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# Why is ethics and integrity important

What is ethical integrity and why is it important? This paper will address the viewpoint of ethical integrity and its outcome. Ethical Integrity is a favorably sensible method for doing what is right when it comes to people dealing with people. In today's society, ethical integrity has become a modern lifestyle. When a person has a strong moral character, they are said to be a person of integrity and to live a honest life is said to be the most important virtue a person can have. Consistency is a concept of ethical integrity and people should act according to their moral principles. In other words, people should do what they say. For example, if a company owner speaks about the need to improve productivity in the workplace, he/she would show integrity for offering in-house training programs for the employees to improve their skills. Moreover, ethical integrity begins from headship, which can result in ethical behavior Integrity is an essential quality that everyone should have because it is an act of being honest and trustworthy in all aspects of life. In conjunction with integrity are ethics, which involves a specific purpose and conduct. In other words, when people say one thing and does another is not an act of ethical integrity because their intention does not support their expressions. According to Ruggiero (2008), "ethics is the study of right and wrong conduct and is built on consequences" (p. 2). The following characterizations are based on ethical integrity: temperament, obligation, and consequences. Although ethical integrity is a matter of choice for people, why is it essential to sustain its standards and why should its standards be maintained in the workplace, in writing and in personal lives? Business Integrity ... .. middle of paper ... .., 2010, para. 8). While honor and respect may be difficult to earn in our society, people can develop a distinct personality when they express such a rewarding quality. Above all, the perspective of ethical integrity is his or her personal responsibility. Reference Brausch, J. (2010). Acting Rightly. Strategic Finance, 91(8), 6-7. Retrieved April 29, 2010, from ABI/INFORM Global. (Document ID: 1964330721). Gerald Schneiderman. (2004, May). All in the family. Canadian Business, 77(11), 77-79. Retrieved May 2, 2010, from ABI/INFORM Global. (Document ID: 645380371). Peter Bigelow. (2005, July). Ethics The True Measure of Your Company. Printed Circuit Design & Manufacture, 22(7), 16. Retrieved May 6, 2010, from ProQuest Computing. (Document ID: 868908581). Ruggiero, V. (2008). Thinking critically about ethical issues, (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Most of us would agree that it is ethics in practice that makes sense; just having it carefully drafted and redrafted in books may not serve the purpose. Of course all of us want businesses to be fair, clean and beneficial to the society. For that to happen, organizations need to abide by ethics or rule of law, engage themselves in fair practices and competition; all of which will benefit the consumer, the society and organization. Primarily it is the individual, the consumer, the employee or the human social unit of the society who benefits from ethics. In addition ethics is important because of the following: Satisfying Basic Human Needs; Being fair, honest and ethical is one the basic human needs. Every employee desires to be such himself and to work for an organization that is fair and ethical in its practices. Creating Credibility: An organization that is believed to be driven by moral values is respected in the society even by those who may have no information about the working and the businesses or an organization. Infosys, for example is perceived as an organization for good corporate governance and social responsibility initiatives. This perception is held far and wide even by those who do not even know what business the organization is into. Uniting People and Leadership: An organization driven by values is revered by its employees also. They are the common thread that brings the employees and the decision makers on a common platform. This goes a long way in aligning behaviors within the organization towards achievement of one common goal or mission. Improving Decision Making: A man's destiny is the sum total of all the decisions that he/she takes in course of his life. The same holds true for organizations. Decisions are driven by values. For example an organization that does not value competition will be fierce in its operations aiming to wipe out its competitors and establish a monopoly in the market. Long Term Gains: Organizations guided by ethics and values are profitable in the long run, though in the short run they may seem to lose money. Tata group, one of the largest business conglomerates in India was seen on the verge of decline at the beginning of 1990's, which soon turned out to be otherwise. The same company's Tata NANO car was predicted as a failure, and failed to do well but the same is picking up fast now. Securing the Society: Often ethics succeeds law in safeguarding the society. The law machinery is often found acting as a mute spectator, unable to save the society and the environment. Technology, for example is growing at such a fast pace that the by the time law comes up with a regulation we have a newer technology