

# Business Ethics

- **The study of moral obligation involving the distinction between right and wrong.**
- **Business Ethics: right or wrong in the workplace – value management.**

# Two Areas of Business Ethics

- **Obvious Mischief**
- **Moral Mazes**  
**RIGHT vs. RIGHT**

# Common Misconduct in Organizations

- **Misrepresenting hours worked**
- **Employees lying to supervisors**
- **Management lying to employees, customers, vendors or the public**
- **Misuse of organizational assets**

# Common Misconduct in Organizations

- **Misuse of organizational assets**
- **Lying on reports/falsifying records**
- **Sexual harassment**
- **Stealing/theft**
- **Accepting or giving bribes or kickbacks**
- **Withholding needed information from employees, customers, vendors or public**

# Common Causes of Unethical Behavior

- **Pressure**
- **Fear**
- **Greed**
- **Convenience**

# Causes of Unethical Behavior

- **Following boss's directives**
- **Meeting overly aggressive business/financial objectives**
- **Helping the organization survive**
- **Meeting schedule pressures**

# Causes of Unethical Behavior

- **Be a team player (group think)**
- **Rationalizing that others do it**
- **Resisting competitive threats**
- **Advancing own career**

# Ethical Dilemmas

**Making decisions under stress or  
dealing with complex issues that  
have no clear indication of what is  
right or wrong.**

**There are NO simple ethical dilemmas...  
all have layers of meaning and effect.**

# Business Ethics Myths

- **Business Ethics is a new fad.**
- **Business Ethics – Religion vs. Management.**
- **Business Ethics is obvious – “Do Good!”**

# **Business Ethics Myths**

- **Business Ethics is good guys preaching to bad guys.**
- **Ethics can't be managed.**
- **Being Legal = Being Ethical.**
- **Managing Ethics has little practical relevance.**

# **“Whistleblower’s” Reluctance**

- **Didn’t believe action would be taken.**
- **Feared retaliation from mgmt.**
- **Didn’t trust confidentiality.**
- **Feared not being a team player.**
- **Feared retaliation from co-workers.**
- **Didn’t know who to contact.**
- **Nobody cares, why should I?**

# Computer Ethics

- **Computer ethics are a set of moral standards that govern the use of computers.**
- **It is society's views about the use of computers, both hardware and software.**
- **Privacy concerns, intellectual property rights and effects on the society are some of the common issues of computer ethics.**

# Ethical Tips for Organizations

- **Develop a code of Ethics.**
- **Communicate code and bake it into culture top-down.**
- **Treat Ethics as a process.**
- **Create open lines of communication.**

# Ethical Tips for Organizations


- **Set good examples.**
- **Educate employees – frame issues through storytelling.**
- **Value forgiveness.**

# Benefits of Managing Ethics in the Workplace

- Improves society.
- Maintains a moral course in turbulent times.
- Cultivates employee teamwork, productivity, morale and development.
- Acts as an insurance policy.
- Establishes values for quality management, strategic planning and diversity management.
- Promotes strong public image.
- It is the **RIGHT** thing to do!

# Ethical Tips for Individuals

- **Establish personal values.**
- **Be aware of ethical events.**
- **Develop critical thinking techniques.**
- **Be reflective.**
- **Make it a priority every day.**



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**“The simple step of a simple courageous man is to not take part in the lie, not to support deceit. Let the lie come into the world, even dominate the world, but not through me.”**

**-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn**