



Applied Ethics 21 - 25 Feb 2015

WORKSHOP REPORT

Anantapur Campus

Sub-department of **Philosophy**

DAY 1: 21 Feb 2015

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| Welcome Address | Dr. Sharada Subramaniam, Dept. of Philosophy, SSSIHL |
| Keynote Address | Prof. (Miss) N Niranjana (Hon), Dept. of Commerce, SSSIHL |
| Theme of the day | Relation between Truth and Non- Violence, Before and After Gandhi Prof. Raghuram Raju Dept. of Philosophy, University of Hyderabad |

Inaugural Session

The first day of the workshop began at 4:00 pm with the invocatory Vedam chanting by the students of the Campus. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Sharada Subramaniam, Associate Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, SSSIHL. Invoking the auspicious and divine presence of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, she began her address by welcoming the guest speakers of the day, Prof. Raghuram Raju, Dept of Philosophy, Hyderabad Central University, and Prof. N. Niranjana, Dept. of Commerce, SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus. She then introduced the topic, "Applied Ethics." She gave a simple definition of applied ethics by stating that it is the philosophical examination of particular issues in private and public life that are matters of moral judgment. Thus it implies the attempts to use philosophical methods to identify the morally correct course of action in various fields of human life. She went on to point out the various questions that applied ethicists consider regarding moral and ethical obligations. For example, the moral obligations of a citizen towards his nation in utilizing his adult franchise, one's moral obligation towards global poverty, etc.

Moving forward, she stressed on the moral aspect of human beings by saying that morality is a natural feature of human life. It cannot be avoided at any time, especially while making judgments about the right and wrong and do's and don't's of life. Hence, while doing so, one engages in ethics, making ethics the reflection or the theory of morality. Thus, applied ethics can be referred to as a practical art or science which is concerned with people's beliefs on right and wrong. Before concluding her speech, Dr. Sharada laid down the objectives for selecting the topic. They were to show,



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how theories of applied ethics go beyond the individual level and how moral outcomes can be achieved in specific situations; to discuss some of the emerging issues of social concern; to create a general awareness amongst people about the relevance of such social concerns; and to expose the undergraduate students to the theories of applied ethics and encourage them to pursue the subject for higher studies.

This was followed by the key-note address, delivered by Hon. Professor Dr. N. Niranjana, Dept. of Commerce, SSSIHL. Defining ethics, she spoke about its different types, such as decision ethics, professional ethics, clinical ethics etc. She substantiated the importance of dharma by giving examples from Mahabharata which is entirely about the victory of good over evil. "Knowledge that is not put into practice is like food that is not digested," quoting Bhagawan, she said that if, similarly, ethics is not applied to real life, it is useless. Finally, she commended the value-based system of Sri Sathya Sai Institutions and its applicability in real life. In her conclusion, she read out a quote which reflected Sai as the embodiment of all values.

At 4:30 pm, Professor Raghuram Raju, from the Dept. of Philosophy, Hyderabad Central University began his talk. Prof. Raju addressed the gathering on Relation Between Truth and Non- Violence, Before and After Gandhi.

By quoting Socrates, Aristotle, Plato and Descartes, the learned speaker introduced the aspect of morality and rationality in human life. He then dived into discussing the life and principles of Gandhiji. Firstly, Gandhiji was called a 'mahaatma' by Tagore, which implied that Gandhiji was not a common, individual self. In fact, Gandhiji did not write an autobiography, but an 'aatmakatha', according to him. He, quite interestingly, dealt with the life of Gandhi by calling him an "aandhi," a storm that swept over the nation, silently. The two powerful weapons that Gandhiji wielded against the Imperial power was 'truth' and 'non-violence.'





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"India is an accommodating country," he said, and brought to light the trend of old-age homes prevalent in the Western Nations and which has begun in India as well. He concluded his talk by saying that serving the old is not serving, but knowledge. Since knowledge is light, one should feel the light.

At the end of the session, Miss Reshma, I MA, delivered the vote of thanks, and the speaker was presented a memento by the Institute.

