

Part 3 - Practice Applying the Four Categories (Activity 16, p.38)

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Activity 16 – Part 3

1. Identify some actions that would be ethically prohibited for the responsible agent to do.
 - a. Hurt someone on purpose – ethically prohibited because the moral agent intends to harm another person
 - b. Someone is drowning in a lake and the moral agent notices, but does not do anything to help, even though he has the capability to do so – ethically prohibited because lacks care for the consequences (someone drowning) and neglects to help and voluntarily ignores the situation
2. Based on the agent's RRR, what is that person ethically required to do?
 - a. Based on the agent's RRR, he or she should have not had the intention to hurt someone because that is ethically not justifiable and as a human being, it is our responsibility to have good intentions and treat everyone with respect.
 - b. Based on the agent's RRR, he should have helped the person in need as he had the capability to do so and as a capable human being, it is his role to help other in need and it would only be ethically to save someone from drowning because in this case, there would be no harm for the agent himself.
3. Identify some ethically permitted actions.
 - a. Feeding the homeless people.
 - b. Giving a child who is alone and very cold a jacket or scarf so it would not have to freeze and bringing it home or to the police.
4. Choose the ethically ideal action, explaining why it is ideal.
 - a. According to Elliott, an ideal action would include to “do your job, prevent and mitigate harm without causing unjustified harm” (2008). This is fairly hard to find in today's world, but it is important to understand one only may not cause unjustified harm because some type of harm is almost always caused, however, it matters whether the harm was justified or not. For example, an ethically ideal situation would be where a police officer stopped an attack on a person on the street and catches the person who is trying to attack that person before the person can actually create harm. This is an ideal action because the police officer performed according to his role related responsibility by stopping the attack and arresting the offender. Moreover, he was able to prevent harm to the person that was about to be attacked and did not bring unjustified harm to anyone because the offender was arrested with a case against him.

References

Elliott, D. (2008) *Ethical Challenges: Building an Ethics Toolkit*. AuthorHouse.