

ETHICS

LESSON 1: WHAT IS ETHICS?

ETHICS

- Branch of philosophy that studies morality and human conduct.

BASIC CONCEPT OF ETHICS

- **ETHICS:** Comes from the word *ethos*, meaning character, habit, or custom. Is a branch of philosophy that examines human actions and determines what is morally right and wrong. It studies the principles that guide human behavior and decision-making.

It asks questions like:

- What should I do?
- What is the right thing to do?
- Why is an action good or bad?
- How should people treat each other?

DEFINITIONS BY DIFFERENT SCHOLARS

1. **ARISTOTLE** - Ethics is about developing character and living a virtuous life. He believed that happiness () is achieved through practicing virtues such as courage, honesty, justice, and generosity.
2. **IMMANUEL KANT** - Ethics is based on duty. A person should do what is right because it is morally correct—not because of rewards or fear of punishment. **EXAMPLE:** Returning lost money even if there's no reward.
3. **JOHN STUART MILL** - Ethics should produce the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. An action is morally right if it benefits the majority.

ETHICS VS. MORALITY

- Many people use these terms interchangeably, but they have slight differences.

- Systematic study of right and wrong. - Branch of Philosophy.	- Personal beliefs about right and wrong. - Personal values of societal beliefs.
--	--

WHY WE STUDY ETHICS?

1. Make Better Decisions.
2. Maintain a Healthy Relationship.
3. Prepare for Professional Life
4. Build Good Character
5. Become Responsible Citizen

WHAT IS MORAL STANDARD?

- Is a rule or principle that tells people what they ought to do because it concerns right and wrong.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MORAL STANDARD

1. They concern serious matters (when it affects society).
2. They are based on reason.
3. They are universal. Moral principles apply to everyone regardless of who they are.
4. They take priority over standards. Sometimes moral standards override customs, traditions, or personal preferences.
5. They are based on impartiality. Fairness over Favoritism.
6. They are associated with rights and duties. Responsibility to do your duties.
7. They involve accountability. "Pananagutan".

ETHICS

8. They promote human dignity. For example, race, gender, religion and social status,
-

ETHICS

LESSON: CONCERN WITH THE WELFARE OF BEINGS

WHAT DOES WELFARE MEAN?

- Welfare refers to the overall well-being of a person or living being. *KAPAKANAN*.

It includes:

1. Physical Health
2. Mental and emotional well-being
3. Safety and Security
4. Opportunity to live a good life
5. Freedom from unnecessary suffering

WHAT IS CONCERN WITH THE WELFARE OF BEINGS?

- This ethical principle means: We have a moral responsibility to care about the well-being of all living beings and avoid causing unnecessary harm.

It teaches us:

1. Reduce suffering whenever possible
2. Show compassion
3. Respect Life
4. Help those in need

WHO ARE THE BEINGS?

- Children
- Adult
- Person with disability
- Animal
- Environment
- Ecosystem

WHY IS WELFARE IMPORTANT IN ETHICS?

- Promotes kindness and compassion
- Protects human rights
- Prevents cruelty and abuse
- Encourages responsible decision-making
- Builds peaceful and caring communities.

ETHICAL THEORIES RELATED TO WELFARE:

1. Utilitarianism

- Choose the action that creates the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. *JOHN STUART MILL*.

2. Virtue Ethics

- A good person shows compassion, kindness, generosity, and respect. *ARISTOTLE*.

3. Deontology

- Teaches that an action is morally right if it follows moral duties, rules, or principles— regardless of the outcome. *IMMANUEL KANT*.

4. Biocentrism

- Is the ethical view that all living beings have intrinsic value, meaning they are valuable simply because they are alive— not because they are useful to humans. *PAUL TAYLOR SMITH*.

HUMAN WELFARE:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Food and Nutrition
- Clean Water
- Shelter
- Equal Opportunities
- Safety

ANIMAL WELFARE:

- Proper food and water
- Shelter
- Veterinary care
- Protection from abuse
- Freedom from unnecessary pain

ENVIRONMENTAL WELFARE:

- Planting trees
- Reducing plastic waste
- Conserving water
- Protecting wildlife habitats

CHALLENGES:

1. Limited resources

ETHICS

2. Conflicts of interest
 3. Poverty
 4. Discrimination
 5. Personal bias
 6. Environmental destruction
-
- Welfare means well-being
 - Ethics teaches us to care about others.
 - Concern with the welfare of beings includes humans, animals, and the environment.
 - Compassion, kindness, and responsibility guide ethical behavior.
-

ETHICS

LESSON: ONLY HUMAN BEING CAN BE ETHICAL: rELIANCE ON REASONING AND NOT ON AUTHORITY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ETHICAL?

