ENGINEERING ETHICS

New Pattern
for
UPSC ESE Exam
Preface to IInd Edition

“Do What is Right, Not What is Easy”

Ethics in engineering practice is about Professional responsibilities of engineers and the moral skills required to fulfill them. Engineering Ethics is an introductory textbook that explores many of the ethical issues that a practicing engineer might encounter in the course of his/her professional engineering practice.

Many factors are responsible if a disaster takes place in an engineering project which includes overconfidence, negligence, poor maintenance etc. Most of the disaster can be prevented if necessary code of ethics is followed which tells about the roles and responsibilities of an engineer. For these purpose several ethical codes were established. The main purpose of these ethical codes is to ensure public safety and welfare.

Ethics is understanding of human character and values. Values provide a unique, personal and moral template to assess the intentions and action of ourselves and others. It also distinguishes the right from the wrong.

This book contains a discussion on ethical theories, professional ethics, Principles of ethics, Human values and psychology from the engineering point of view. This book also highlights the moral issues and dilemmas faced by an engineer in an organization. Global issues such as Environmental ethics, Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Computer ethics and internet etc. are also discussed in brief.

To acclimatize the students with engineering ethics and to build analytical and reasoning skills to solve the problems, more than 250+ questions has been designed for practice and grasping the essence of Engineering ethics.

I am heartily grateful to my colleague Adesh Jain for his contribution in generating, shaping, editing and production of this book.

Any constructive suggestion for improving the content will be greatly appreciated.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>01 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-2</td>
<td>Engineering as a Profession – Professional Ethics</td>
<td>11 – 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-3</td>
<td>Organization Behaviour and Management</td>
<td>23 – 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-4</td>
<td>Principles of Ethics</td>
<td>43 – 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-5</td>
<td>Human Values and Psychology</td>
<td>55 – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-6</td>
<td>Moral and Industrial Thinkers</td>
<td>71 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-7</td>
<td>Ethics in Governance</td>
<td>83 – 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-8</td>
<td>Ethical Issues</td>
<td>95 – 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-9</td>
<td>Glossary of Engineering Ethics</td>
<td>103 – 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter-10</td>
<td>Additional Practice Questions</td>
<td>111 – 120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Description</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREFACE</td>
<td>... (iii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTENTS</td>
<td>... (v)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER-1 INTRODUCTION</th>
<th>1 – 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Basic Introduction to ethics and engineering ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Introduction to Engineering Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Why Engineers should study ethics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1 What is the Context of the Work?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Morality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Values</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.1 How values are shaped &amp; why do they differ from individual to individual or society</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.2 Character</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Study of the Scope of Engineering Profession</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Engineering profession in Public V/S Private Organization</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7.1 Difference in Values of Public &amp; Private Organisations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7.2 The new problem areas in Engineering today</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Different level of Study of ethics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER-2 ENGINEERING AS A PROFESSION–PROFESSIONAL ETHICS</th>
<th>11 – 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Profession</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Professional Ethics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Engineering as a Profession</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Roles of an Engineer</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Engineer as a Moral agent</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1 Variety of moral Issues affecting Engineer/Engineering</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2 Reason for Moral Problems</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.3 Types of Enquiry in Engineering Ethics</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Why Study Engineering Ethics?</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.1 Stages of Moral Development of an Engineer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.2 Basic principle of engineering ethics</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Responsibilities of an Engineer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1 Professional Responsibilities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.2 Moral Responsibility</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3 Responsibility for Safety and Risk-Evaluation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3.1 Concept of Safety</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3.2 What is a Risk?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3.3 Consequences of Risks</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER-3 ORGANIZATION BEHAVIOUR AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Introduction to the concept of organization

3.2 Functions of an Organization
   3.2.1 Human Resource

3.3 Type of Activities

3.4 Allocation of Power, Authority and Activities
   3.4.1 Authority and Power
   3.4.2 Sources of Authority
   3.4.3 Types of Authority
   3.4.4 Relationship of Responsibility and Accountability

3.5 Requirements of the Organization and Employees and the overall goal
   3.5.1 Benefits of Mechanization and Automation
   3.5.2 Drawbacks of Mechanization & Automation

3.6 Employer-Employee Relationship
   3.6.1 Proper Channels of Communication
   3.6.2 Proper Mechanism for Conflict Resolution
   3.6.3 Opportunity for Employee Motivation & Growth

3.7 Role of Management and Engineers
   3.7.1 Leadership

3.8 Organizational Control
   3.8.1 Types of Control
   3.8.2 Means of Control
   3.8.3 Loyalty
   3.8.4 Professionalism and Loyalty

3.9 Conflicts and Issues in the Organization and their Control
   3.9.1 Conflicts of Interest
   3.9.2 Issues
   3.9.3 How to Resolve Conflicts and Issues

3.10 Regulation of Engineers through Professional Codes and Code of Ethics
   3.10.1 Aspects of “Engineering as a Social Experimentation”
   3.10.2 Work Ethics
   3.10.3 Professional Codes
   3.10.4 Concept of Moral Responsibility & Official Responsibility (Responsibility vs. Obligation)
   3.10.5 Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

