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Human, Social, and Ethical Aspects of Information Technology Management Systems



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Synonyms

Humanistic aspects of IT management systems;
Anthropocentric aspects of IT management systems

Definition

There are innumerable definitions that have been proposed regarding the concept of ethics throughout the ages. One of the simplest and most general, while at the same time most illuminating, defines ethics as a set of moral principles that drive the behavior of a person. By implication of this definition, ethics are not fixed, since the moral principles of both individuals and societies can be changing, even volatile. There is a strong philosophical and ethical tradition in Western countries coming from the ancient Greek schools of thought. This tradition, although important

in the West, cannot eclipse other philosophical and ethical traditions, for example, the Chinese and Indian traditions; and since no one can be considered superior to another, it is necessary to construct an ethical paradigm based on the diverse cultural currents and historical traditions of the world. Said paradigm would have as its main advantage its integrating character, although one cannot ignore the complexity inherent in the attempt to reach a universally accepted agreement on what behavior is ethical or not (Gammack and Goulding 1999).

Introduction

Information technologies (IT) are instruments that make it possible to streamline the processes of capturing, organizing, combining, using, storing, and disseminating information. As such, they use a material – information – which, although intangible, has a relevance that can be significant because of its influence on goods and people through the decisions made using it. Since the large-scale development of computers and information technologies in general, an important role has been given to technological factors and those related to the development of methodologies that help ensure the success of information systems. This vision was logical due to the high cost of technological infrastructures and the personnel

implications have been negative, affecting, among other things, behaviors, relationships, and even the health of IT users. These harmful side effects of IT use are subject to analysis in an effort to discover their causes and the ways in which they can be alleviated. The most common response to the ongoing social and human challenges concerning IT has been the development of codes of ethics regarding the use of information and IT infrastructure. These codes are continually updated according to feedback regarding new challenges that arise and with the experience gained over time. In the field of education, information and IT management also pose ethical challenges. The experience accumulated in other sectors of activity can serve as a reference for actions to be carried out that minimize the negative effects of IT on the various groups that participate in the education system. Educational managers must be aware of these negative effects and address them, leading the development of ethical codes within the education centers for which they are responsible. The success of these codes of ethics depends on the degree of involvement of the management and the motivation that they can muster to achieve their assimilation by all the groups involved.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Ethics](#)
- ▶ [Self and social regulation in minecraft](#)
- ▶ [Socio-cultural Issues and Technology, Media Literacy \(Media and Information Literacy\)](#)
- ▶ [Teachers and IT, Ethics](#)

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