

Professional Ethics Theory and Practice



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Shrisahitya Prakashan, Delhi

ISBN : 978-93-86402-56-1

Published by

Shrisahitya Prakashan

D-580, Ashok Nagar, Gali No. 4
Wazirabad Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110093

Mo.: 9873390338

web: www.Shrisahityaparakashan.com

email: Shrisahityaparakashan@gmail.com

© : **Editors**

First Edition : 2020

Cover Layour : Amit Kumar

Lazer Typesetting : Ankush Sharma

Mudrak : Pooja Offset Printers

₹ 650

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS : THEORY AND PRACTICE

By

***(Prof.) Dr. Harpreet Kaur, Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa,
Dr. Hemlata Krishnani, Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi***

Foreword

The Department of Philosophy of our College Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi organized an inter-disciplinary conference on *Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice* on 21-22 January 2020. The wide range of the papers received with the expertise of the scholars from varied disciplines was the highlight of the event. The erudition of the conference is subsumed in the form of this publication. The papers presented were from varied streams pertaining to essential facets of ethics like commerce, health, military, academics, research and education, medical, journalism etc. Many philosophers including Mahatma Gandhi, Plato, Aristotle, and Kant were discussed from the ethical standpoint. The practical ethics contained in the Bani of Guru Nanak was the core of many papers presented. Sri Guru Granth Sahib contains philosophical pearls of wisdom to lead ethical life in this world. The ethical point of view in Mahabharata, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita etc. is discussed presenting its present-day relevance. In the age of Internet when the ethical parameters are eroding tremendously, the need to asset professional ethics is imperative.

So, embracing ethics in all endeavors individual, corporate and collective is the correct recourse in the present times that is beset with a rapid decline in the values and is marked with excessive predominance of materialism. The concerns of individual, state and society are inter-related and ethical pursuits are paramount in the matters pertaining to the normative economics and magnanimous civil society. Creating a fine balance between society and societal concerns is excruciatingly important in the present day context. A good social setup aims to create individuals and institutions that endorse

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fosters ethical conduct, which are a part of the larger aim of creating and promoting a conducive work environment and thwarting any attempt for unethical behaviour in the workplace. Some corporations have adopted ethics programmes in response to serious scandals whereas others seek to prevent scandals before they occur by facilitating formal structures through which the organizations are perceived as responsible, nondiscriminatory and just. Ethics programmes along with formal structures are important for it ensures that there is no deviation from the duties and responsibilities by anyone who is part of the management structure of the company and also, that its employees endorse fairness and honesty in activities. Ethics programmes can be taken as an investment that must be justified and its components generally include a code of ethics, ethics training for employees, channels for communication with the employees about the matter of ethics, a reporting mechanism for enabling employees to report alleged wrongdoing, an audit system for detecting wrongdoing, the system for conducting investigations and taking corrective action. So, ethics programmes are preventive measure for any company and are instrumental in preventing and detecting immoral conduct that can tarnish image of any company. All reasonable steps should be taken to prevent any sort of scandal, and respond appropriately if the need arises. The behaviour of the individuals can be rationalised using ethical theories. Requisite training is required for the employees that they are acquainted with the ethical code of conduct to carry out their tasks and duties at the workplace and crafting conscientious global citizens.

The need to find recourse in the traditional wisdom contained in the scriptures is the right remedy to correct ills present in the materialistic world ruled by selfishness, rivalries, dissensions, disputations, violence and so on. The teachings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Mahabharata, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita and other holy scriptures if imbibed earnestly in life, the personal and professional life of a person would be tension-free and impediments in the life of a person would be removed.

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Ethics in Mahatma Gandhi's Vision

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Key Words : *Mahatma Gandhi, Truth, Ahimsa, Non-violence, Moksha, bread-labour, Individual and Collective emancipation*

Introduction

The year 2019 marks 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The teachings of Mahatma Gandhi are reiterated in varied forums of the countries of the world in many ways, that are celebrating and remembering the legacy of the Mahatma and his all-encompassing vision. ***His all-inclusive vision for an ideal society was based on the personal and societal values like,*** Truth, non-violence, social justice, soul force, love, dignity, bread labour, ahimsa etc. He strived to create harmony amongst the society and between the components of the society i.e., individuals by establishing an organic unity amongst them, creating a fine balance between society and societal concerns (*Sarvodaya*) and reiterating enduring commitment to social justice, swaraj, civil disobedience etc. He says, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". Mahatma Gandhi's efforts were naturally directed towards creating a harmony between nature and human beings. The aim of one should be harmony of an individual with himself along with the mutual relationships between individuals of the society and balance in various components of society and harmony with nature and one's surroundings. He says, "Hap-

ABOUT THE BOOK

The book originates from a thought arising from survival of the fittest versus survival of the ablest. It rests on the bedrock of a reality that in the present times after food, clothing and shelter; the fourth basic necessity of human life are the professional ethics which for a professional are what a mother is to a child. It deals with multifarious aspects of professional ethics relevant to any profession, occupation, trade and business. The novelty of the book is projection of experiences of eminent professionals from different disciplines, among others. It has attempted to do justice to the theoretical and practical aspects. The book would greatly serve the present and future generation of professionals.

ABOUT THE EDITORS



Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur is the Principal, Mata Sundri College for Women, (University of Delhi), New Delhi. She is an acclaimed speaker and writer on multifarious topics at the national and international levels. An author of 24 Books, 23 Book Reviews, 25 Research Papers and 4 Forewords/Editorials, majority of her papers were presented at the international conferences including Stanford University, USA, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, University of Ottawa, Canada, Capital School of Business and Management, UK, World Punjabi Conference, Brampton, Canada. On the occasion of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, she was an invited Expert Speaker at the Embassy of India, Muscat, Oman. She is associated with prestigious literary bodies and is on The Editorial Board of The Sikh Review.



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