

“About Ethics and professional Ethics”

Karanfil Soyhun

- Is Ethics = Moral Codes = Professional Codes?
- Cultural differences?
- Different Laws?
- Goal of Codes?
- Success?

- Ethics

- Study of **fundamental** moral principles.

- Kant, Mill, so on.

- An act is right if and only if there is no other alternative with a higher utility.

Moral Principles

- honesty
- trustworthiness
- loyalty
- respect for others
- adherence to the law
- doing good and avoiding harm to others
- accountability.

Professional Codes of Conduct

- Based on the MP for prescribing required standards of behavior for members of a profession.
- Codes of conduct are used along side of the ***general law*** and the **personal values** of the professional.
- They help ethical decision making.

Geodetic Surveyors

CODE OF ETHICS

Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, Vermont, Around the world, Canada, Jamaica, Israel and Papua New Guinea and many others seems to have the same moral principles.

CODE OF ETHICS for Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado

SCOPE

This code is specific for surveyors as professionals. The scope of this code is limited to the actions of surveyors in their relations with the following:

- I. General Public
- II. Client and Employers
- III. Other Land Surveyors and Employees

Community Obligations

- – Surveyors have **a duty** to concern themselves with
- community improvements and to apply their special skills and knowledge for the **benefit** of fellow surveyors and for mankind.
- 1. Surveyors will incorporate in their activities **prudent** long range
- planning for the wellbeing of the community.
- 2. Surveyors shall be **unbiased** in performing services for the client,
- maintaining the highest standards of **honesty** and **integrity**; and offer **impartial** advice based on their accurate and conscientious measurements, data review, and **legal principles** while protecting the safety and welfare of the public at all times.

- 1. Surveyors will promptly advise their clients when they believe a project is **not feasible**.
- 2. Surveyors **will not divulge confidential information**, or the private or secret affairs of their clients or employers, without their specific consent.
- 3. Surveyors will promptly advise their clients or employer to secure additional expert assistance when needed.
- 4. Surveyors will not sign or seal any plat or document that does not meet accepted professional standards.
- 5. Surveyors will not give implied consent to any plat or document that does not meet accepted professional standards, whether prepared by the surveyor or by others.
- 6. Surveyors will promptly disclose to their clients or employer any **interest they have in any project or proposal that may in any way be in conflict with that of the client or employer**.

- Clearly these are formulations of the moral principles mentioned earlier in a specific context.
- Given the similarities between the codes of different group of surveyors, question of cultural differences seems to be answered without any difficulty, and so is the issue of law.

Not very surprising

we have

- Code of Medicine
- Definition of unethical behavior

Yet different societies both in terms of culture and law lead to very different problems.

‘Arm breaks but stays in its sleeve’

Yet this Turkish saying seems indicate that our society, or a big part of it, has the kind of moral code that values

respect for the authority and

loyalty to their group and its customs,

more stringent than avoiding harm to others.

For many Turks, the issue appears to be a major disagreement with regards to how to rank different duties-principles.

- This is a rather deep division that interferes at almost any ethical discussion.
- It isn't just Turks that have this difference in ethical norms.

Goal of P. Codes

- “Rather, its primary value is to act as a prompt sheet for the promotion of ethical decision-making by members of that profession.”
 - “If these actions are to be a united force for excellence within the group as a whole, then the standard with which they are to be measured shall be made known.”
- ∴ Promote ethical behavior

Success?

Good news

- The emphasis in ethics, codes ect. has triggered other measures to be implemented such as training, ethics committees and others. In other areas, studies do show some amount of success.

Issues in Implementation

- Transparency vs confidentiality
- Conflict of interest

ECs are often lack power, resources, not independent enough, create more red tape, and due to confidentiality restrictions cannot work in a transparent way.

But these are also changing and adopting albeit slowly.

self serving biases

- How well do you drive?
- Above average?
- My car knows the way
- www.implicit.harvard.edu

Internal Lawyers

- Humans can see mistakes of others easily.
- Their own, not so much.

How do you divide the two tasks?

1. pick the easy one
2. randomize

When asked was your behavior right?

- No distractions : Yes
- Distract the lawyer: No