3.11 Sample Code of Ethics for engineers
   3.11.1 The Institute Of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)
   3.11.2 National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
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CHAPTER-4 PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

4.1 Principle of Ethics 43
4.2 Types of Ethics/Morality 44
  4.2.1 Meta-Ethics 44
  4.2.2 Normative Ethics 44
  4.2.3 Applied Ethics 44
  4.2.4 Descriptive Ethics 45
4.3 Ethical Evaluation 45
  4.3.1 Consequentialism 46
    4.3.1.1 Utilitarianism 46
    4.3.1.2 Hedonism 46
    4.3.1.3 Ethical Egoism 46
    4.3.1.4 Ethical Altruism 46
  4.3.2 Non-Consequentialism 46
    4.3.2.1 Rule Theories 47
    4.3.2.2 Virtue Ethics 48
  4.3.3 Pragmatic Ethics 49
4.4 Which Principle to Apply? 49

CHAPTER-5 HUMAN VALUES AND PSYCHOLOGY

5.1 Human Values 55
  5.1.1 Characteristics of Values 56
  5.1.2 Role of Values 56
5.2 Attitude 57
  5.2.1 Dimensions of Attitude 57
  5.2.2 Functions of Attitude 57
  5.2.3 Types of Attitude 58
  5.2.4 Influence of Attitude on Human Behavior 58
  5.2.5 Moral Attitude 58
5.3 Behaviour 58
5.4 Aptitude 59
5.5 Perception 59
  5.5.1 The Perceptual Process 59
  5.5.2 Perceptual Distortion in Public Services 59
5.6 Emotions and Emotional Intelligence 60
  5.6.1 Types of Emotions 60
  5.6.2 Emotional Intelligence 60
  5.6.3 Aspects of Emotional Intelligence 61
  5.6.4 Cognitive v/s Emotional Intelligence 61
5.6.5 Emotional Resilience 61
5.6.6 Skills For Developing Emotional Intelligence [EI] 61
5.6.7 Application and Relevance of Emotional Intelligence (EI) in Human Life 61

5.7 Decision Making 62
5.7.1 Characteristics of Decision Making 62
5.7.2 Advantages of Decision Making 63
5.7.3 Steps Involved in Decision Making Process 63
5.7.4 Why Rational and Right Decisions are Not Possible? 64

5.8 Leadership & Communication 65
5.8.1 The Traits Approach 65
5.8.2 Behavioral Styles Approaches 65
5.8.3 Situational/Contingency Approaches 66
5.8.4 Contemporary Issues in Leadership 66
5.8.5 Communication 66

CHAPTER-6 MORAL AND INDUSTRIAL THINKERS 71 – 82

6.1 Indian Moral Thinkers 71
6.1.1 Kautilya/Chanakya 71
6.1.2 Mahatma Gandhi 71
6.1.3 Dr. B.R Ambedkar 72
6.1.4 Dr. S. Radhakrishnan 72
6.1.5 Dr. Amartya Sen 72
6.1.6 Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam 72

6.2 Western Moral Thinkers 72
6.2.1 Socrates 72
6.2.2 Plato 73
6.2.3 Aristotle 73
6.2.4 Machiavelli 73
6.2.5 Karl Marx 74
6.2.6 Immanuel Kant 74
6.2.7 J. Bentham 74
6.2.8 J.S. Mill 74

6.3 Modern Industrial Philosophers 75
6.3.1 F.W. Taylor 75
6.3.2 Henry Fayol 75
6.3.3 Gulick & Urwick 75
6.3.4 Abraham Maslow 75

6.4 Role of Moral and Industrial Thinkers in Engineering 76
6.4.1 Moral Dilemma 76
6.4.2 Nature of Moral Judgement 76
6.4.3 Responsible Action 76

6.5 Importance and Role of Moral Philosophy in Decision-Making by Engineers 77
6.5.1 Ethics of Responsibility 77
6.5.1.1 Personal Vs Professional Ethics 77
6.5.1.2 Ethics Vs Law 78
CHAPTER-7  ETHICS IN GOVERNANCE  83 – 94

7.1 Ethics in governance  83
7.2 Concept of Good Governance  83
7.3 Probity in Governance  84
  7.3.1 Measures To Achieve probity  84
7.4 Accountability  84
  7.4.1 Accountability v/s Responsibility  85
7.5 Aspects of Accountability  85
  7.5.1 Openness and Transparency  85
  7.5.2 Corruption  86
    7.5.2.1 Types of Corruption  86
    7.5.2.2 Causes of corruption  86
    7.5.2.3 Modes of Corruption  87
    7.5.2.4 Ways to Curb Corruption  87
    7.5.2.5 Work Culture and Corruption  88
  7.5.3 Whistle Blowing  88
7.6 Good Corporate Governance  90
7.7 Ethics in Design and Quality  90
7.8 Recommendations of 2nd ARC Report for improving ethics in governance  91