with new threats replacing the older one. Lawyers and public interest litigations may not help a great deal but ethics can. Ethics tries to create a sense of right and wrong in the organizations and often when the law fails, it is the ethics that may stop organizations from harming the society or environment. ( Previous Article Next Article ) Authorship/Referencing - About the Author(s) The article is Written By "Prachi Juneja" and Reviewed By Management Study Guide Content Team. MSG Content Team comprises experienced Faculty Member, Professionals and Subject Matter Experts. We are a ISO 2001:2015 Certified Education Provider. To Know more, click on About Us. The use of this material is free for learning and education purpose. Please reference authorship of content used, including link(s) to ManagementStudyGuide.com and the content page url. next Something went wrong. Wait a moment and try again. maia Pascual/Pixabay Ethics is the branch of philosophy that deals with morality and how it shapes behavior. Different branches of the study of ethics look at where our views of morality come from and how they shape our everyday lives. There are four major ethical theories: deontology (or duty), utilitarianism, rights, and virtue. Each one of these theories looks at our ethical behavior in different ways.Deontology The theory of deontology states that when we have to make ethical decisions, our first thoughts are on our duties and obligations. According to this theory, what we believe our duties are will drive how we act in different situations. For example, we may make a decision based on following the law or based on our loyalty toward friends or family members.A The biggest hole in the theory of deontology is that there's no standard for what a person's duties and obligations are. Philosophers who don't agree with this theory believe that everyone's duties are different, so there's no way to know what drives a person to make a particular decision. Utilitarianism According to the theory of utilitarianism, people choose their actions based on how their decisions will benefit the most people. You make a decision that will be best for everyone involved. There are two sides to this theory. Act utilitarianism says you will make decisions based on helping others, while rule utilitarianism says you will act out of fairness. Those who don't agree with this theory believe that nobody can predict outcomes, so we can't know what the benefits of our actions will be. Comparing consequences can be hard, so some philosophers say that we can't truly make utilitarian decisions. Rights The rights theory of ethics says that people make decisions based on the rights that their society agrees to. What the majority of people in that society believes is important will drive decisions. For example, the rights we Americans have in our Constitution should be factors in our decision-making according to this theory. Our rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion, should help us decide how to behave. People who don't agree with this theory believe that a society's rights are too complicated to figure out. They say it's too hard to tell what most people think is important to the whole society, so it's a messy idea to base decisions on. Societies that don't have written laws like our Constitution make this theory less believable, according to some philosophers. Virtue The ethical theory of virtue states that we can judge a person's decisions based on his or her character and morality. The way someone lives his or her life can explain any ethical decision according to this theory. For example, a person who lies and cheats to get ahead in life probably makes decisions based on advancing his or her own interests according to the virtue theory. The biggest hole in this theory is that people can change their moral character, and the theory doesn't take changes in morality into account. The virtue theory puts people in boxes based on their reputations at one point in time. Consequential Ethics These four theories fall into one of two categories. The first one, consequential ethics, states that outcomes determine ethical decisions. Therefore, the result of a situation makes that decision OK. For example, it's ethical for you to tell a white lie if it achieves what you need or want it to. The theory of utilitarianism falls into this category because the benefit of decisions is the biggest factor. The virtue theory can fit into consequential ethics because a person's reputation can be based on the consequences of his or her decisions. Nonconsequential Ethics Nonconsequential ethics is the other side of the coin to consequential ethics. It says that people base their decisions not on the result but on the values and beliefs that they hold deeply. In nonconsequential ethics, you'll decide on a situation based on what you believe rather than what may happen. For example, you won't lie in a situation if you believe that honesty is important. The theory of deontology falls under this type of ethics because people make decisions based on their duty to those around them. Likewise, the rights theory belongs in this category because the rights that society holds dear are important over any other factor. Virtue could also fit here because people of high moral character can decide based on their values. MORE FROM REFERENCE.COM



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