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# Duty Ethics

# Definition

- It is the normative ethical theory that the morality of an action should be based on whether that action itself is right or wrong under a series of rules, rather than based on the consequences of the action.

# Aspects of Duty-Ethics

- Pre-defined sets of rules and policies
- Certain rules for certain tasks
- Simple procedures
- Focus on completing the checklist for considering virtuous

# Formulations of Duty-Ethics

- Kantianism-Immanuel Kant
  - All human beings to be treated equally, that is, the means and end should both be right.
  - Means are as important as the ends. Gandhi – I would rather not have Swaraj, then have Swaraj through violence.
  - Therefore, we cannot treat people as lesser human beings.

# Formulations of Duty-Ethics

- Divine Command Theory
  - An action is right if God has decreed that it is right.
  - The rightness of any action depends upon that action being performed because it is a duty, not because of any good consequences arising from that action.

# Implications

- Emphasizes the value of every human being
  - Tend to focus on giving equal respect to all human beings
  - Provides a basis for human rights-forces due regard to be given to the interests of a single person even when those are at odds with the interests of a larger group



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# Thank You