CHAPTER-8  ETHICAL ISSUES  95 – 102

8.1 Ethical Issues  95
8.2 Globalisation and Cross-Cultural Issues  95
8.3 Types of Ethical Issues faced by Engineers in Various Spheres  96
  8.3.1 Research and Development  96
  8.3.2 Academic integrity  96
  8.3.3 Advertising  97
  8.3.4 Competitive Bidding  97
  8.3.5 Being Dishonest as an Expert Witness  97
8.4 Intellectual Property Right (IPRs)  97
  8.4.1 Types of Intellectual Properties  97
8.5 Environmental Ethics  97
  8.5.1 Aspects of Environmental Ethics  97
  8.5.2 Type of Environmental Ethics  98
8.6 Computer Ethics and the Internet  98
8.7 Engineers & Technological Progress  99
8.8 Resource Allocation  100
  8.8.1 Various Bases of Resource Allocation  100

CHAPTER-9  GLOSSARY OF ENGINEERING ETHICS  103 – 110

Additional Practice Questions  111 – 120
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27th July
3:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Regular Batch (CE)

1st August
1:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Regular Batch (EE)

1st August
1:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Regular Batch (ECE)
1. **Assertion (A):** Engineers should have knowledge of ethical dimensions of engineering  

**Reason (R):** Engineering rules do not encompass every situation often the rules only set limits within which decision must be made.  

(a) Both (A) & (R) are individually true, and (R) correctly option (A).  
(b) Both (A) & (R) individually true, but (R) does not explain (A).  
(c) A is True, R is False  
(d) A is False, R is true

2. **Assertion (A):** Most of firms and companies like to hire ethically trained Engineer.  

**Reason (R):** Ethically trained Engineer are more marketable.  

(a) Both (A) & (R) are individually true, and (R) correctly option (A).  
(b) Both (A) & (R) individually true, but (R) does not explain (A).  
(c) A is True, R is False  
(d) A is False, R is true

3. An engineer designs a small structural steel building for a client, using pirated structural design software obtained from the Internet. The engineer later learns that the software gives accurate stress analysis for tension, but does not properly predict buckling of columns in compression. The computer program is patched, and a revised analysis shows that the building is not as safe as first believed. An extreme snowfall could cause the supporting columns to buckle, and the building might collapse completely. Such a severe snowfall occurs about once every 10 years. What should the engineer do?  

(a) Destroy all evidence of the revised analysis and hope for good weather.  
(b) Contact the client, disclose the problem and tell the client to sue the software developer.  
(c) Hire a good defence lawyer for the Association’s disciplinary hearing against the engineer for negligence and unprofessional conduct.  
(d) Contact the client, disclose the problem, and try to negotiate a way to reinforce the columns.

4. Consider the following statements regarding definition of ‘moral’:  

1. Being or acting in accordance with standards and precepts of goodness  
2. Arising from conscience or a sense of right and wrong  
3. A concisely expressed precept or general truth, a maxim  
4. The principles of conduct governing an individual or a profession, standards of behaviour.  

Which of the above statements are correct?  

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4  
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(c) 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

5. Engineering ethics applies the general definition of ethics to situations involving  

(a) engineer’s social lives  
(b) engineer’s interpersonal lives  
(c) workplace behaviours of engineers  
(d) All of the above

6. Which is/are the levels of study of ethics?  

1. At the level of individual  
2. At the level of engineering  
3. At the level of Government  
4. At the level of society  

(a) only 1, 2 and 3  
(b) only 2, 3 and 4  
(c) only 1, 2 and 4  
(d) All of the above

7. Select the common values between public and private sector:  

1. Honesty  
2. Commitment  
3. Quality and Design  
4. Public interest  

(a) only 1, 2  
(b) only 1 and 3  
(c) only 3 and 4  
(d) All of the above

8. Which of the following does not constitute the foundation of ethics?
9. What refers to situations in which moral reasons come into conflict, or in which the application of moral values is problematic?
   (a) Silo mentality  (b) Preventive ethics  (c) Ethical issues  (d) Moral dilemmas

10. Ethics is synonymous to .
    (a) Morality  (b) Money  (c) Standards  (d) Conduct

11. The general and abstract concepts of right and wrong behavior culled from philosophy, theology, and professional societies
    (a) Ethics  (b) Morals  (c) Etiquette  (d) Law

12. “We wish to be good citizens of every community in which we operate.” This is
    (a) Ethical Code  (b) Political and Social Code

13. The ethical dilemma of choosing between two rights refers to
    (a) Choosing between the lesser of two evils  (b) Deciding which of two employee rights is the most important
    (c) Deciding to offer a bribe or lose out on an important opportunity  (d) Choosing between the two types of sexual harassment

14. Who said: “Ethics deals with the right actions of individuals.”
    (a) Peter F. Drucker  (b) C.S. Rao  (c) J.R. Betty  (d) D.C. Zahe

15. The cultural, organizational, community, interpersonal, or personal dynamics that should be considered when making ethical and professional issues are referred to as:
    (a) Personal considerations.  (b) Contextual considerations.
    (c) Environmental considerations.  (d) Ethical considerations.

**ANSWERS**

1. (a)  4. (d)  7. (a)  10. (a)  13. (a)
2. (a)  5. (c)  8. (d)  11. (a)  14. (a)
3. (d)  6. (c)  9. (d)  12. (a)  15. (b)