

ETHICS IN PHARMACY

What Is Philosophy?

Philosophy is a way of thinking about questions.

What is the World like? It is not an observation at all, a philosophical approach has much more complex questions packed inside it. A philosopher wonders what the world looks like he might really be asking:

what is the nature of reality?

Is the world just made up of matter and energy, or is there something else going on? If it is just matter and energy, then where did it all come from? Is there a God? And if so what did he or she or it look like?

What Is Philosophy?

You can also ask about the nature of yourself?

What kind of being am I?

Do I have a soul?

Is there something immaterial about me that will survive after I die?

Metaphysics

What Is Philosophy?

There might be some other types of questions on how we know the answers to
any of this stuff?

Knowing about knowing

Epistemology

What Is Philosophy?

Some other types of questions helps frame your thinking around what you actually do?

How do I know that if I am right?

How will I know I am wrong?

Can I ever be certain about anything?

Value Theory

Ethics

Aesthetics

- You are doing philosophy in almost every aspect of your life even though you are not aware.
 - Every time you argue your parents, wonder if you should date someone or decide to eat a salad or hamburger.
- Because you are thinking of the world and the place of you in it. You are figuring out what you value, why you value it? And what you should do about it?

The main purpose of philosophy is not to teach about the terms, about the notions that discussed. The main aim is to teach the way of critical thinking. You learn how to formulate arguments to support your ideas. So you can explain why you think in that way. In order to that you need to understand philosophical reasoning.

What Is Ethics?

We tend to think of ethics as the set of values or principles held by individuals or groups.

I have my ethics and you have yours, and groups also have sets of values with which they tend to identify.

What happens if it is true?

- If a society, culture or person changes its views, the morality will be changed.
- Think of a society that 52 percent of its people support war and later only 48 percent did so, does this mean that earlier the war was just and it became unjust when the people changed their minds?
- We cannot say that there are some goods, bads, corrects, incorrects, because to do so would assume some objective standards of right and wrong against which we could judge their correctness. If ethical relativism exists, such a standard does not exist.

What is Ethics?

'ethos'

Custom

Morality

It is defined as behaving according to the morality accepted by the society.

It is defined as adopting the accepted rules of conduct and value judgments as a result of questioning and to turn them into a habit to realize the desired good.

What is Ethics?

Ethics and moral can usually be used interchangeably.

Ethics is a moral philosophy, asks basic questions about the good life, about what is better and worse, about whether there is any objective right and wrong, and how we know it if there is.

Ethical questions interrogate the standards that give possibility to judge the moral conducts.

Normative Ethics

- Previous definition of ethics assumes that its primary objective is to **help us to decide** what is good or bad, better or worse, either in some general way or regarding particular ethical issues. This is called normative ethics.
- From the mid 1930s until recently, metaethics is predominated in English-speaking universities. In doing **metaethics**, we would analyze **the meaning of ethical language**. Instead of asking whether the death penalty is morally justified, we would ask what we meant in calling something ‘morally justified’ or ‘good’ or ‘right’.

Ethics and Reasons

- If I said that it was wrong for him to lie, then I would be expected to give *reasons* for his position.
 - I may argue that the ability to trust other people's word is so important for our social life that people ought to always tell the truth even if it means that we cannot do the good.
 - Alternatively, I might reason that although honesty is desirable, in this case my friend's life would take precedence.
- In ethics, some explanation of why we hold a certain moral position is required. Not to give an explanation, but simply to say '*x is wrong*', or simply to have strong feelings or convictions about '*x*' is not sufficient.

Ethical and Other Types of Evaluation

One says:

‘the pharmacist did a job of demonstrating respect for patient autonomy by providing information about drug therapy’

- **The speaker may mean that**
 - **pharmacist did a good job legally (the pharmacist fulfilled the law),**
 - **pharmacist did a good job technically (every relevant information was conveyed accurately),**
 - **pharmacist did a good job ethically (the pharmacist did was morally required)**

Ethical and Other Types of Evaluation

‘Patient ate well.’

Ethical evaluations are judgements of **what is good and bad, right or wrong**, having certain characteristics that separate them from other evaluations such as aesthetic judgements, personal preferences, beliefs, or matters of taste.

