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Ethics and Profession
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- Ethics : Oral Principles and Philosophy
- Profession : Occupation, especially one that required advanced learning.
- Professional : One belonging to a profession, showing the skills of a trained person, doing specified work for payment, not as a passtime.

Professional is a person who is skilled in his chosen area. A professional is an expert in his field. The skill can be physical or intellectual. A professional is expected to add value to whatever he does.

Because a professional adds value he is eligible to receive value, which is sometimes called as compensation.

A profession involves work skills, work expertise and work excellence. A professional contributes to a Company, Community and World through applications of his abilities. In turn Company, Community and World supports the professional through value return.

Thus Society and professional have a mutually supporting relationship of inter-connection, inter-action and inter-dependence. Society needs professional and professionals needs Society.

In such inter-dependent relationship, Ethics play an important role. Ethics are moral principles and philosophy. The concept of 'Moral' is connected with right conduct and virtuousness. When we think 'Moral' the idea of 'Moral' heights, moral support and moral victory come to the mind.

Ethics then means values in life. Profession means values of work in terms of goods and services.

Professionalism with ethics is combining, compounding and integrating the job and work excellence with life and human excellence.

The job excellence and human excellence, and skills and values have no conflict. In fact they support each other.

While the job and work excellence ensure economic progress, the life and moral excellence ensure the progress and enrichment of the man himself.

The moral excellence is 'Dharma' and economic excellence is 'Artha'. 'Dharma' without 'Artha' is powerless and Artha without 'Dharma' is useless.

'Dharma' is doing right and 'Artha' is meaningful results and returns of that efforts.

The professional or economic excellence ensures the optimality in terms of quantity, quality, cost and time to fulfil the Chanakya's 4-way principle of economic management, which is:

1. Protecting existing wealth
2. Enhancing existing wealth
3. Adding new wealth
4. Taking care of people

The professionalism in wealth generation will result in eight facets of wealth, known as 'Ashtalaxmi'. The eight facets of wealth generation through work excellence are – 1) Capital (Adilaxmi), 2) Consumables (Dhanyalaxmi), 3) Dynamism and movement (Gajalaxmi), 4) People (Janalaxmi), 5) Risk taking capability (Dhairyalaxmi), 6) Success (Vijayalaxmi), 7) Education and learning (Vidyalaxmi), 8) Profits and reserves (Dhanalaxmi).

This is the professional excellence leading to 'Artha Siddhi'. The human excellence is the life optimality, the right way of living life in terms of Right Speech, Right Actions, Right Livelihood, Right mental frames, Right reality, Right meditation, Right intentions and right vision.

This eight way approaches are the Middle path of 'Buddha' which encompass all the virtues of life excellence as propounded by our ancient and eternal wisdom and thought. That is why this 8-way path is known as 'Dhamma', the 'Dharma' or the Ethical excellence. This moral excellence is 'Dharmasiddhi'.

When the modern professional combines the 'Ashtalaxmi' with 'Attanga Yoga', he not only progresses but develops, grows and enriches himself.

'Attanga Yoga' is for internal growth and 'Ashtalaxmi' is for external progress. The business is 'laxmi' and Ethics is 'yoga' and profession with ethics is 'yogalaxmi'.

Can professional excellence and moral excellence go together in practice and reality ?

Yes. Yes. Surely yes. Moral excellence gives courage and professional excellence gives application-ability. The two together results in courageous-capable individual the professional with Ethics.

The world is changing. The education systems and business systems are changing. Confrontation to Collaboration, Animosity to Alliance, Conflict to Confluence and Competition to Co-operation are the new ways of conducting business.