- To be ethical is to consistently act in ways that align with reasoned principles of right and wrong.

THREE THINGS THAT MAKE AN ACTION ETHICAL

1. **REASON** - You can explain why it's right and wrong. EX: Stealing is wrong because it hurts the other person.
2. **CHOICE** - You had other options, but you picked the right one. EX: You could lie but you told the truth.
3. **RESPONSIBILITY** - Owning the results of your choices. You use reason to choose, then you stand by it. EX: I did it, so it's on me.

KNOW THE PHILOSOPHERS

1. **IMMANUEL KANT**
 - Only humans can be ethical because we have a reason and can choose to do what's right out of duty.
 - Dare to know (*Sapere Aude*) - Have the courage to use your own mind.
 - **KEY IDEA:** Humans are ends in themselves because we can reason and choose.
2. **ARISTOTLE**
 - Humans are "rational animals" (*zoon logikon*), so only we can use reason to build good habits and live a flourishing life (*eudaimonia*).
 - **KEY IDEA:** Live well by using reason to build good habits and virtues.
3. **SOCRATES**
 - Question everything unexamined life isn't worth living, and truth comes on reasoning, not authority.

- **KEY IDEA:** Truth through questioning.

4. THOMAS AQUINAS

- He believed only human beings can be ethical because we have reason and free will.
- He also thought that reason should be guided by divine authority, not separated by it.

5. LAWRENCE KOHLBERG

- Only humans can be ethical because morality develops through reasoning.
- As we mature, we move away from authority and toward independent reasoning.

6. JEAN PIAGET

- Only human beings can be ethical because morality develops through human reasoning specifically as children grow and move from obeying authority to thinking themselves.

PIAGET'S 2 STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT

1. HETERONOMOUS MORALITY

- Age: 5-10 years old
- Kids see rules as fixed, made by adults/God and can't be changed.
- Right/wrong is based on consequences.
- Reliance on Authority

2. AUTONOMOUS MORALITY

- Age: 10 years and up
- Kids understand rules are made by people and can be changed if everyone agrees.
- Right/wrong is based on intent and fairness, not just consequences.
- Reliance on Reasoning

MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF THE PHILO

1. IMMANUEL KANT

ETHICS

- Use reason + duty
- Only humans can be ethical because we can reason and choose right from duty, not instinct.

2. ARISTOTLE

- Humans are “rational animals”

3. SOCRATES

- Question everything.
- Truth comes from reasoning and questioning, not just authority.

4. THOMAS AQUINAS

- Reason + God together.
- Only humans can be ethical because we have reason and free will.
- Use reason but let faith guide it.

5. LAWRENCE KOHLBERG

- Morality grows with reasoning.
- Only humans can be ethical because morality develops through reasoning.
- Grow from “because I was told” to “because it makes sense”.

6. JEAN PIAGET

- Only humans can be ethical because we use morality as we reason.
- We go from “follow rules” to “understand rules”.

ETHICS BASED ON REASON VS. ETHICS BASED ON AUTHORITY

• You figure out what's right by thinking for yourself. HOW IT WORKS? ★ <i>YOU ASKS:</i> - Is this fair? - Does this make sense? - What are the consequences?	• You know what's right because someone in power told you to. HOW IT WORKS? ★ <i>YOU ASKS:</i> - What did the church, the boss, the government, parents, or
--	--

• You use logic, experience, and reflection. • You are responsible for your choice.	tradition say? • You follow rules, customs or orders without questioning. • Responsibility is given to the authority.
--	---

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ETHICAL PERSON RELYING ON REASON

1. Think Critically.
2. Take Responsibility.
3. Respect other people's reason too.
4. Acts on principles, not just order.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ETHICAL PERSON RELYING ON AUTHORITY

1. Follows rules and orders
2. Values obedience and loyalty
3. Prioritizes unity and order
4. Responsibility is shared with authority
5. Stability but risk of blind obedience

ETHICS

LESSON 5: OVERRIDING OR HEGEMONIC NATURE OF MORAL STANDARDS

WHAT ARE MORAL STANDARDS?

- Moral standards are principles or rules that help people determine what is right and wrong, good and bad, or acceptable and unacceptable behavior.
- They guide human actions by helping individuals decide how they should treat others and how they should behave in society.
- EXAMPLES:
 - Being honest
 - Respecting other people
 - Helping those in need
 - Avoiding actions that harm others
- Moral standards are different from personal preferences because they are not simply based on what someone likes or dislikes. They are connected to values that affect human welfare and relationships.

WHO IS WILLIAM DAVID ROSS?