DAY 2: 22 Feb 2015

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| Welcome Note | Dr. TR Rajeshwari, Dept. of Commerce, SSSIHL |
| Theme of the day | Chanakya on Ethical Leadership Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai Founder & Director, Chanakya Institute of Public Leadership |

The second day commenced with the vedam chanting by the students and Dr. T. R. Rajeswari welcomed the guest speaker of the day, Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai, Founder and Director, Chanakya Institute of Public Leadership, University of Mumbai, and the author of the best-selling book Corporate Chanakya.

"Don't take problems as problems, take them as challenges," Dr. Pillai said as he began his talk after a very interesting visual presentation of his life and achievements. Citing innumerable examples of ancient and modern administration, he took the audience back to the Gupta Dynasty as he highlighted the significance of the great masterpiece "Arthashastra" written by Chanakya. He shared many valuable insights from Chanakya's "Arthasashtra" with its relevance in today's world.





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Emphasizing on the word "Dharma, he said that dharma defines all, hence, is called as Rajadharma. He also referred to the inspiring life of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Jamshedji Tata, and their contribution to this land. This he related to the importance of intelligent and strategic thinking. He emphasized on the importance of values, ethics, and morals in an economy. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Miss. Hemalatha, I MBA. He was then presented a memento by the Director of the Campus.

DAY 3: 23 Feb 2015

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| Welcome Note | Dr. Venkatalakshmi, Dept. of Philosophy, SSSIHL |
| Talk 1 | Eco Feminism Dr. Sreekala Nair Head, Dept. of Philosophy, Sri Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala |
| Talk 2 | Biomedical Ethics Fr. (Prof.) S Ignacimutthu Director, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai |

The third day of the workshop commenced with the invocatory vedam chanting by the students. The first guest speaker was introduced by Dr. M. Venkatalakshmi, Dept. of Philosophy, and the second speaker by Dr. Seetha Lakshmi, Dept. of Bio Sciences, SSSIHL.

The first speaker, Dr. Sreekala Nair spoke on the topic "Eco Feminism." She started the talk by highlighting the inherent flaws in the Western philosophy and system of dominance over less enlightened beings, and went on to stress the need for ecological thought process. In man's insatiable greed for 'PKW' - power, knowledge and wealth, he has exploited both women and nature ruthlessly. When the distinction between need and greed is distorted, it is then that the need for eco-feminism arises. She said that there is no hierarchy in nature, but only a complex interwoven web, and it is women who are instrumental in maintaining the interconnectedness among all forms.



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Her illuminating talk was followed by the second speaker of the evening, (Prof.) Reverend Father Ignacimutthu, Director of the Entomological Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai. He gave an enlightening talk relating to the ethical issues surrounding two of the most recent discoveries, namely stem cell research and cloning. He explained various incomprehensible terms in scientific methodology pertaining to cloning and stem cell extraction, and gave an account of the vast and varied applications of these techniques in improving medicine and healthcare. However, as there are two sides of every coin, he highlighted the ethical concerns related to these technologies. Stem cells require the killing of a foetus, and cloning produces individuals who will be an aberration to nature.

Thus, he gave us an informative insight into the two most current topics of the day. An interactive session made the evening interesting. At the end of the session, Miss. Suhasini Yellai, III Bio Sciences, delivered the vote of thanks, and the two speakers were presented mementos by the Director of the Campus.

DAY 4: 24 Feb 2015

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| Welcome Note | Miss D Bhargavi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, SSSIHL |
| Talk 1 | Academic Ethics Mrs. Aloka Sarkar Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of English, SSSIHL |
| Talk 2 | Media Ethics Mrs. Karuna S Munshi Communications Consultant, Radio Sai Global Harmony, Prashanthi Nilayam |

The fourth day of the five-day long workshop had two interesting women speakers. Commencing with the invocatory





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vedam chanting, Miss. D. Bhargavi, Assistant Professor, introduced the two guest speakers of the day, Mrs. Aloka Sarkar, Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of English, and Mrs. Karuna S. Munshi, journalist and producer, Radio Sai Global Harmony, Prashanthi Nilayam.