Ethical evaluations possess certain characteristics. They are evaluations of human actions, practices, or character traits, rather than inanimate objects such as paintings or architectural structures.

‘The play was wonderful!’

Ethical and Other Types of Evaluation

Not all evaluations of human actions are moral evaluations, however. We may say that **'a hospital pharmacist is a good administrator or a good clinician'** without making a moral evaluation.

'Descriptive evaluations'

Characteristics of Moral Evaluations

1. The evaluation must be ultimate.

Other values or human ends cannot, as a rule, override them.

2. The evaluations must possess universality.

Moral evaluations are thought of as reflecting a standpoint that applies to everyone. Everyone in principle ought to be able to make and understand.

3. The evaluations must treat the good of everyone alike.

They avoid giving a special place one's own welfare. One's own welfare no more important than of others.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIONS ARE RIGHT?

- **Normative ethical** theories are concerned with ethical action.
- To decide what action is right we must know the ethical theories behind them.

ETHICAL THEORIES

Most people already have general ideas – or what philosophers call ‘intuitions’ or ‘presumptions’ – about what they think is ‘right’ or ‘wrong’.

But a philosophical approach to ethics requires people to think **critically** about the moral ideas that they hold, to support or refute those ideas **with convincing arguments**, and to be able to articulate and explain the reasons and assumptions on which those arguments are based.

WHAT IS A VALUE?

WHAT ARE HUMAN VALUES?

VALUE: a desired or rewarded criterion or quality. It is the special place of something among the others which is the same type with itself.

- The gold is a very valuable material.
- Your contribution is very valuable.

VALUES (HUMAN VALUES): Human values are human phenomena that are realized by actions or by what people do.

- We know that human beings can be brave or coward, generous, honest or liar, because there are people who exemplify these human actions. The principles such as courage, generousness, honesty, which are the basis of such actions of human beings, are called human moral values. We can understand values by looking at people's actions.

ETHICAL VALUES

- Based on values.
- There are no hierarchy of values.
- Values can conflict in every single case.
- Draws general frames.
- Not need to meet concrete requirements.
- Its application is based on ethical reasoning.

MORAL VALUES

- Based on values and the actions expressing them.
- Puts forth a definite hierarchy of values.
- The consistency between rules is based on hierarchy.
- Attempts to predict every possible situation.
- Allows to place concrete behavior patterns.
- Its application is based on deontic analysis.

'Value Conflict' or 'Ethical Dilemma'

- In ethics, failure to set the values in an absolute priority order causes a value conflict.
- In this case, it is not possible to simultaneously protect two or more values, both of which are considered human values; someone must be sacrificed for the other or others.

A way of thinking on ETHICAL dilemmas

When ethical dilemmas are concerned, we have to decide how we act. This deciding process requires some special thinking techniques. These techniques have great similarities with problem solving skills.

1. First of all, it is necessary to recognize the ethical problem and distinguish it from other interpersonal relationship problems. «ethical consciousness/awareness»
2. In the case of a value conflict, if we distinguish it with our ethical consciousness, we have two options. We may decide to take an action based on either an ordinary or common sense or a choice that has been reached through ethical thinking. «ethical sensitivity»

The development of ethical sensitivity is directly related to individual and social moral development.

A way of thinking on moral dilemmas

3. We have to gather relevant information.
4. You need to create act options based on this data, the situation and the possibilities of ourselves. The basic goal in ethics is to diversify the action options as much as possible.
5. The last step that a person takes before performing an ethical action is to spend the least amount of value among the options and to decide and implement the most value-protecting action.

IT IS OK IF YOU ARE DESTROYING SOME VALUES IN CASE:

- 1. We should be sure about that whether there is a real situation on ethical dilemma.**

Sometimes people try to show some situations as if there is a real ethical dilemma in it. We have to identify them carefully.

