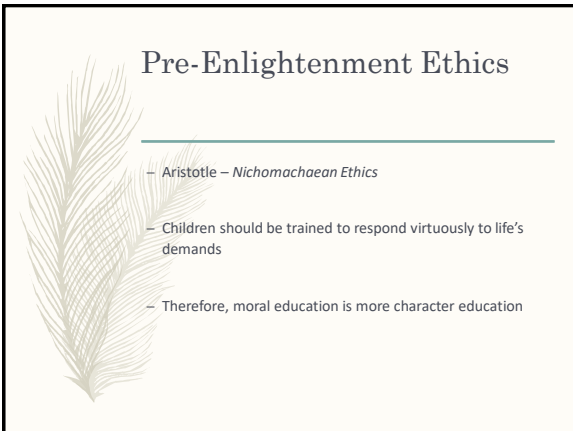








A scenario



- A man is admitted to the hospital, unconscious, with a history of serious health problems and a high blood alcohol level. He has no identification and no family with him. On his chest, he has a tattoo: "Do Not Resuscitate."
- What would you do?

Enlightenment Ethics



- Where did the Middle Ages go?
- Influence of church and religion during this time
- Need to order life on earth and not to better it
- Order, obedience, tradition acceptance

Utilitarianism



- John Stuart Mill – *On Liberty* (1859)
- A vision of good predetermines what is right
- Classical utilitarianism – optimising the ratio of happiness over pain
- Comprehensive system linked to individual and societal behaviour
- Response to social conditions at the time

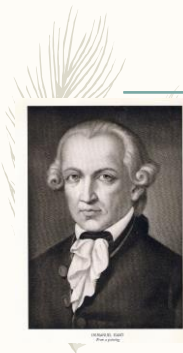


- Several variations of utilitarianism
- How do we define happiness?
- ‘Rule’ utilitarians
- Some critiques – complex viewpoint

Enlightenment Ethics



- Brought ideal of freedom from authority of the Church and the opportunity of reason
- Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) is the key philosopher in this regard – ethics is considered in line with logic
- Act in a way that you would like others in a similar situation to act
- We are responsible for our own choices, and our choices are moral if and only if they are logically derived from the absolute principle of duty.



- Kantian ethics – *deontological* ethics
- Emphasis on duty over love
- Effects of his ethical stance –
 1. Emphasises human rationality
 2. Enhances notion of autonomy
 3. Emphasis on logic
 4. Absolute principles
- Human beings become legislators of their own law through reason

Deweyan Ethics



- Like utilitarianism is consequentialist
- Does differ with utilitarians
- Human needs are dynamic and changing
- Responsibility of individuals and institutions – ethical behaviour is about accepting responsibility for your actions
- Can't be judged moral just by your acceptance of a situation but you need to consider it from others' perspectives

Scenario



- *One of your fellow students on the course, who is also a close friend, confides that he or she has cheated in an examination. Do you report the student in question to tutors in charge of the course or not?*
- Discuss the above scenario and make a note of the main reasons for your choice.

Revisit: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)



- The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles and three (by now) Optional Protocols. It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have:
 - the right to survival;
 - to develop to the fullest;
 - to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and
 - to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.
- In adopting the Convention, the international community recognized that people under 18 years of age often need special care and protection that adults do not.

Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism



- Can the UNCRC be applied universally?
- It is culturally informed, just like the UDHR, based on Global Northern values.
- Rights-based discourse: are they rights-bearing individuals or 'objects of concern'? Can they be both?
- The global child as envisaged in the UNCRC is directed to advancing the interest and assuring the rights of a normative version of the child.

Childhood a social construct



- 'Protecting the **best** interests' and 'rights of the child' premised on Global Northern ideas of children and childhood.
- Childhood a social construction.
- Children are and must be seen as active, not passive, subjects, as they once were.
- Their social relationships and culture are 'worthy of study in their own right.'

Causes of child labour



- Extreme poverty
- Cultural and/or traditional practices
- Employment practices where small businesses prefer to employ children. Why?
- Death of a parent which means the child has to become head of the household
- Armed conflict and children being forced to take up arms or give support in other forms of labour.
- Trafficking or criminal practices

Child labour: facts & figures



- Global number of children in child labour has declined by one third since 2000, from 246 million to **168 million children**.
- More than half of them, **85 million**, are in **hazardous work** (down from 171 million in 2000).
- **Asia and the Pacific** still has the largest numbers (almost **78 million** or **9.3%** of child population), but **Sub-Saharan Africa** continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labour (**59 million, over 21%**).



- There are **13 million (8.8%)** of children in child labour in **Latin America and the Caribbean** and in the **Middle East and North Africa** there are **9.2 million (8.4%)**.
- **Agriculture** remains by far the most important sector where child labourers can be found (**98 million, or 59%**), but the problems are not negligible in **services (54 million)** and **industry (12 million)** – mostly in the informal economy.
- Child labour among **girls** fell by **40%** since 2000, compared to **25%** for **boys**.

What can be done?



- Do we stop buying immediately from firms and factories which employ children?
- Do we stop investments and co-operation?
- Many from very poor families; need to work to support their family and/or their education.
- If lose job, lower paid work, even prostitution in some cases.
- What are your thoughts on this?

Solutions?



- Poverty is reason for this labour in many cases.
- Need schemes to phase it out gradually.
- Need to consider issues holistically in the long term, but what about short-term?

International labour organisation website –introductory facts



- Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination.
- Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive
- The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

International labour organisation website –introductory facts



- It refers to work that
- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
 - interferes with their schooling by:
 1. depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 2. obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 3. requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

International labour organisation
website –introductory facts



- In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age.
- Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries.
- The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.

International Labour organisation

- <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>



Where children work



International labour organisation website –introductory facts



- Whilst child labour takes many different forms, a priority is to eliminate without delay the worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182:
- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

International labour organisation website –introductory facts



- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
