

VALUES AND ETHICS IN PROFESSION (HU301)

HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT

DEPT. OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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1. Dilemmas are situations in which moral reasons come into conflict, or in which the application of moral values are problems, and one is not clear of the immediate choice or solution of the problems. Moral reasons could be rights, duties, goods or obligations. These situations do not mean that things had gone wrong, but they only indicate the presence of moral complexity. This makes the decision making complex. For example, a person promised to meet a friend and dine, but he has to help his uncle who is involved in an accident — one has to fix the priority.

There are some difficulties in arriving at the solution to the problems, in dilemma. The three complex situations leading to moral dilemmas are:

The problem of vagueness: One is unable to distinguish between good and bad (right or wrong) principle. Good means an action that is obligatory. For example, code of ethics specifies that one should obey the laws and follow standards. Refuse bribe or accept the gift, and maintain confidentiality

The problem of conflicting reasons: One is unable to choose between two good moral solutions. One has to fix priority, through knowledge or value system.

The problem of disagreement: There may be two or more solutions and none of them mandatory. These solutions may be better or worse in some respects but not in all aspects.

One has to interpret, apply different morally reasons, and analyze and rank the decisions.

- a) Based on your reading of the text above, define 'Moral Dilemma'.
 - b) Give two instances of Moral Dilemma with instances from the Bhagavad Gita, The Mahabharata, Ramayana or any other epic/religious text.
1. A manufacturing enterprise/Company pays their engineers overtime salary and a handsome bonus to work during a strike period. The strike was organised by the Union against the unsafe working conditions of the plant. Bobby, considered as a management man, believes that the conditions may be unsafe even though no government regulations apply.
- a) What should Bobby do?
2. a) What do you understand by the term 'Corporate Social Responsibility'?
- b) From newspapers or other sources, give two instances of CSR activity undertaken by an organization or Company in recent times. You can refer to the 'Happenings' page in The Telegraph which give information of CSR activities. You must paste the newspaper paper cutting of the CSR activity on to you answer sheet for this question.

3. Gifts and bribes are two terms that cover a wide spectrum of material or other services given, from a harmless gift to a totally illegal bribe. In between is a grey area that is difficult to judge. For example, a medical representative gave free samples of medicines to a doctor and requested him to prescribe these medicines to his patients.
 - a) Should the doctor have accepted it? What ethical aspects are involved here?
 - b) What is the morality of such a request?
4. Read the following case and answer the questions that follow:

BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON BOEING

"According to federal court records, David Sabey, whose Sabey Corp. had contracted to erect the buildings for Boeing, didn't meet the company's ultra-strict specifications. Wiring in some areas of the complex, for example, didn't meet code. In other places, safety measures were not up to snuff."

Kevin Kelly had been an electrician at the Boeing Co. for a couple of years when, in 1987, he got a call from his bosses to take on a special assignment. "I've had a lot of experience, 40 to 45 years, getting people to fulfill their contracts. When I go to Boeing and say there's something wrong, they do nothing, and I'm not satisfied. When you're a whistleblower, nobody wants you. But I have to live with Kevin Kelly.", Kelly commented.

Kevin Kelly's assignment was to go into Oxbow plant, identify the problems, and assist with what would amount to millions of dollars in repair work. What Kelly found, federal court records show, was that instead of Boeing holding Sabey responsible for the repairs, the aerospace company merely billed the work back to the government.

Kelly told his superiors that Sabey's people should have been doing the work. Kelly was told not

to worry about it. Time and time again, Kelly brought the problem to the attention of Boeing managers, and time and time again, he was told to mind his own business.

Seven months after he first stumbled upon the suspicious activity, Kelly's conscience kicked into overdrive. He decided he had no other choice but to blow the whistle on Boeing.

Kelly handed over piles of internal Boeing records that revealed how the company went about billing the government for work that Kelly believed Sabey was responsible for doing, court records show. Convinced that Boeing may indeed have been ripping off the government, the Defense Department's Office of Inspector General slapped Boeing with a subpoena in April 1989, demanding records pertaining to the top-secret Oxbow facility.

Issues Raised by this topic:

- a) Did Kelly do the right thing blowing the whistle when he knew that he might not win his case?
- b) When his original suspicions were aroused and management did nothing to correct the oversight, should he have been more immediate in his whistle blowing?
- c) Should Kelly have handed over private company records to prove his allegations of mis-billing?
- d) How would you have handled this situation?

6. How will you convince your employees to implement a policy of dress code in your organization?
7. How has technology helped the developing countries?
8. According to you, what are the things that confines Corporate Social Responsibility?
9. Discuss a few consequences of unethical practices of an employee.
10. Describe how you will implement ethics in an organization.