- He was a Scottish philosopher who developed the ethical theory called: **PRIMA FACIE DUTIES THEORY**
- “Prima facie” means **“at first appearance”** or **“based on initial consideration”**.
- Ross believed that humans have different moral duties that should guide their decisions.
- EXAMPLE OF MORAL DUTIES:
 1. **Fidelity**
 - The duty to keep promises and be truthful.
 - Example: Keeping a promise made to a friend.
 2. **Justice**
 - The duty to treat people fairly.

- Example: Giving equal opportunities to others.

3. Beneficence

- The duty to help improve the lives of others.

- Example: Helping someone who is struggling.

4. Non-maleficence

- The duty to avoid causing harm.

- Example: Avoiding actions that hurt another person.

5. Gratitude

- The duty to appreciate and return kindness.

- Example: Thanking someone who helped you.

6. Self-improvement

- The duty to improve yourself morally and intellectually.

- Example: Learning and becoming a better person.

- Ross explained that sometimes duties can conflict, and people must decide which duty is more important in a specific situation.

WHAT IS "OVERRIDING"?

- Overriding means giving priority or greater importance to one consideration over another.
- In ethics, overriding happens when one moral obligation becomes more important than another.
- EXAMPLE:
 - A person promises to keep a secret, but the secret involves someone being in danger.
- Two duties conflict:
 - Duty to keep a promise
 - Duty to protect someone from harm
- The duty to protect a person may override the promise.
- This means the more important moral responsibilities take priority.

ETHICS

WHAT DOES "HEGEMONIC" MEAN?

- The word hegemonic comes from the concept hegemony, which means leadership, dominance, or authority over others.
- In ethics:
- A hegemonic moral standard is moral belief that becomes dominant and strongly influences society.
- It becomes the standard that people commonly follow.
- EXAMPLES:
 - Respecting human rights
 - Believing honesty is important
 - Protecting human dignity
- These ideas become powerful because society recognizes them as important principles.

WHY ARE MORAL STANDARDS OVERRIDING?

- Moral standards can override other considerations because they protect important human values.
- The lesson explain four major reasons:
 - 1. THEY PROTECT HUMAN WELFARE**
 - Moral standards exist to protect people from harm.
 - EXAMPLES:
 - Do not kill
 - Do not steal
 - Tell the truth
 - Respect human dignity
 - These rules help maintain safety, trust, and peace in society.
 - Without moral standards, people could act only based on personal belief.
 - 2. THEY PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD**
 - Moral standards focus not only on one person but on society as a whole.

- EXAMPLES:
 - Honesty
 - Fairness
 - Trust
- The action benefits the community because it encourages responsible behavior.
 - 3. THEY APPLY EVEN WITHOUT PUNISHMENT**
 - Moral standards are followed because people believe they are right, not only because they fear consequences.
 - EXAMPLE:
 - A person does not steal even when nobody is watching.
 - This shows that morality comes from internal values and conscience.
 - 4. THEY DEMAND SACRIFICE**
 - Following moral standards sometimes requires giving up personal comfort or advantage.
 - EXAMPLE:**Telling the truth despite consequences**
 - A person may experience difficulty, but honesty remains important.**Reporting corruption**
 - Someone may risk problems, but they choose justice over personal safety.**Returning money**
 - A person sacrifices personal gain to do what is right.**HElping strangers**
 - A person gives time and effort to help others.

MORAL STANDARDS VS OTHER STANDARDS

- The lesson compares moral standards with other types of standards.

Moral Standards

ETHICS

- Characteristics:
 - Concern right and wrong
 - Apply universally
 - Protect human dignity
 - Can override other considerations
 - Violations create guilt
- EXAMPLES:
 - Honesty
 - Justice
 - Respect

Immoral Standards

- Characteristics:
 - Concern efficiency or personal preference
 - May vary depending on culture
 - Usually do not involve human dignity
 - Do not override moral duties
 - Violations cause inconvenience rather than guilt
- EXAMPLES:
 - Choosing a preferred style
 - Personal habits
 - Preferences

- The central message of the lesson is:
- **Moral standards have a higher importance because they protect human dignity, promote fairness, and guide people toward responsible actions.**
- Although people may have different beliefs, moral standards become overriding when they involve fundamental values such as:
 - Human life
 - Safety
 - Justice
 - Honesty
 - Respect

- A person should not simply follow what is popular. Instead, they should use ethical reasoning to determine what action is truly right.

