

CHAPTER 6: SYNTHESIS: MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

Study Questions:

1. How can you be a genuine Filipino if you do not follow Filipino customs?
 - What is the best the thing I have done for my country? I actually don't know because at my age, it IS impossible to do something big. Then I realized it isn't important on how big it is. I think the best thing I've done for my country is to be proud that am a Filipino. I am proud to be a Filipino because of our wonderful culture, colorful heritage and our optimistic attitude towards life that, despite the calamities were facing right now, we Filipinos still get to put a smile on our faces. Be proud being a Filipino even if it not easy.
2. What is the distinction between a religious notion of a sin and the philosophical understanding of immoral or unethical acts?
 - The philosophical understanding of immoral or unethical acts generally revolve around treating people equally and always as ends In themselves Instead of as merely means to an end. No external source of morality is required as it can be derived solely from our shared status as human beings. The religious notion of sin, on the other hands, revolves around obedience to some external source who IS believed to have dictated what is right and wrong.
3. How realistic is Kohlberg's ideal of the highest stage of post-conventional morality, that of universal ethical principles, given that feelings and emotions are inseparable from human choice?
 - Individuals who reach the highest level of post-conventional moral reasoning judge moral issues based on deeper principles and shared ideals rather than self-interest or adherence to laws and rule. Most people have strong moral beliefs about what is right and wrong. Although the existence of moral values is universal across different cultures and ethnic groups, people vary in their moral development also called moral reasoning that is the ability to analyze complex moral issues.
4. Given that the human condition is one of finitude, how will you know that you are sufficiently informed when you finally make your moral judgment?
 - We can't due to faith is a necessary part of the human condition. We all must assume that things are probably true everyday, even though we cannot be completely certain of them. You do it every time you read a news report. That is why we must be all open to correction and teachable. However, knowing that other humans are finite and could be wrong even intentionally misleading you.

5. If a global ethic is currently emerging, does this mean that the true meaning of morality changes overtime? Please explain your answer.
- True morality does not change over time. It is the result of the fact that we our souls were created in God's image. Thus, we are all children of God. Morality changes that's why it is correctly called "situational ethics". However, a "global ethic" is just another flawed morality if it doesn't recognized that no one has the right to violate the life, liberty, or property of another .s
6. IS there a difference between one's ethical responsibility toward fellow humans and toward nonhuman nature? Please explain your answer.
- We define ethics as something good, fair, correct, but we cannot define ethics with a superficial view, we have to go further deep in every social group, there is a differentiation of society to another due to the customs, habits so what is ethical for a company, may be an opposing view to another company. There is apace in ethical, a gap that can only be completed by a social group of homogeneous behavior. In my opinion, the most general answer to this question is as follows the fundamental difference between animal ethics and the people ethics due to the fact, that the first of them has its base in the instinct and the second in rational thinking.

KEYWORDS

- ❖ **Cross-Point** - is an intersection of certain events or experiences of different levels which are physical, interpersonal, social, historical, and intrapersonal.
- ❖ **Culture and Cultural relativism** – *Culture* is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group, and the *Cultural Relativism* refers to the idea that the values, knowledge, and behavior of people must be understood within their own cultural context.
- ❖ **Emotions and feelings** – feelings are experienced consciously, while emotions manifest either consciously or subconsciously.
- ❖ **Environment** – defined as the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates together under one sun.
- ❖ **Ethical Responsibility** – is the ability to recognize, interpret and act upon multiple principles and values according to the standards within a given field and/or context.
- ❖ **Global Community** – is the fictional world government in the Left Behind series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins.
- ❖ **Informed Decision-Making** – It is a decision based on facts or information.
- ❖ **Moral Agent** – is a person who has the ability to discern right from wrong and to be held accountable for his or her own actions.
- ❖ **Moral Development and Maturity** – *Moral development* refers to changes in moral beliefs as a person grows older and gains maturity. *Maturity* is the state of having reached a stage of full or advanced development.
- ❖ **Religion** – the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

- ❖ **Self** – a person's essential being that distinguishes them from others, especially considered as the object of introspection or reflexive action.
- ❖ **Society** - the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community.

