



# **SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**(An Autonomous Institution)**

**COIMBATORE-35**

**Accredited by NBA-AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with A+ Grade  
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai**



**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING**

**COURSE NAME: 16GE301 Professional Ethics**

**III YEAR / V SEMESTER**

**Unit 1 – Engineering Ethics**

**Topic 1: Self Interest and Ethical Egoism**





# What We'll Discuss

## TOPIC OUTLINE



Self Interest and Ethical Egoism  
Customs and Ethical Relativism  
Religion  
Uses Of Ethical Theories



# CASE STUDY



- Bill, a process engineer, learns from a former classmate who is now a regional compliance officer with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that there will be an unannounced inspection of Bill's plant. Bill believes that unsafe practices are often tolerated in the plant, especially in the handling of toxic chemicals. Although there have been small spills, no serious accidents have occurred in the plant during the past few years. What should Bill do?



# Self Interest and Ethical Egoism



- is being good and acceptable to oneself.
- It is pursuing what is good for oneself.
- It is very ethical to possess self interest.
- A view that tries to reduce morality to the pursuit of self-interest is called ethical egoism.
- “Ethical “ because it is a theory about morality and “egoism” because it says that the sole duty of each of us is to maximize his or her own good.



# Customs and Ethical Relativism



- Various culture in our pluralistic society lead to tolerance for various customs, beliefs and outlooks.
- Ethical pluralism is the view that there may be alternative perspectives that are reasonable, but no one of which must be accepted completely by all rational and morally concerned persons.
- Ethical relativism says that actions are morally right when they are approved by law or custom; they are wrong when they violate laws or customs.
- Moral rationalism is the view that moral judgments should be made in relation to factors that may vary from case to case.



# RELIGION



- Religions have played major roles in shaping moral views and moral values.
- Each religion lays stress on certain high moral standards.
  - Hinduism holds polytheistic view and virtues of devotion and surrender to high order.
  - Christianity believes in one deity and emphasizes on virtues of love, faith and hope.
  - Islam on one deity and adherence to Ishan and prayer.
- But many religious sects have adopted poor moral standards.





# USES OF ETHICAL THEORIES



Ethical theories are useful :

- for justifying moral obligations.
- for resolving moral dilemmas.
- in relating professional and ordinary morality



**RECALL TIME**

**ASSESSMENT  
TIME**





# THANK YOU