ETHICS

LESSON 6: IMPARTIAL, FAIR, AND JUST (*Special Moral Vocabulary*)

THEORIES OF IMPARTIAL, FAIR, AND JUST

1. ADAM SMITH (1723-1790) THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENT

- The foundation of our moral judgments is sympathy and empathy: our natural ability to imagine ourselves in someone else's situation, and feel what they feel.
- Morality comes from our ability to connect with others, not just from rules or laws. We naturally want to do good, because we can feel what others feel, and we want to be seen as good people.

KEY CONCEPTS OF THE THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS

- **Sympathy/Empathy**
 - We automatically share the feelings of others, even strangers. This is what makes us care about fairness and other people's well-being.
- **The Impartial Spectator**
 - An imaginary voice or judge inside your head, it is a neutral, fair observer who watches your actions.
 - EXAMPLE:
 - ★ GALIT KA SA ISANG TAO DAHIL NASAKTAN KA NIYA KAYA GUSTO MONG GUMANTI.
 - ★ Your selfish side: "Get revenge! Hurt them back!"
 - ★ Impartial Spectator: "Calm down. If you were watching two strangers, would you think hurting someone is the right thing to do? No. Don't let anger rule you."

- **Self-Interest vs. Moral Duty**

- Smith says it is normal to care about ourselves but our natural sympathy and desire for respect balance this out, so we do not become selfish or cruel.

- **Virtues**

- Good character habits that guide you to act fairly, kindly, and honestly not because you are forced to, but because it is the right way to live.

2. JOHN RAWLS (1921-2002)

- He is considered as one of the most influential philosophers on justice and fairness.

THEORY OF JUSTICE

- Justice means making rules that are fair for EVERYONE, not just for the lucky or powerful.
- We build a society where:
 - Everyone has equal rights.
 - Everyone gets a real chance to succeed.
 - Differences in reward only matter if they lift up those who have the least.

KEY CONCEPTS OF THE THEORY OF JUSTICE

- **Veil of Ignorance**

- It is a thought trick to help us make truly fair rules.
- Imagine you are wearing a magic veil that hides everything about you:
 - You don't know if you're rich or poor.
 - Smart or average
 - Strong or weak
 - What family religion, or gender you are
 - Where you live, or what you own

ETHICS

YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE RULES FOR THE WHOLE WORLD BEFORE THE VEIL IS LIFTED

TWO PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE:

1. EQUAL LIBERTY PRINCIPLE

- Everyone gets the same basic freedoms, equally.
 - All people have the rights: freedom of speech, vote, religion, safety, etc.
 - Your freedom can only be limited so it doesn't harm someone else's freedom

2. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RULES

- If life is unfair for some, it must help the ones at the very bottom.
- These TWO conditions must be met:

A. FAIR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

- Jobs, education, and chances must be open to everyone. No special advantage for the rich or powerful.

B. DIFFERENCE PRINCIPLE

- Any inequality (rich vs. poor) must help the poorest people the most.
- Being better off is only allowed if it also lifts up those who have the least.

WHAT IS ETHICS?

- Ethics teaches us not only to know what is right but also to treat people equally and fairly.
- A morally good person does not judge based on wealth, appearance, friendship, religion, or social status. Instead, moral decisions should be based on:

IMPARTIALITY, FAIRNESS, AND JUSTICE

WHAT IS IMPARTIALITY?

"Treating everyone equally without bias or favoritism"

- It means you make decisions without letting your personal feelings,

friendships, likes, or dislikes get in the way. You judge based only on what is right and fair, not on who the person is to you.

- AN IMPARTIAL SHOULD HAVE THESE CHARACTERISTICS:

- **OBJECTIVE:** Making decisions based on facts and truth, NOT on feelings, opinions, or what you wish was true.
- **HONEST:** Truthful and sincere. You do not hide, twist, lie about facts just to favor someone or get what you want.
- **NEUTRAL:** You do NOT take sides. You have no personal interest, no bias, and no favoritism in the outcome.
- **FREE FROM PREJUDICE:** No unfair judgements. You do NOT judge people based on wealth, looks, race, religion, friends, or social status.
- **CONSISTENT:** You don't change the rule just because it's our friend or someone powerful. What applies to one applies to all.

- EXAMPLE:

- TWO PEOPLE BREAK THE SAME LAW: ONE IS RICH AND FAMOUS, ONE IS POOR.
- **NOT Impartial:** The rich one gets a light punishment; the poor gets harsh punishment.
- **IMPARTIAL:** Both face the same penalty because the law applies to everyone.

ETHICS

WHAT IS FAIRNESS?

“Treating everyone properly, giving everyone what they deserve, and following the same rules for all”

- It means giving what is right and just, based on what each person needs or earns, without favoritism or bias.

- **EQUALITY:**

“Everyone gets the exact same thing.”

- It assumes everyone starts at the same place and needs the same thing.
- Giving everyone equal share, same rules, same help, no difference at all.

- **EQUITY:**

“Everyone gets what they need to have the same change”

- Adjusting what you give so everyone can stand equal in the end.
- It sees that people start differently, so help is not always the same.

WHAT IS JUSTICE?

- It means giving every person exactly what they deserve, based on what is right and moral. It also make sure everyone is accountable for their actions and that everyone gets their proper rights and duties.

THREE FORMS OF JUSTICE:

- **DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE (Fair Sharing)**

- Wealth, chances, help, and resources are given fairly to everyone, not just to the rich or powerful.

- **EXAMPLE:** Everyone gets an equal chance to go to school; relief goods are given to all who need them.

- **RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE (Fair Consequence)**

- If you do something wrong, you get the right punishment, not too hard, not too easy.

- **EXAMPLE:** Someone who steals pays for what they took; someone who breaks a rule gets the same penalty as everyone else.

- **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (Fix What Was Broken)**

- Instead of only punishing, we repair the harm done and make things right again.

- **EXAMPLE:** If you break someone's thing, you help fix or replace it; if you hurt someone, you apologise and make amends.

FAIRNESS

“Treating everyone equally and properly, based only on what is right.”

- Same rules, same standards for all.
- No bias, no special treatment.
- Decisions based on facts, effort, and what people deserve.
- Ethical and objective.

FAVORITISM

“Unfairly choosing or helping someone just because you like them”

- Gives special advantage to friends, family, or people you prefer.
- Ignores rules, ability, or what is truly right.
- Decisions based on feelings, connections, or personal liking.
- Unethical and biased.

SPECIAL MORAL VOCABULARY

RIGHT

- An action that is morally acceptable.
 - **EXAMPLE:** Telling the truth, returning a lost wallet, helping someone in need.

WRONG

ETHICS

- An action that violates moral standards.
 - EXAMPLE: Lying, stealing, hurting others, cheating in an exam.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - R = What you **should** do
 - W = What you **should NOT** do

GOOD

- Actions that help people and bring benefits.
 - EXAMPLE: Sharing food and being kind.

BAD

- Actions that hurt people or cause harm.
 - EXAMPLE: Bullying, destroying property, gossiping, wasting resources.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - G = Help and improve things
 - B = Harms and damages things

DUTY

- Something you must do because it is the right thing to do.
 - EXAMPLE: Obeying laws, taking care of your parents, going to school.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Being accountable for one's actions and fulfilling obligations.
 - EXAMPLE: Finishing your homework on time, admitting your mistake, caring for your own things.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - D = What you have to do
 - R = You are accountable for doing it

OBLIGATION

- What you owe or must give to others.
 - EXAMPLE: Respecting other people, following rules.

RIGHTS

- What you deserve or are entitled to receive.
 - EXAMPLE: Right to education, right to be safe.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - O = What you give
 - R = What you get

VIRTUE

- Good character traits or habits.
 - EXAMPLE: Honesty, patience, kindness.

VICE

- Bad habit or immoral trait.
 - EXAMPLE: Laziness, greed, lying.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - VR = Good habits that build character.
 - VC = Bad habits that ruin character.

CONSCIENCE

- Your inner voice that tells you right from wrong.
 - EXAMPLE: Feeling guilty before you lie.

INTEGRITY

- Actually doing what is right, even when no one is watching.
 - EXAMPLE: Not cheating on a test even when the teacher isn't looking.
- DIFFERENCE:
 - C = Knows what is right
 - I = Does what is right

ETHICS

LESSON 9: FREEDOM AS A FOUNDATION FOR MORAL ACTS

FREEDOM AND MORAL ACTION

- *Freedom* is one of the most important foundations of morality.

WHAT IS FREEDOM?

- In ethics, freedom refers to the ability of a person to make choices and act intentionally without being completely controlled by *external forces* or *internal limitations*.

FREEDOM EXISTS TOGETHER WITH RESPONSIBILITY

- A person may be free to post something online, but that freedom does not automatically justify:
 - Spreading false information
 - Destroying another person's reputation

LIFE WITHOUT FREEDOM

1. LOSS OF INDIVIDUALITY
 2. LOSS OF AUTONOMY
 3. LOSS OF DIGNITY
- Others may treat you as incapable or less important.
4. LOSS OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY
 5. DEPENDENCE AND CONFORMITY
 6. IT CAN LEAD TO INJUSTICES AND ABUSE OF POWER IN THE FUTURE
 7. LOSS OF HOPE
 8. DEHUMANIZATION

TWO DIMENSION OF FREEDOM

1. **Freedom of Choice**
 - This refers to the ability to select among alternatives.
2. **Freedom of Actions**

- This refers to the ability to carry out the decisions that one has made.

