

Ethical framework analysis:

Education



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ETHICAL FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS Introduction Ethical decision making refers to following a certain acceptable of ethics in making decisions, especially those that affect a wide or a vast group of people. There are various frameworks for decision making and a variety of codes followed in making decisions. These frameworks guide what a person will decide and to what extent they can go in making these decisions. This paper aims at analyzing two frameworks for effective decision making. This will be achieved through comparing and contrasting Edward Veith's spiritual framework and the management framework for decision making in the perspective of a school administrator.

The spiritual model proposed by Edward in his spiritual framework for decision making implores the idea that everything is done for a purpose. He explains that God is at work in every person and every decision made is influenced by God for the other people. According to Veith (2002), a doctor is seen as a representation of God's healing work and therefore their decisions are spiritually influenced. This has a bit of similarities with the management model which perceive ethicality of a decision as the applicability of the decision without hurting other people. However, the management framework is all about decisions made for the benefit of the individual and the institution, while the spiritual framework perceives the decisions as service oriented. According to the spiritual model, a person is inclined to make a certain decision because he or she is guided by the spirit to serve in that particular way.

The spiritual framework does not have a fixed process to follow as the decisions made are not the person's own making. The proponents of this framework assume that even decisions related to career choices are not

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made from a personal point of view. They come from deep conscience in which a person is obliged to provide a certain kind of service to others. On the other hand, the management framework has a designated process that is followed. A school administrator will indicate that there is a format and a process used in decision making. This is because the framework is largely materialistic and all decisions that are made are aimed at achieving profits and gaining an economic advantage.

In both frameworks, there are different kinds of decisions that can be made. However, in the spiritual model, all decisions are made for a purpose. No decision is made for failure. This is seen in the way Veith tries to bring out the career choices to align with the notion that in everything that a person does, there is a force pushing them towards this. There is God at work.

However, in the management framework decision making is seen as a crucial process whose failure leads to detrimental outcomes. According to Butterfield and Savory (1999), a wrong decision in this framework will therefore mean economic losses and is therefore perceived negative. The process of decision making is therefore followed strictly if failure is to be avoided. When this is applied to career choices for comparison, choosing a wrong career leads to failure in life and does not allow full exploitation of abilities. Contrary to this, the spiritual framework would not perceive this as a 'wrong' choice but as a different way to show God's work in people.

A school administrator will be faced with a challenge in selecting which framework to use. Inasmuch as their activities are a kind of service to the students and other people in the school environment, they still have to be wise to make decisions that help the school develop and gain a competitive advantage.

Conclusion

These two frameworks thus give different dimensions of decision making. Although similar in the way they perceive the importance of ethicality in decision making, they differ on the outcomes and the motivation for making decisions. According to Edward, vocations are masks of God and this means service to others. In the management framework, decisions are motivated by materialism and the desire for economic success.

Reference List

- Butterfield, J. & Savory, A. (1999). *Holistic Management: A new framework for decision making*. Washington, D. C: Island Press.
- Veith, E. (2002). *God at Work: Your Christian vocation in all of life*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books.