NARRATIVE

Decision making is a vital skill to have to succeed in today's world. A person decides on multiple things throughout their day, like what they should have for dinner, the clothes they should wear, or the beginning a new relationship. Decisions, simple or complex, impact our daily lives. This is why it is critical to understand your personal decision making process. **Throughout this** paper, I will explore my personal spiritual discernment and the influence of my past and present which impacted and developed my individual decision making abilities. Also, I will analyze how my personal position could influence my future clients. What guides you to make a decision, small or big? How do you know you made the right choice? Horton describes in his article, *Discerning Spiritual Discernment: Assessing Current Approaches for Understanding God's Will*, three major perspectives to spiritual discernment. The "bull's eye" approach is the most popular of the three perspectives "theorize that God has a perfect plan for all individuals and seeks to real the plan to them. " Unlike the "bull's eye approach" the second perspective in Horton's article seeks the individual to use their and other understanding in the decision making process. The wisdom approach reasons that "Christians should rely extensively on their God-given reasoning abilities, wise counsel, and a clear assessment of their strengths, talents, and abilities (Horton, 2009, p. 9)." This approach has two

ACTIVITY PAGE

I. This chapter identified and explained the steps in making informed decisions when confronted with moral problems. The steps can be summarized as follows:

1. Determine your involvement in the moral situation.
2. Gather all the necessary facts.
3. Identify the stakeholders.
4. Name all the alternative choices possible and their potential effects on all stakeholders.
5. Identify the type of ethical issue at hand.
6. Make your ethical conclusion or decision.

Apply now all the six steps to the question, "Is selling one of my kidneys to a paying customer morally defensible?" Write down your application below:

STEP 1: Even me, I will do it too, because for my family I will do everything for them.

STEP 2: Poverty, because being a Filipino is hard to live.

STEP 3: Filipino, Arabo, Customs.

STEP 4: If they can understand each there is a possible way to takes a legal way.

STEP 5: There is a legal way to get a organ donor, but, because they didn't understand each other that's why, process is become illegal.

STEP 6: I will do what she did, because if this is the only way for my family to live.

II. Examine your feeling or emotions regarding the issue of organ trafficking. Do you feel sympathetic to the woman who was about to sell her kidney to her Saudi Arabian husband? Or were you morally repulsed by what she was planning to do? Apply Ramon C. Reyes's idea of five cross-points that contribute to the formation of who you are in order to understand your feelings about his particular moral issue. List below the elements that make up each of your cross-points:

1. PHYSICAL CROSS-POINT:

- Because of the hardships of life, so he just thought, that whatever happens to him as long as his family life is important.

2. INTERPERSONAL CROSS-POINT:

- Maybe because he wanted to rise above the hardships, so he thought of doing that thing.

3. SOCIAL CROSS-POINT:

- Because he sees that others have done it so he did it too.

4. HISTORICAL CROSS-POINT:

- Maybe he thought that because he thought he would lift others around her.

5. EXISTENTIAL CROSS-POINT:

- Because maybe that's the trend around him so he was able to do those things.

Given the five cross-points that make up who you are, can you provide an explanation below why you feel that way that you do toward the woman who was about to sell her kidney? How can you make sure that your feelings about the matter are not trapped in Kohlberg's pre-conventional stage?

1. How did I feel toward the woman who was about to sell her kidney and why:

- Guilt, because why does he have to sell her organ, why does he have to put his life in danger. There are many jobs that can be applied without having to have fifty-fifty lives

2. How do I make sure my feelings are morally mature and not trapped in the pre-conventional stage:

- Because, I will not make a decision that will doubt my life.

III. Search your library resources as well as online sources to come up five other ethical issues that can be categorized under “medical ethics.” List the issues down, cite your sources, and provide a short explanation of each issue as well as one main argument for and one argument against a particular stand on the issue. Pay particular attention to topics that are relevant to the contemporary Philippine context. Make sure your sources are trustworthy and that you get all the necessary facts straight (including the possible scientific explanations).

MEDICAL ETHICS ISSUE A: COVID 19 vaccine research and development

1. Ethical Issue: COVID 19 vaccine research and development

2. Sources: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/tmi.13503>

3. Explanation: The achievements of vaccine research and development bring a hope to our societies that we may cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Position/Stand on the issue: COVID 19 is a deadly disease which continues to affect many countries in the world

5. Argument for the position: Vaccines are the most important public health measure to protect people from COVID-19 worldwide

6. Argument against the position: The attempts to accelerate vaccine development are associated with efforts to streamline the process. Unfortunately, streamlining may have consequences for the traditional ethics of vaccine research and development, especially the long-held principles of beneficence and non-maleficence.

MEDICAL ETHICS ISSUE B: Should Marijuana Be Permitted? An Ethical Analysis

1. Ethical Issue: Should Marijuana Be Permitted? An Ethical Analysis

2. Sources: <https://www.ethicssage.com/2017/05/should-marijuana-be-permitted-an-ethicalanalysis.html>

3. Explanation: There are many arguments that have been raised for and against legalizing marijuana as I addressed in my last blog. In this blog, I focus on the morality of marijuana use, rather than the law.

4. Position/Stand on the issue: Most of the arguments against marijuana are centered on the use of the drug for escapism and pleasure. Is it morally right or wrong to be high? Providing a solution to this dilemma is not as easy as pointing out the wrongness of crimes such as murder or rape.

