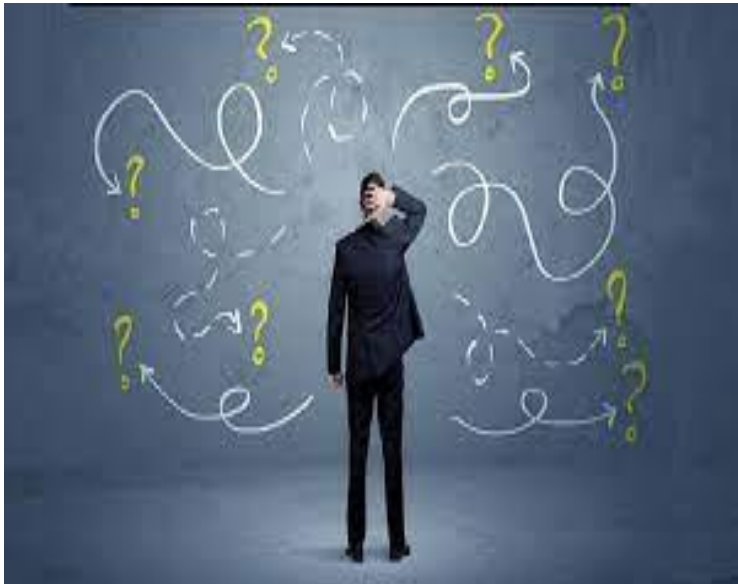




ETHICAL DILEMMAS



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SUBJECT: Ethical Decision Making

What is ethical dilemma ?

- Also called as moral dilemmas or ethical paradoxes.
- It is a problem in decision making process between two possible options
- Arises when the moral agent is undecided between the ethically right action and ethically wrong one.
- There are three philosophical approaches to ethical reasoning:
 1. Utilitarian ethics
 2. Deontological ethics
 3. Virtue ethics

UTILITARIANISM ETHICS

- the greatest good for the greatest number of people
- Proposed by John Stuart Mill
- Theory says that only consequences that matter are happiness and unhappiness, pleasure and pain
- Also called consequentialist or teleological
- As it judges the moral quality of the action by its consequences or by the end it achieves

DEONTOLOGICAL ETHICS

- It lays emphasis on “Call for duty”.
- Whatever duty compels the moral agent to do is the morally right action.
- It focuses on “Duty for duty’s sake”.
- This theory is proposed by Immanuel Kant.
- Also called as non-consequentialist theory, since it looks not on consequences of action but at the law or duty that governs it.
- In this, actions are judged to be ethical or unethical.

VIRTUE ETHICS

- Aristotle proposed the theory of Virtue Ethics.
- He based his ethics upon ontological reasoning.
- It is also called “Ontological theory” comes from ‘ontos’- being (to be /ought to be).
- This theory says that morally right action is to be guided by the virtues (honesty, integrity, courage, bravery and so on).
- Aristotle says that by honing virtuous habits, people will likely make the right choice when faced with ethical challenges.

Impaired Driver Dilemma

Case of Impaired driver :-

The driver was parting late so he was in a hurry. He race to the parking garage, hop in his SUV and tear around the turn towards the exit. Smash! Car parked in just the wrong place. He noted that there is extensive damage to the other car- both doors on the driver's side badly dented- but none to his. What should he do?

Now here arises an ethical dilemma whether he should report the case or should take off?

- The dichotomy in the case of the impaired driver is between the things he might lose if he honestly reports the case to the police and,
- On the other hand, the things he will not lose if he does not report the case.

Things he might lose: driving license, might get fined, lose his SUV or law license ,or might sent to jail.

Things he might not lose: driving license, SUV, law license, might not sent to jail.

Now, here are ways by which this case can be solved:-

Solution to the case :-

1. Utilitarianism :

- According to this theory, the best course for the driver is to take off without doing anything at all
- because the pain felt by the car owner upon finding his damaged car is nothing compared to the pain that the driver and his family would feel if he lost his ability to earn a living, let alone if he went to jail.
- Besides, the car owner's insurance will probably cover the whole bill of the accident or his damaged car.
- So through this theory, we can conclude that, “ It is morally right for driver to run away without reporting the case.”

2. Deontological theory:

- **As a citizen, the driver should call the police and reports the case, irrespective of the consequences because that's his duty.**
- **He has enjoyed all the benefits of the citizenship, now it's time to honour his part of the bargain.**
- **You are supposed to abide by the rules and laws and take responsibility of your actions.**
- **If the driver does not report the case, he set himself above the law and contribute to a lawless society.**
- **So, reporting the case is his morally right action to do as well as his moral duty.**

3. Virtue Ethics :

In context to the case, Virtue Ethics says –

- Morality is not just about consequences, nor it is just about laws and duties- often it's about the sort of person you are, your very being.**
- So virtue ethics helps us understand what it means to be a virtuous human being.**
- And it gives us a guide for living life without giving us specific rules for resolving ethical dilemmas.**

CONCLUSION

- **Ethics provides a set of standards for behavior that helps us decide how we ought to act in a range of situations.**
- **Decisions about right and wrong permeate everyday life. Ethics should concern all levels of life: acting properly as individuals, creating responsible organizations and governments, and making our society as a whole more ethical.**
- **Having a method for ethical decision making is essential**
- **Our method for ethical decision making should enable us to recognize the new and unfamiliar situations and to act accordingly.**

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thank
you