



Ethics In Profession

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ABSTRACT

All over the world, there is growing realization that ethics is important for any profession and to achieve the progress of any society. Ethics give rise to efficient economy. It is not the government or law which will protect the society. But ethics alone can protect it. Ethics are good in itself. Ethics and profits go together in the long run. An ethically responsible profession is one which has developed a culture of caring for people and environment, a culture which flows downwards from the top managers and leaders. With the help of major relevant studies, the real meaning of professional ethics, general guidelines, professional behavior, and professional misconduct are discussed in this paper.

Key word : Business, Ethics, Profession

Introduction

Ethics are the fundamental values or norms for the conduct of man in society. Being fundamental in nature, superficial changes in social or political structure do not affect them. They are the bedrock on which laws and rules are based: they constitute the substratum for legislations as to the code of conduct or for judicial sanctions as to particular acts being social or offensive to state or society.

The term Profession is often used loosely for a calling. A calling is the pursuit of a productive work or service by which one makes a living. In this sense one speaks of Mr. X being a professional player or artist meaning thereby that his work is a source of livelihood to him in contrast to an amateur player or artist. But this is a figurative; if not an abuse use of the term profession cannot be the pursuit of a learned and skilled art or science by a traditionally organized body for the primary object of social service. It is not just a calling like hewing wood or singing songs or mere wage earnings. It stands apart from business; in business the prime objective is profit or gain. For a professional man the personal gain to himself is devoted their best attention to defending a host of patriots like Sri Aurobindo, Mahatma Gandhi, and the like all charged with high treason, knowing fully well that they would thereby incur the displeasure of the Imperial government. Such a sense of service impelled those stalwarts in the profession to undertake such arduous and unprofitable jobs.

The best service of the professional man is often rendered for no equivalent or for a trifling equivalent and it is pride to do so what he does in a way worthy of his profession even if done with no expectation of reward. The sense of service to devote oneself to the noble purpose of the profession with a sense of service and not for material gain comes out of the value and dignity built by tradition and the examples set by illustrious forerunners in the profession. A profession is not a mere calling; it has a certain traditional dignity born out of a

spirit of public service with which it is exercised. To stress that a profession is pursued to earn a living or to amass wealth is to vulgarize it by undermining the nobleness of its purpose, the lofty ideal of social service. In a profession, whether legal, medical or divine, money making is an incidental purpose, pursuit of which is held down by traditions of a chief purpose to which the organized activities of those pursuing the calling are to be directed primarily and by which the individual activities of the practitioner are to be restrained and guided. In a business, money making is the entire purpose and the measure of success of a business is the amount of money it earns for the businessman.

Professional ethics consists of those fundamental values or norms on which the profession has been built; a man in the profession is supposed to conform to them. Professional ethics are related to profession and their observance is called for by its exigencies. They do not always conform to social ethics and may sometimes appear to be in conflict. In such a case professional ethics demand that their dictates should be honoured in supersession to other demands.

Methodology

The study is based both on primary data and secondary data. The primary data is collected from personal interviews with the professionals concerned. The secondary data has been taken from the records of district administration of chief planning officer and district training centre concerned. Some information has been collected through authorized publications and records of the government.

Code of ethics for Doctors

A doctor must not allow himself to be influenced merely by motives of profit. Any self-advertisement except such as is expressly authorized by the national code of medical ethics Taking part in any plan of medical care in which the doctor does not have professional independence. To receive any money in connection with services rendered to a patient other than the acceptance of a proper professional fee or to pay any money in the same circumstances without the knowledge of the patient.

Under no circumstances is a doctor permitted to do any thing that would weaken the physical or mental resistance of a human being, except from strictly therapeutic or prophylactic indications imposed in the interest of the patient.

A doctor is advised to use great caution in publishing discoveries. The same applies to methods of treatment whose value is not recognized by the profession. When a doctor is called upon to give evidence or a certificate he should only state which he can verify.

A doctor must always bear in mind the importance of preserving human life from the time of conception until death. He owes to his patient complete loyalty and all the resources of his science. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond his capacity he should summon another doctor who has the necessary ability. He owes to his patient absolute secrecy on all which has been confided to him or which he knows because of the confidence entrusted to him. He must give the necessary treatment in emergency, unless he is assured that it can and will be given by others. He ought to behave to his colleagues as he would have them behave to him.

Code of ethics for Engineers

Engineers serve all members of the community in enhancing their welfare, health and safety by a creative process utilizing the engineers' knowledge, expertise and experience. Pursuant to the avowed objectives of, the Institution of Engineers (India), as enshrined in the presents of the Royal Charters granted to the Institution, the Council of the Institution prescribed a set of "Professional Conduct Rules" in the year 1994 replacing the same with the "Code of Ethics for Corporate Members" in the year 1954 which was revised in the 1997. In view of globalization, concern for the environment and the concept of sustainable development, it has been felt that the prevailing "Code of Ethics for Corporate Members" need review and revision in letter and spirit. The Engineering organizations world over have updated their Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics is based on broad principles of truth, honesty, justice, trustworthiness, respect and safeguard of human life and welfare, competence and accountability which constitute the moral values every Corporate Member of the Institution must recognize, uphold and abide by. This Corporate Members of the Institution of Engineers(India), are committed to promote and practice the profession of engineering for the common good of the community bearing in mind the following concerns:

- Concern for ethical standard;
- Concern for social justice, social order and human rights;
- Concern for protection of the environment;
- Concern for sustainable development;
- Public safety and tranquility.