For example; a family who do not want their child get vaccinated.

the right to decide for a child **X** beneficence of the child

IT IS OK IF YOU ARE DESTROYING SOME VALUES IN CASE:

- 2. If there is no situation containing ethical dilemma, you should not say that there is a need to destroy a value.**

For example; to choose a more hazardous product due to the preferences of consumers during drug manufacturing. With aesthetic concerns, consumers want their capsules more colorful.

to respect the consumers' wishes >> to condemn consumers to risk situation

IT IS OK IF YOU ARE DESTROYING SOME VALUES IN CASE:

- 3. If it is accepted that a value can be destroyed according to an ethical dilemma, choosing the optimum way to implement.**

For example; the community pharmacies can be opened on Saturdays according to the regulations.

Though it is accepted to work on Saturdays, pharmacy technicians should not be employed under inhuman conditions. It should not be considered as ethical.

Moral subject

- A person who decides across a situation to behave ethically.
- It is therefore the responsibility of this person to maximize the value of the selected action. The moral subject must make every effort to to maximize the value of the selected action.

Ethical dilemma as a process

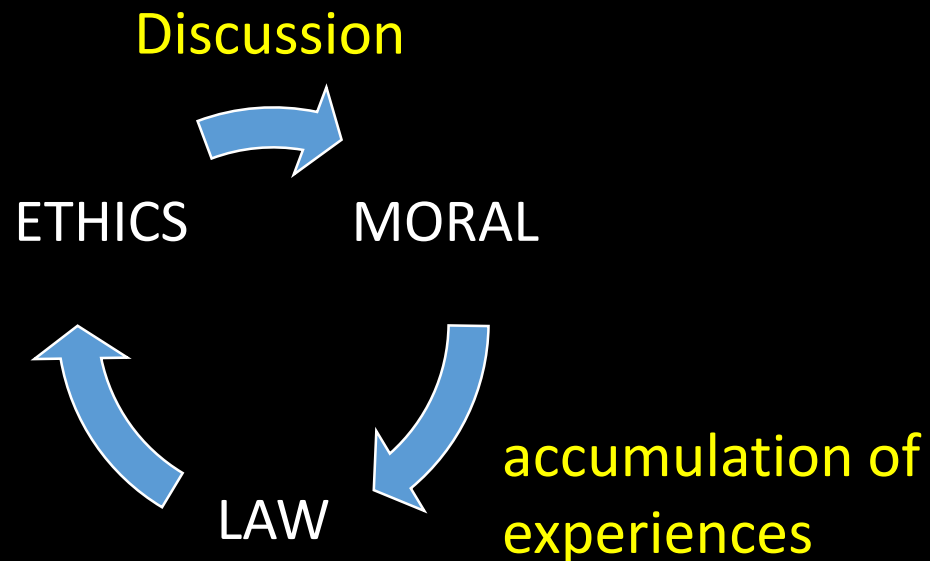
Choosing to consciously destroy a value against an ethical dilemma is a **concern** for the individual.

It is a difficult process to bear that monitoring the process of damaging of one value as a result of our decision, even if it was planned.

For example; in many euthanasia decisions, especially in passive euthanasia in which the treatments being applied to the patient is terminated, the anxiety that arises when the patient enters the process of death causes discussion of re-initiation of therapy. However, if the decision is correct, the chosen action should continue its guiding throughout the process.

ETHICS AND LAW

- In ethics the main purpose: diversify the options of actions.
- In moral the main purpose: create concrete behaviour patterns.
- In law the main purpose: strictly determine the sanctions if the actions are not in accordance with the law. Does not discuss the values and their priorities.



APPLIED ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

‘Pharmacy-pharmacist perception and the professional ethics build upon it’

Professional ethics of a pharmacist can be developed by the professional education and it can be effected by the history of their profession.

One’s moral development lasts a life time and includes professional ethics.

APPLIED ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

1. **Professional aspect** that arises when a person adopts certain principles of behavior and applies certain rules when applying that profession.
2. **Ethical dilemmas** that one might encounter as a result of their professions. (professional knowledge and ethical decision making skills)

A pharmacist should not distinguish between their patients

To decide to dispense a single-dose drug to which patient in his pharmacy ???

Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living"

Nietzsche states, "What is needed above all is an absolute skepticism toward all inherited concepts"

See you next week...