

Situation Analysis

CIS 381

Overview

To frame our discussion, consider:

Outline

- Decision Making
- Developing Responses

Adapted from Muriel J. Bebeau (1995) Moral Reasoning in Scientific Research: Cases for Teaching and Assessment.

Decisions

- The conduct of our daily affairs involves decision making. Most decisions are a matter of preference. Sometimes our choices affect the welfare of others. The problem is when we cannot identify the ethical choices embedded in our decision making.

Ethical Reasoning

- Usually when confronted with ethical situations you know what you should do, even though there may be pressures not to.

Position

- You rely on knowledge of existing law and intuition to guide you. We understand we are responsible for our actions, ignorance does not exempt us. Knowing rules and laws is essential to maintaining society.

Reflection

- Though knowing is critical to social maintenance, reflecting on the reasons for those rules and laws is not typical.

Developing Responses

- Issues or points of conflict
- Stakeholders
- Consequences
- Obligations
- Choice

Issues/Points of Conflict

- To provide an adequate analysis, you want to move past creating a list of issues. You want to describe the nature of the conflict that exists in the situation. This can often times be dealt with by listing the options.

Stakeholders

- Parties other than those "directly" mentioned in the situation may have a stake in the decision. Critical in the analysis is perspective taking, looking at the situation from different vantage points. Consider the expectations (rights) of the interested parties.

Perspective

- As part of the perspective of the stakeholders, you can think in terms of the social analysis framework presented.
 - Individual
 - Community and Group
 - Organization
 - Cultures
 - Institutions
 - Nations
 - Global

Consequences

- For each action considered, consider, in turn, each of the stakeholders and the result of the action from their view. The challenge is not to examine every potential consequence, but to identify those that have a high probability of occurrence.

Consequences (2)

- In looking at consequences, you can refer to the ethical framework presented.
 - Quality of Life
 - Use of Power
 - Risks and Reliability
 - Property Rights
 - Privacy
 - Equity and Access
 - Honest and Deception

Obligations

- In most situations, you must determine what responsibility the decision maker may have toward the stakeholders. Furthermore, you cannot cover obligation based on duty. Rather you must state why in terms of values, principles, character or outcomes. This includes both professional and individual concerns.

Make a Choice

- **Listing the various options is a reasonable approach, but when the rubber hits the road action must be taken. You must evaluate the information gained and decide.**

- Recommendations
- Defense
- Implementation