FACTORS THAT CAN AFFECT FREEDOM

1. **Ignorance**
 - A person may make a wrong decision because they lack relevant knowledge.
2. **Fear**
 - Fear can influence a person's decision.
3. **Coercion**
 - Coercion is more of fear. It occurs when a person is forced or pressured to act against their will. This sometimes-involved money, convenience or profit to a person.
4. **Strong Emotions**
 - Anger, jealousy, fear, or extreme emotional distress can affect judgement.
5. **Social Pressure**
 - People can also be influenced by their friends, family, workplace, or society.
6. **Habits**
 - Repeated behavior can become so automatic that it becomes difficult to choose differently.
7. **Culture and Traditions**
 - Cultural practices and family traditions can influence what a person considers acceptable or unacceptable
8. **Economic and Social Conditions**
 - Poverty, lack of opportunities, discrimination, or dependence on others can limit a person's available choices.
9. **Laws and rules**
 - Laws and institutional rules place limits on what people are legally allowed to do.

ETHICS

LESSON 7: THE MEANING OF MORAL DILEMMAS

- Ethics does not merely ask, “What should I do?” Rather, it asks, “What is the right thing to do, and why?”

WHAT IS MORAL DILEMMA?

- Is a situation in which one must choose between two or more conflicting moral obligations, values, or principles. Regardless of the decision made, an important moral value is sacrificed. Unlike ordinary problems, moral dilemmas have no perfect solution. Every option has ethical costs.

MORAL OBLIGATION ACCORDING TO:

1. James Rachels

- Moral dilemmas occur when moral obligations conflict, making impossible to fulfill all duties simultaneously.
- Example: A nurse has two patients who need help at the same time, but she can only help one first. Helping one means the other has to wait.

2. Manuel G. Velasquez

- Moral dilemmas as situations where competing ethical principles require different actions.
- Example: A nurse has only one available medicine, but two patients need it.

WHY MORAL DILEMMAS EXIST?

- Human life is complex.
- People have different:
 - Beliefs
 - Values
 - Religions
 - Cultures
 - Responsibilities
 - Priorities

- Sometimes, these values work together.
- Sometimes, they conflict.

ELEMENTS OF MORAL DILEMMA

1. Moral Conflict

- Two or more moral values oppose each other.
- Example: A student wants to be honest but also wants to protect a friend who made a mistake.

2. Difficult Choice

- Every available option involves sacrifice. There is no completely right answer.
- Example: a nurse has medicine for only one of two patients. Choosing one means the other must wait.

3. Moral Responsibility

- The person must accept responsibility for whatever decision is made. Choosing not to act is also a moral decision.
- Example: A student sees someone cheating and must decide whether to report it or stay silent.

4. Consequences

- Every decision affects:
 - Oneself
 - Other people
 - Society
- Ethics required considering these consequences.

COMMON TYPES OF MORAL CONFLICTS

- Justice vs Compassion
- Honesty vs Loyalty
- Freedom vs Public Safety
- Individual Rights vs Common Good
- Duty vs Personal Happiness

ETHICS

LESSON 9

INDIVIDUAL MORAL DILEMMA

- An individual moral dilemma is an ethical conflict experienced by one person. The individual must choose between two or more actions, and each choice has consequences. No one else can make the decision for them, they must rely on their own values, conscience, and sense of responsibility.

ORGANIZATIONAL MORAL DILEMMA

- An organizational moral dilemma happens within a school, company, hospital or any institution. The decision is no longer about one person; it affects other members of the organization. Leaders and employees must balance fairness, rules, and professional ethics.

STRUCTURAL MORAL DILEMMA

- A structural moral dilemma involves the system of society, such as government, education, healthcare economy, and laws. These decisions affect thousands or even millions of people, so they often involve public welfare, equality, and justice.

LESSON 10: MORAL AGENTS

THE MORAL AGENT

a. What is a Moral Agent?

- A moral agent is a person who has the capacity to:
 - Recognize moral situations
 - Make choices
 - Act intentionally
 - Accept responsibility for their actions.
- A moral agent asks:
 - “What ought I to do, and why?”

b. Moral Agency

- Moral agency involves:
 - Reason
 - Freedom
 - Conscience
 - Values
 - Decision-making
 - Responsibility
- However, people do not develop their moral beliefs alone. Their understanding of right and wrong is influenced by:
 - Family
 - Culture
 - Religion
 - Education
 - Community
 - Traditions
 - Peers
 - Social Institutions

c. Ethical Question

- Because culture influences how people understand morality, an important question arises:
 - Does what is morally right depend entirely on culture?
- This is the central issue behind Cultural Relativism.

