

Preface to This Edition

I am happy that Oxford University Press is bringing out a second edition of this book. In addition to updating, where necessary, and correcting the typos, this edition has added a Part IV on 'Some Contemporary Concerns', with two new essays. Some contemporary concerns or dilemmas in pursuing economic development, such as environmental destruction and displacement of people, were already discussed in Part I in the first edition. Some specific issues like abortion, capital punishment, and preferential treatment of historically disadvantaged social groups were explained in the essay, 'Holistic Approach to Knowledge' in Part II. The second edition now has added two more areas of urgent concern in Part IV—'Ethics in Business' and 'Gender Justice'. I hope that this has added further to the value of the book.

Earlier, ethics was considered simply a matter of personal character, cultivated since childhood by parents, shaped by culture and circumstances, and came naturally to an adult without any special training or study, but not any more. Ethical dilemmas, already as old as the epics, have grown manifold in the complicated contemporary civilization, and have to be dealt with not only by individuals but also by organizations, business enterprises, and policy makers. To face and resolve them, ethics has to be taught, studied, and contemplated upon. That is why many professional schools such as law, medicine, and even sports have included ethics in the courses offered by them. Ethics has to be a part of any training of administrators, managers, the police, the army and other professionals,

to make them sensitive to ethical concerns in general and human rights in particular.

Hopefully, this book will be useful not only in such specialized courses, but also to any ethically concerned general reader and organization. A special feature of the book is that it is relevant particularly to Indian conditions, though it also has a universal appeal.

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