5. Argument for the position: The use of marijuana in dealing with emotional issues whether through medical prescription or for recreation contradicts Kant's formula on morality. It states that one's dignity ought not to be compromised even in the face of overall utility.

6. Argument against the position: Still, if someone's not prone to addiction or can use it without causing any great impact on their life, it seems like an allowable indulgence. Used in moderation, there doesn't seem to be anything inherently wrong with it, but what counts as moderation is, in part, the catch.

MEDICAL ETHICS ISSUE C: Social and Ethical Issues Of Drug Abuse

1. Ethical Issue: Social and Ethical Issues Of Drug Abuse

2. Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/drug-use/Social-and-ethical-issues-of-drug-abuse>

3. Explanation: There are many social and ethical issues surrounding the use and abuse of drugs. These issues are made complex particularly because of conflicting values concerning drug use within modern societies. Values may be influenced by multiple factors including social, religious, and personal views

4. Position/Stand on the issue: Within a single society, values and opinions can diverge substantially, resulting in conflicts over various issues involving drug abuse.

5. Argument for the position: Modern industrialized societies are certainly not neutral with regard to the voluntary nonmedical use of psychotropic drugs. Whether one simply takes the position of American psychologist Erich Fromm, that people are brought up to desire and value the kinds of behavior.

6. Argument against the position: Young people seem to find great solace in the fact that adults often use drugs to cope with stress and other life factors. One cannot deny that many countries today are drug-oriented societies, but the implications of drug use are not necessarily the same for the adult as they are for the adolescent.

MEDICAL ETHICS ISSUE D: Preparing for Poison Warfare: The Ethics and Politics of Britain's Chemical Weapons Program

1. Ethical Issue: Preparing for Poison Warfare: The Ethics and Politics of Britain's Chemical Weapons Program, 1915–1945

2. Sources: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-51664-6_6

3. Explanation: Allied political and military leaders have frequently been credited both with considerable foresight and with strategic and moral leadership for avoiding chemical warfare during the Second World War. Scholars have not, however, fully acknowledged how close Allied forces came to launching a full-scale chemical onslaught in various theatres of war.

4. Position/Stand on the issue: By the time the first major chemical warfare attack in modern history came to an end, the Allies had lost hundreds, if not thousands, of soldiers. Allied propaganda estimated that 5000 soldiers had been killed and 10,000 had been wounded, though these numbers are generally accepted to have been exaggerated (Szöllösi-Janze 1998, 318).

5. Argument for the position: The gas weapons are surely not more horrible than flying metal fragments, on the contrary, the percentage of deadly gas injuries is comparably smaller, there are no mutilations and nothing is known [...] in terms of follow-up injuries (Haber 1924, 35; see 25–41).

6. Argument against the position: Given what we now know about newly developed operational research methods which allowed experts to calculate more precisely the requirements for chemical weapons stockpiles needed for a major military attack, it seems far from certain whether the Allied military would actually have been capable of delivering the kind of “massive hammer blow” to the German enemy within the operational realities of war conceived by the Chiefs of Staff, had the order to employ chemical and biological weapons actually been given.

MEDICAL ETHICS ISSUE E: The Great Debate on the Ethics of Pricing in the Drug Industry

1. Ethical Issue: The Great Debate on the Ethics of Pricing in the Drug Industry

2. Sources: <https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/leadership/ethicsofpricing>

3. Explanation: In one of the liveliest segments of the conference, featuring an impassioned discussion on leadership among industries facing a crisis of trust, Mr. Patricof, co-founder and managing director of the venture capital firm Greycroft LLC was speaking in defense of a pharmaceutical industry that, he argued, has been “much maligned.”

4. Position/Stand on the issue: How many people are alive, or have a parent or best friend who is alive, because of some drug?” asked Alan Patricof at the Bernstein Center’s November conference, “Restoring Trust: New Realities and New Possibilities for Business Leadership.”

5. Argument for the position: Indeed, a recent streak of price gouging has cemented Big Pharma in the public’s mind as a group of greedy corporations willing to exploit desperate patients with no alternatives in the quest for maximum profits. For example, Valeant Pharmaceutical International tripled the price for a vial of Nitropress, used to treat dangerously high blood pressure, to \$805, while Turing Pharmaceuticals increased the price of Daraprim, a medicine used to treat toxoplasmosis, a parasiteborn infection that can be deadly for babies, by 5,000% to \$750 per tablet.

6. Argument against the position: But that doesn’t justify the extreme cases, argued Dr. Vagelos. Nor did it preclude Merck from offering life changing medications to sub-Saharan Africa free of charge. Again, under Dr. Vagelos’s stewardship, Merck broke rank with the rest of the industry in 1988 to donate the ivermectin tablets that could cure onchocerciasis, otherwise known as “river blindness,” for as long as governments and agencies were willing to distribute them, ultimately treating 250 million people for free.