

Analysis and criticism of the idea of “Prima Facie Duties”

Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini Souraki *

Abstract

Providing guiding principles for decision-making in complex situations arising from ethical conflicts has always been one of the most important concerns of moral philosophers. David Ross, a renowned contemporary moral philosopher, with a critical examination of the shortcomings of previous normative theories, particularly the perspective and theory of duty-based ethics by Immanuel Kant, aimed to find a way to resolve ethical conflicts by introducing the distinction between "actual duties" and "Prima Facie Duties." Pluralism and flexibility are among the notable advantages of Ross's deontological ethical theory, which, inspired by the intuitionist approach of G. E. Moore, is referred to as "ethical intuitionism." This article analyzes and critiques the effectiveness and success of this innovative and fundamental approach in resolving ethical dilemmas and facilitating the decision-making process in complex ethical situations, following an examination of the elements and principles of David Ross's innovative theory and the assumptions and foundations of the idea / theory of "Prima Facie Duties."

Keywords

Deontology, Normativ Ethics, Prima Facie Duties, David Ross, ethical intuitionism, ethical conflicts.

* Assistant Professor, Department of ethics, University of Qom, Qom, Iran. | m.hoseini@qom.ac.ir

