motives, attitudes and emotions.

According to Aristotle, virtues are the "acquired habits that enable us to engage effectively in rational activities that defines us as human beings."

Excellence in core moral behavior

Essentials for any professional to excel in the profession are behavior, skills and knowledge

➢ The moral ideals specify the virtue, i.e., the desirable character traits that talk a lot about the

motives, attitude and emotions of an individual.

➢ Public spirited virtues

➢ Proficiency virtues

➢ Team work virtues

➢ Self-governance virtues

The virtues mentioned above show the professional responsibility of an individual. Hence, the professionalism that comes in with these virtues is called Responsible Professionalism

Public-spirited Virtues

An engineer should focus on the good of the clients and the public at large → no harm
Promoting the public safety, health and welfare.

Generous by extending time, talent and money to professional societies and communities
Justice within corporations, government and economic practices becomes an essential virtue that an engineer should always possess.

Proficiency Virtues

Virtues followed in the profession according to the talent and intellect of an engineer.
The moral values that include this virtue are competence and diligence.
Competence →successful in the job being done and the diligence →taking care and having alertness to dangers in the job.
Creativity

Teamwork Virtues

Coordination among team members

Cooperative nature along with loyalty and respect towards their organization, which makes the engineers motivate the team professionals to work towards their valuable goals.

Self-governance Virtues

Represent integrity and self-respect of the person.

The integrity actually means the moral integrity which refers to the actions, attitude and emotions of the person concerned during his professional period.

The self-governance virtues center on **commitment, courage, self-discipline, perseverance, self-respect and integrity.**

The **truthfulness and trustworthiness** which represent his **honesty** are the crucial moral values to be kept up by a professional.

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