CULTURE AND MORAL BEHAVIOR

ETHICS

a. What is Culture?

- Culture refers to the shared ways of life of a particular group or society.
- It includes:
 - Beliefs
 - Values
 - Traditions
 - Customs
 - Practices
 - Language
 - Norms
 - Symbols
 - Behaviors
- Example: Filipino Culture
- Filipino culture may influence people to value:
 - Respect for elders
 - Family loyalty
 - Hospitality
 - Cooperation
 - Generosity
 - Community relationships
- These cultural values can influence what people consider:
 - Proper
 - Respectful
 - Acceptable
 - Unacceptable

b. How does Culture influence Moral Behavior?

- Culture gives people a framework for understanding behavior.
- From childhood, people learn messages such as:
 - “Respect your elders.”
 - “Help your family.”
 - “Do not embarrass your family.”
 - “Share with others.”
 - “Return what does not belong to you.”
- Over time, these messages can become part of a person’s:
 - Moral identity
 - Conscience

CULTURE AND MORALITY ARE NOT EXACTLY THE SAME

1. CULTURE

- Shared beliefs and practices of a particular group.

2. MORALITY

- Principles and judgments concerning:
 - Right and wrong
 - Good and bad
 - Justice
 - Harm
 - Rights
 - Responsibilities
- EASY WAY TO REMEMBER:
 - Culture = what a group shares
 - Morality = judgment about right and wrong

CULTURE: SOME DEFINITIONS

Different disciplines understand culture in different ways

a. Anthropological Perspective

- Culture is the learned way of life shared by members of a society.
- It includes:
 - Customs
 - Beliefs
 - Language
 - Traditions
 - Social practices
 - Values
- Important: Culture is learned, rather than something people are simply born knowing.

b. Sociological Perspective

- Culture is a system of meanings, values, norms and practices that guides social interaction.
- Society teaches people what behavior is:
 - Respectful
 - Rude

ETHICS

- Appropriate
- Inappropriate
- Acceptable
- Unacceptable

c. Ethical Perspective

- Culture is important in ethics because it influences how people understand:
 - Responsibility
 - Respect
 - Human relationships
 - Good and evil
 - Right and wrong
 - Justice
- However, ethics also asks whether cultural beliefs can be critically examined.

CULTURAL NORMS

A. What is a Cultural Norm?

- A cultural norm is an expected way of behaving within a particular society or group.
- If a cultural norm is broken, it may result in:
 - Criticism
 - Embarrassment
 - Social rejection
 - Disapproval

CULTURAL RELATIVISM

a. What is Cultural Relativism?

- Cultural relativism is the view that moral beliefs and practices should be understood in relation to the culture where they exist.
- Stronger Form of Cultural Relativism
- It suggests that:
 - There are no universal moral standards independent of culture.
 - What is considered right in one culture may be wrong in another.

b. Why Does Cultural Relativism Appeal to People?

- Different societies may have different views about:

- Marriage
- Family obligations
- Clothing
- Food
- Gender roles
- Death rituals
- Punishments
- Property
- Social responsibilities

c. What Should a Moral Agent Do?

- A moral agent should not simply become a passive follower of culture.
- Instead, a moral agent should:

1. Understand Cultural Values

- Ask:
 - “Why does my culture believe this?”

2. Respect Cultural Differences

- Ask:
“Why do other cultures have different practices?”

3. Examine Moral Assumptions

- Ask:
 - “Is this practice actually morally justified?”

4. Consider Consequences

- Ask:
 - “Who benefits and who may be harmed?”

5. Use Reason

- Ask:
 - “Can I provide a rational justification for this belief?”

6. Make Responsible Decisions

- Ask:
 - “What should I do, knowing what I now understand?”

ETHICS

ADVANTAGES OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM

- Cultural relativism has important advantages when properly understood.
- 1. **Promotes Cultural Understanding**
 - Encourages people to understand practices before judging them.
 - Instead of immediately labeling another culture as wrong, we investigate its background.
- 2. **Reduces Ethnocentrism**
 - Ethnocentrism
 - The tendency to judge another culture using the standards of one's own culture.
 - Example:
 - "Their tradition is wrong because they don't do things the Filipino way."
 - Cultural relativism challenges this attitude.
- 3. **Encourages Respect for Diversity**
 - Different societies have different:
 - Traditions
 - Beliefs
 - Lifestyles
 - Customs
 - Social practices
 - Recognizing diversity can promote:
 - Tolerance
 - Peaceful coexistence
- 4. **Encourages Humility**
 - It reminds us that our beliefs are partly shaped by:
 - Upbringing
 - Social environment
 - Therefore, we should be willing to ask:
 - "Could I be wrong?"
- 5. **Helps Avoid Cultural Imperialism**
 - Cultural relativism can discourage powerful groups from assuming that their own way of life should automatically be imposed on others.

