

INFORMATION MACHINERY- FUNCTION OF ETHICAL VALUES

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ABSTRACT

Today the time has changed, not only in our humanity or in country but also the entire humankind is affected by the changes that have been brought about by information technology. Each diminutive to huge association in contemporary civilization uses IT expansively. At the present the query arises, "Is It ethical?" Are we applying good ethical standards to the online world which is a straight reflection of one's business? Ethics refers to well founded principles of right and wrong that prescribe what human ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits of society, fairness or specific virtues. It is the study of conduct as a whole. Every know-how has two sides' merits as well as demerits. It depends on our thinking that how we weigh the pros and cons of IT. Our plan should be to construct our disposition and to inform our essence to differentiate connecting correct plus incorrect. But at the turn of 20th century moral theories has turn out to be more multifaceted and are no longer concerned solely with rightness and wrongness but are more interested in materialistic pursuits. In the modern world, Ethics and Technology be supposed to go hand in hand. So that technology should be humanized. Eventually we should try to get maximum benefit of IT boom at the similar moment being firmly ingrained to the ethical justification.

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Ethics refers to well founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what human ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits of society, fairness or specific virtues. Ethics refers to those principles that impose reasonable obligations to refrain from rape, stealing, murder, assault, slander and fraud Ethical parameters also include those that enjoin virtues of honesty, compassion and loyalty. It also includes standards relating to rights, such as the right to freedom from injury, and the right to privacy. Such standard are adequate standards of ethics because they are supported by consistent and well founded reasons.

Secondly, Ethics refers to the study and development of one's Ethical standards. So, it is necessary to constantly examine and to ensure that they are reasonable and well formulated. Ethics is concerned with the rightness or goodness of human conduct. Furthermore, it is concerned with the consideration of the serviceableness of our conduct for some end or ideal at which we aim and with the rules or general principles by which our conduct is to be directed in order that this end may be attained. There are many ends towards which our actions may be directed. e.g. the building of a house, the writing of a book, the passing of an examination, and so on. Ethics is the study of conduct as a whole, and not of any particular kind of conduct. It is not any of these special ends that it sets itself to consider but the supreme or ultimate end is to which our lives are directed, this end is commonly referred to as the Summum Bonum or Supreme Good. Now the question arises, whether there is any supreme end in human life. Men aim at various objects. Some desire wealth; others independence; still others power. Some are eager for fame; still others for knowledge; others for love; and some again find their highest good in loving and serving others etc.

The paper has been divided into five sections. Section I is all about introduction of ethics or ethical values. Section II throws light on great impact of information technology on general society. Section III discusses the Applications of computer and communication technology. Section IV describes 10 commandments related to the computer ethics, which were presented by DR. C.Ramon. Section V ends up with conclusion.

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Today the time has changed, not only in our society or in country but also the whole world is affected by these changes. These changes have been brought about by information technology. It has a great impact on general society's perception of information. The term IT is commonly used as a synonym for computers and computer networks, but it also encompasses other information distribution technologies such as television and telephone. An information system is a particular type of work system that uses IT for its data processing activities. IT is successfully applicable in every sphere of life.

Every small to large organization in modern society uses IT extensively. Attaining advantages does not mean using IT as everyone else does, but using it in a better way. Information systems are based on IT that plays a vital role in organization.

Today computers are available in almost all offices and homes and therefore there is a need to share data programs among various computers, with the support of data communication facilities. The communication between computers has increased and thus it has extended the power of computer beyond the computer room. Now a user sitting at one place can communicate (through computers) with other users at any remote site via communication channels.

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Applications of computer and communication technology have revolutionized the way of work. In everyday office work the PC based work processing software such as word processor and spread sheets and communication tools such as voice mail, electronic mail, cell phones, and video conference have made the work easier and communication faster. The applications of IT have changed the nature of the workspace. Using IT, business houses are able to provide the customers what, when and where they want. In modern era, information systems are required for each and every organization. Information systems help people to use information in countless ways. There are some reasons that illustrate the need of information systems in global challenges, corporate strategy, judging opportunities, efficiency enhancement of workers, increase product performance, reliability, enhance communication and decision making performance, determination of information usefulness etc.

Information can be classified on the basis of its purpose and area of applicability, whether it is used in primary, secondary or leisure sector. Its categorization is based on its use like information for scientific, business, educational, medical and health applications.

Now the question arises, “Is It ethical?” Are we applying good ethical standards to the online world which is a direct reflection of one’s business? Ethics influences our company brand image and subsequently marketing and advertising principles are applied to the task of company profitable for haul. There must be some ethics and ethical values on web because it shapes our employees and how they represent themselves online, on the phone, in person and all types of customer services and relations while dealing with others. Our aim should be to build our character and to enlighten our soul to distinguish between right and wrong.

SECTION IV

at the turn of 20th century moral theories has become more complex and are no longer concerned solely with rightness and wrongness but are more interested in materialistic pursuits. Greek philosophers had encouraged the common citizen to know themselves and to know what is knowledge and what type of knowledge is right because without having the knowledge of themselves they can never differentiate between right or wrong. Is our knowledge acquired from IT is based on moral or ethical values. By following the computer ethics,

There are 10 commandments which were presented in DR. Ramon C. Barquins paper, “In pursuit of Ten Commandments” and these are: -

1. We should not use a computer to harm other people.
2. We should not interfere with other people’s computer work.
3. We should not snoop around in other people’s computer files.
4. We should not use a computer to fear false witness.
5. We should not copy or use proprietary software for which you have not paid.
6. We should not use a computer to steal.

7. We should not use other people's computers resources without authorization or proper compensations.
8. We should not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
9. We should think about the social consequences of the program we are writing or the system, we are designing.
10. We should always use a computer in ways that insure consideration and respect for our fellow humans.

SECTION V

To sum up, it is also the duty of elder generation to inculcate moral values in the younger generation in such a way that they should follow their goals, while keeping all these values in their mind. Every technology has two sides' merits as well as demerits. It depends on our thinking that how we weigh the pros and cons of IT. Our parents, teachers, and society mould our perspective. Ethics should be made an integral part of children curriculum so that they can differentiate between right and wrong. In the modern world, Ethics and Technology should go hand in hand. So that technology should be humanized. Ultimately we should try to get maximum benefit of IT boom at the same time being firmly rooted to the ethical grounds.

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