



# **SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Coimbatore-35.**

**An Autonomous Institution**

**Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with ‘A++’ Grade Approved by AICTE, New Delhi &  
Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai**

**COURSE NAME : 19GET201 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & HUMAN VALUES**

**IV YEAR/ VII SEMESTER**

**UNIT – I ENGINEERING ETHICS**

**Topic: Variety of moral issues –Types of Inquiry**



## *Variety of moral issues*

### **Safety and Risk:**

**Example:** Designing a structure that meets safety standards versus one that saves costs but may be less safe.

**Moral Issue:** Balancing cost and safety to protect human lives.

### **Environmental Impact:**

**Example:** Developing a project that could harm the environment or choosing a more sustainable approach.

**Moral Issue:** Weighing the environmental consequences of engineering decisions.

### **Privacy and Data Security:**

**Example:** Handling user data in a way that respects privacy versus using it for profit.

**Moral Issue:** Balancing business interests with individuals' rights to privacy.

### **Equity and Fairness:**

**Example:** Providing access to technology or services in underprivileged communities.

**Moral Issue:** Ensuring equitable access and avoiding discrimination.



## *Variety of moral issues*

### **Conflict of Interest:**

**Example:** An engineer working on a project where they have a personal financial interest.

**Moral Issue:** Maintaining objectivity and avoiding decisions influenced by personal gain.

### **Professional Integrity:**

**Example:** Reporting accurate results versus manipulating data to meet client expectations.

**Moral Issue:** Upholding truthfulness and honesty in professional work.

### **Responsibility to Society:**

**Example:** Working on projects that benefit society versus those that may have harmful social effects.

**Moral Issue:** Balancing societal benefits with potential harm.



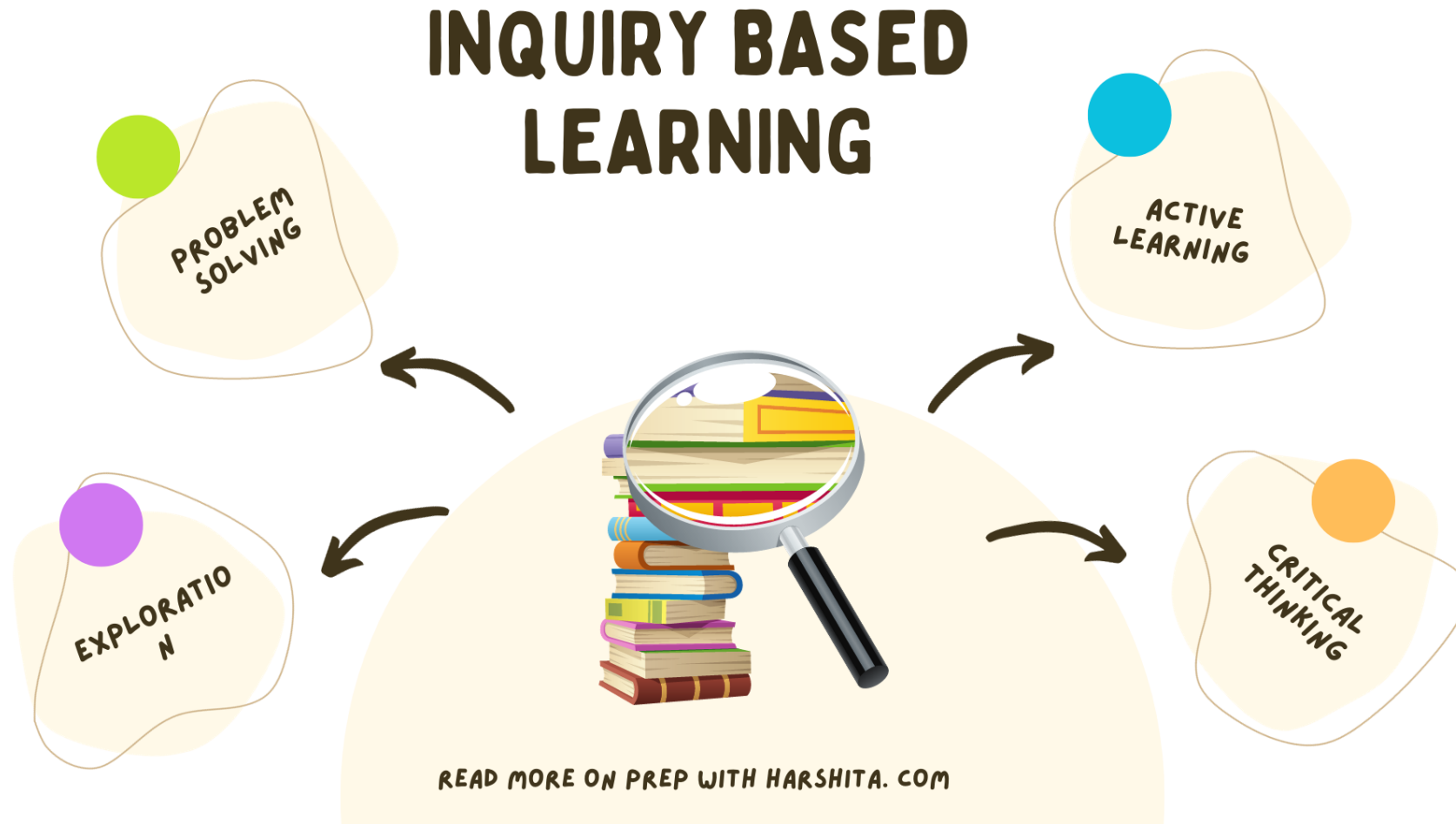
## *Variety of moral issues*

### **VARIETIES OF MORAL ISSUES**

- ***MICRO-ETHICS*** This approach stresses more about some typical and everyday problems which play an important role in the field of engineering and in the profession of an engineer
- ***MACRO-ETHICS*** This approach deals with all the social problems which are unknown and suddenly burst out on a regional or national level.



## *Types of Inquiry*





# *Types of Inquiry*

## **Normative Inquiry:**

**Focus:** What should be done in a given situation? This type involves assessing actions based on ethical theories like utilitarianism, deontology, or virtue ethics.

**Example:** Determining the ethical obligations of an engineer to report unsafe practices.

## **Conceptual Inquiry:**

**Focus:** Clarifying the meaning of concepts such as "safety," "risk," "responsibility," or "sustainability."

**Example:** Analyzing what it means for a project to be "sustainable" and how this concept applies in different contexts.

## **Factual or Descriptive Inquiry:**

**Focus:** Gathering facts about a situation to understand the context and implications of moral issues.

**Example:** Investigating the potential environmental impact of a new construction project.

## **Applied Inquiry:**

**Focus:** Applying ethical principles to specific cases or real-world scenarios.

**Example:** Examining case studies of engineering failures to draw lessons on ethical decision-making.

## **Meta-Ethical Inquiry:**

**Focus:** Investigating the nature of moral judgments and the language used in moral discussions.

**Example:** Exploring whether moral values are universal or culturally relative.

