

HUM 321

ENGINEERING ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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LECTURE – 01 CORE HUMAN VALUES

► Contents:

- Definitions and Interrelations of *Morals* , *Values* and *Ethics*.
- Character and Qualities : Honesty , Integrity, Courage, Empathy, Self-confidence.
- Work Ethic.

MORALS

- ***Morals*** often describes one's particular values or perspectives concerning what is right and what is wrong.
- Morals conform to a standard of right behavior that develop a psychological mindset to be capable of distinguishing between right and wrong actions.
- Morals are perceptual or psychological rather than tangible or practical in nature or effect.

VALUES

- ▶ Values are basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions. They help us to determine what is important to us. Values describe the personal qualities we choose to embody to guide our actions; the sort of person we want to be; the manner in which we treat ourselves and others, and our interaction with the world around us. They provide the general guidelines for conduct.

VALUES.....(CONTD.)

- ▶ Values in a narrow sense is that which is good, desirable, or worthwhile. Values are the motive behind purposeful action. They are the ends to which we act and come in many forms. Personal values are personal beliefs about right and wrong and may or may not be considered moral. Cultural values are values accepted by religions or societies and reflect what is important in each context.
- ▶ Values are essential to ethics. Ethics is concerned with human actions, and the choice of those actions. Ethics evaluates those actions, and the values that underlie them.

ETHICS

- ▶ Ethics is the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.
- ▶ Ethics **examines the rational justification for our moral judgments; it studies what is morally right or wrong, just or unjust.** In a broader sense, ethics reflects on human beings and their interaction with nature and with other humans, on freedom, on responsibility and on justice.

DIFFERENCE OF MORALS, VALUES AND ETHICS

According to Charles Colson, “**Morality describes what is, whereas Ethics describes what ought to be**”. Fundamentally, **morals refer to a set of rules defining what is considered to be right or wrong and accepted without questions**. These rules are typically defined by society. If someone breaks such a rule then he is typically considered to have been “bad” or “immoral.”

Values, on the other hand, **provide direction in the determination of right versus wrong or good versus bad**. Values are what an individual believes to have worth and importance or to be valuable. As such, morals are values defining right from wrong or good from bad.

Ethics refers to the “**moral character of an individual**”.

DIFFERENCE OF MORALS, VALUES AND ETHICS.....(CONTD.)

Morals	Ethics
Derived from Latin word moralis , meaning “traditional customs”	Derived from the Greek word, ethos , meaning moral character
Typically associated with personal behaviour	Typically refers to professional practices and behaviour
Customs or manners practiced in any given community or culture	Conveys sense of stability/permanence
May be different from culture to culture	An absolute standard of behaviour
May change as acceptable social behaviour in the culture changes	Standard is universal and immutable (not subject to change)

CHARACTER AND QUALITIES

- ▶ **Honesty**: The quality of being honest. It implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way.
- ▶ **Integrity**: Integrity is the practice of being honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values. In ethics, integrity is regarded as the honesty and truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions.
- ▶ **Integrity implies a consistent behavior, whether honest or not. Honesty implies being truthful (even if it is incorrect) about a subject at hand.**
Honesty, by definition, is to tell the truth and being true. Integrity is having strong moral principles based on honesty and to follow those principles religiously.

CHARACTER AND QUALITIES.....(CONTD.)

- ▶ **Courage**: The meaning of **Courage** is mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.
- ▶ **Empathy**: **Empathy** is the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position.
- ▶ **Self-confidence**: Self-confidence is **an attitude about your skills and abilities**. It means you accept and trust yourself and have a sense of control in your life. You know your strengths and weakness well, and have a positive view of yourself. You set realistic expectations and goals, communicate assertively, and can handle criticism.

SELF-CONFIDENCE

There are the 3 types of self-confidence one can have:

- ▶ **Self-Centered Confidence**: It means **you accept and trust yourself and have a sense of control in your life**. You know your strengths and weakness well, and have a positive view of yourself. You set realistic expectations and goals, communicate assertively, and can handle criticism.
- ▶ **Perfection-Seeking Confidence**: It is something to strive for, an ideal so high that its nigh on impossible to achieve. **Perfectionists are those that seek flawless outcomes, sublime achievements and impeccable results.**
- ▶ **Faith-filled Confidence**: Faith \approx **Trust or belief not based on proof**

Confidence \approx Certainty in the truth of something. In confidence we possess full trust, assurance and conviction. In faith we may wrestle with the uncertainty of hope or desire and our ambitions, aspirations or intentions for future outcomes.

WORK ETHICS

Work ethic is a **set of standards of behavior and beliefs regarding what is and isn't acceptable to do at work**. Work ethic can be strong (good) or poor (bad), it depends on personal views of employees, their motivation, and overall company culture.

7 Key Elements of a Strong Work Ethic

- ▶ Professionalism. Being professional involves everything from how you dress and present yourself in the business world to the way you treat others.
- ▶ Accountability.
- ▶ Respectfulness.
- ▶ Dedication.
- ▶ Determination.
- ▶ Humility.
- ▶ Dependability.

THE END