Code of ethics for Lawyers

A lawyer is entering into the profession of law has to maintain a code of conduct. Such code is not wholly codified. Certain laws and rules have been framed to regulate his professional conduct but they are in no way exhaustive. His conduct inside and outside the court should not be socially and morally irreproachable but should be such as to be befitting the dignity and honour of the profession and conducive to the administration of justice as a whole. This code of conduct defined and undefined in the professional life of a lawyer is made up of what is termed as legal ethics.

The difficulty in framing a comprehensive code of professional ethics lies specially in the fact that the question involved is ultimately one of the means to the ideal, and for individual and community and indeed there is no

conceivable branch of knowledge which may not, at this or that point have some bearing upon the question, that may crop up in the field. The normal nature of man though undoubtedly in very close connection with other aspects of his nature will always remain a distinct aspect of it and an aspect quite as much worthy of separate study as the physical or economic aspect of individual society.

This moral nature is to be studied and exhibited on a large scale of actions, characteristics and conduct of the whole legal society, though these larger phenomena would perhaps admit of being understood only in the light of a close study and appreciation of the individual conduct. The moral ideal also grows and develops, its growth is affected by environment and by history. For that very reason it is never possible that the mere study of the past or even the sociological laws, can form a complete guide even as to the means to what presents itself to us as the true ideal still less as to the value of the ideals themselves.

The lawyer should make his services available to clients who choose to engage him in their cause. It is not for him to choose his clients. While the code of professional conduct prohibits a lawyer soliciting for clients, it is equally unethical to unreasonably refuse engagement for a client offering reasonable remuneration for his service. To demand fanciful fees for accepting a particular brief, to refuse a brief on the expectancy of being engaged by the contesting party are inconsistent with the ideas of social purpose of the profession and so are unethical. A lawyer cannot refuse a brief because of political or moral or social considerations or because of personal distaste or sentiments.

Code of ethics for Chartered Accountants

A Chartered Accountant functions subject to the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. The Act embodies several conditions under which he must function. For example, a Chartered accountant who is not in practice cannot accept engagement to render service of any type rendered by a chartered accountant even though for doing so the law does not prescribe any special qualification, e.g., appointment as an arbitrator or a liquidator. He also cannot use any other designation along with that of chartered accountant. Again if a chartered accountant in practice or a firm of Chartered Accountants has more than one office in India, each one of such offices should be under the separate charge of a member of the institute.

The Council of the Institute has published two booklets: (i) Code of Conduct, and (ii) Professional Ethics. In the first booklet, the various provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act relating to the performance of a member's duties have been explained; more particularly the provisions under various clauses of Schedules have been analyzed to bring out their significance. It also contains the conduct of members in different circumstances. An appendix has been added for guidance of member as to how they should act where they have reason to believe that their clients have been found guilty of tax evasion.

The standards of the accountancy profession are heavily determined by the public interest. The independent auditors help to maintain the integrity and efficiency of the financial statements presented to financial institutions in partial support for loans and to stockholders for obtaining capital. The financial executives serve in various financial management capacities in organization and contribute to the efficient and effective use of the organization's resources. The internal auditors provide assurance about a sound internal control system which enhances the reliability of the external financial information of the employer. The tax experts help to establish confidence and efficiency in, and the fair application of the tax system, and the management consultants have a responsibility towards the public interest in advocating sound management decision making.

Professional accountants have an important role in society members like investors, creditors, employers and other sectors of the business community as well as the government, and the public at large rely on professional accountants for sound financial accounting and reporting, effective financial management and competent advice on a variety of business and taxation matters. The attitude and behavior of professional accountants in providing such services have an impact on the economic well-being of their community and country.

Ethics in Management

Management Ethics is nothing but the application of Ethics in Management. Management Ethics proves that businesses can be, and have been, ethical and still make profits. Management Ethics was thought of as being a contradiction of terms. Today more and more interest is being given to the application of ethical practices in business dealings and the ethical implications of business.

Management Ethics does not intend to be a self appointed

watch guard and tell what is 'right', 'equitable', 'good', 'proper', 'fair', and 'just' for a company to do. Neither does it intend to dictate as to how business organizations should conduct their affairs. Instead it is left to the individual Manager's own moral standards of behavior and ethical system of belief. Ethics only tries to help individuals understand and come to terms with their own moral standards and ethical values. For it is time now, indeed, to change over from the past way of thinking about business conduct and formulate new ethical ways of conducting business activities.

Conclusion

Professional Ethics does not intend to self-appointed watch guard and state what a company should do or how it should conduct itself. Ethics only tries to help individuals understand and come to terms with their own moral standards and ethical values. It establishes moral standards and norms of behavior. It prescribes moral behavior and makes recommendations about how to or how not to behave. It expresses an opinion or attitude about human conduct in general.

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