DANGERS OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM

- Cultural relativism can become problematic when taken to an extreme.
- 1. **It Can Justify Harmful Practices**
 - If we believe:
 - "Whatever the culture accepts is morally right."
 - Then harmful practices could become impossible to criticize.
- 2. **It Can Eliminate Universal Moral Standards**
 - Extreme cultural relativism may make it difficult to defend:
 - Human dignity
 - Human rights
 - Equality
 - Justice
 - Freedom from unnecessary harm
- 3. **It Can Make Moral Reform Difficult**
 - If existing cultural practices are always considered morally correct, reformers would have no ethical basis for challenging injustice.
- 4. **It Can Create Moral Paralysis**
 - A person may think:
 - "Who am I to say that anything is wrong?"
 - This can prevent legitimate moral criticism.
- 5. **It Can Confuse Respect with Acceptance**
 - Respecting a culture does not mean accepting every practice of that culture.
 - We can:
 - Respect people + critically evaluate practices.

STRENGTHS OF FILIPINO MORAL CHARACTER

1. **Strong Family Orientation**
 - Family is often a central part of Filipino life.
 - People may value:

ETHICS

- Caring for parents
- Supporting siblings
- Helping relatives
- Maintaining family relationships
- Strength:
- Creates strong support systems and social bonds.
- Possible Ethical Question:
- Can excessive family loyalty sometimes conflict with fairness?

2. Hospitality

- Filipinos are commonly recognized for:
- Welcoming guests
- Making others feel comfortable
- It reflects:
- Generosity
- Friendliness
- Social connection
- Cooperation

3. Bayanihan

- Bayanihan represents:
- Community cooperation
- Mutual assistance
- Solidarity
- Cooperation
- Compassion
- Collective responsibility

4. Respect for Elders

- Respect for older people is strongly emphasized in many Filipino families.
 - Examples:
 - Using respectful language
 - Greeting elders properly
 - Seeking their advice
 - Showing courtesy
- ## 5. Pakikipagkapwa
- Pakikipagkapwa emphasizes recognizing others as fellow human beings and maintaining meaningful relationships.
 - It involves:
 - Empathy
 - Cooperation

- Compassion
- Concern for others

6. Generosity

- Filipinos often demonstrate generosity toward:
- Family
- Friends
- Guests
- Neighbors
- People experiencing hardship

WEAKNESSES OR CHALLENGES IN FILIPINO MORAL CHARACTER

- Important Note
- These should NOT be understood as weaknesses possessed by every Filipino.
- They are better understood as cultural tendencies or social problems that may create ethical challenges.

1. Ninjas Kugon

- Ningas Kugon = enthusiasm at the beginning of a task but difficulty maintaining consistent effort and responsibility.
- It may relate to:

- Discipline
- Commitment
- Professionalism

- Easy meaning:

- Strong start → weak consistency

2. “Bahala Na” Attitude

- “Bahala na” can have different meanings depending on the context.
- It may express:

- Courage
- Acceptance
- Trust
- Resilience

3. Crab Mentality

- Crab Mentality = tendency to pull others down instead of supporting their success.
- It conflicts with:

ETHICS

- Fairness
- Goodwill
- Solidarity
- Respect
- Easy meaning:
- “If I can't succeed, you shouldn't either.”

4. Hiya

- Hiya = sense of:
 - Shame
 - Propriety
 - Concern about how one's behavior is perceived by others
- **Positive Side**
- It can encourage:
 - Modesty
 - Politeness
 - Self-control
- **Negative Side**
 - Excessive hiya may prevent someone from:
 - Reporting abuse
 - Admitting mistakes
 - Asking for help
 - Speaking against injustice

5. Pakikisama

- Pakikisama = maintaining harmonious relationships and getting along with others.
- **Positive Side**
- It can promote:
 - Cooperation
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork
 - Social harmony
- **Negative Side**
 - It can become problematic when a person follows the group even when the group is doing something wrong.

6. Utang na Loob

- Utang na loob = a deep sense of gratitude and reciprocal obligation toward someone who has provided significant help.
- **Positive Side**

- It encourages:
 - Gratitude
 - Reciprocity
 - Appreciation
 - Strong relationships
- **Negative Side**
 - It can become ethically problematic when gratitude is used to demand unfair or inappropriate favors.