Mrs. Aloka Sarkar spoke on the theme, "Academic Ethics." She discussed the various ethical issues concerning research and methods of evaluation adopted in many educational institutions. She also shared her experiences regarding many malpractices in evaluation and gave her views on the ethical issues of academics.

This was followed by a talk on "Media Ethics," by Mrs. Karuna S Munshi. Drawing from the rich experiences in her field, and with the perfect tone of a journalist, she began her talk with an example of how journalists in America can influence and inform the citizens about the major drawbacks in the ruling government, leaving the people wondering about the ethics of media. She said that the greed for interesting and challenging information often prevents the media from adhering to basic human values and ethics. In relation to media ethics, she shared some important concerns that every journalist should pay attention to. With ample illustrations, she reinstated that the journalist should possess the right conscience while reporting, and be sensible with sensitive matters. Thus, by laying down certain critical and practical injunctions for the mass media, Mrs. Munshi concluded her talk.

The session concluded with Miss. Kritika Lakshmi, I MA, delivering the vote of thanks for the day, after which the two speakers were presented mementos by the Director of the Institute.

DAY 5: 25 Feb 2015

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| Welcome Note | Dr. (Miss) Deepa Seetharaman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics, SSSIHL |
| Talk 1 | Is Science moving Towards Spirituality? Prof. Dr. G Venkataraman Radio Sai, Global Harmony, Prashanthi Nilayam |
| Talk 2 | Valedictory Address Prof. Madhu Kapani, Director, Anantapur Campus, SSSIHL |
| Special Guests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, Former Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL » Prof. Peter Pruzan, Professor Emeritus, Dr. Polit. & Ph.D., Department of Management, Politics & Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark and Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL » Mrs. Kirsten Pruzan Mikkelsen, Journalist and former Newspaper Editor, Denmark |



The concluding day of the workshop began with the vedam chanting, after which, Dr. Deepa Seetharaman introduced the guest speaker of the day, Prof. G. Venkataraman, Director, Radio Sai Global Harmony.

A renowned scientist by profession, Dr. G. Venkataraman began his talk by going back to the Big Bang theory of evolution. He traced the development of physics from Galileo and Einstein to scientists of today. "Subtle is the Lord, but malicious He's not," quoting Einstein, he linked conscious, consciousness and conscience. By relating to the "supernova", he spoke about the birth of creation. Through his speech, he etched a holistic conception of the Ultimate by reminding us that we are both a part in the creation and a spark of the Creator itself.

After this, the Director of the Campus, Prof. Madhu Kapani, gave the valedictory address. Calling the workshop as an intellectual feast, she commended the topic of the workshop. She narrated the story of Louis Stolin to highlight the common anatomy of morality or practical issues. "Ethics without reference to one's concrete actions is empty and action without ethics is blind." Quoting Kant, she said that the mere reduction of ethics to ideology is not correct, as it isolates itself from the world of experience. Hence, she said that morals are values in action. Relating to the relevance of ethics today, she said that ethics is in one way or the other directly related to other aspects of human society namely Law, Education, Politics, Art and Religion. She then spoke about moral values by giving instances of day to day life. With regard to moral obligation, she said that when we are faced with a moral decision we need to ask what we ought to do rather than what we like to do. This may probably sail us through the ocean of moral obligations and solve the ethical issues.

Lastly, she said that to practice what we preach is the crux of Bhagawan's teachings and His principles are living examples of moral ethics. She concluded her valedictory address quoting Bhagawan:

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

The Workshop ended with Vote of Thanks by Miss. Lalitha Sarma, Research Scholar, Dept. of English Language & Literature.

At the end of the session, the guest speaker, Prof. G. Venkataraman, and the Director were presented mementos by Hon. Prof. Dr. Dwaraka Rani Rao, Former Director of the Campus. The very productive workshop closed with Mangala Arati.