SOCIAL DIMENSION OF PRIVACY

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Ethical Issues arise due to the conflicts of individuals. It could be their personal principles, the culture in the organization in which they work and those of the society. In a world where change is dynamic, how to keep the principle intact?

One of the moral principles of ethics is Social Dimension of Private Property. It means that the right to private property is not absolute, but conditional and subject to limitations. It also means that it may be taken away, if it is for societal good. On the other hand, emerging business ethic issues continues to arise and even touch some moral principles. One may also be deprived of privacy if it’s for the protection of many. An ethical issue on privacy continues to create a clamor. People continue to fight and become wary of new threats at their privacy.

According to Oxford English Dictionary, Privacy is the state or condition of being alone, undisturbed, or free from public attention, as a matter of choice or right; freedom from interference or intrusion. Privacy allows structuring the diversity in social relationships to what is public and private. It provides people with the emotional and intellectual space without societal judgment. It acts as clothes that protect the people from being viewed naked. However, threat begins to penetrate and dig holes to privacy.

Privacy breaches detriment trust and run the risk of diluting or losing security; it is a show of disrespect to the law and a violation of ethical principles. In a thesis titled “Privacy: An Ethical Dimension”, it mentions the types of invading privacy. It includes Intrusion, Public Disclosure of Private Facts, Publicity of non-Defamatory False Matter and Appropriation which refers to the use another person’s identity without permission.
According to Australian Law Reform Commission, the rapidly expanded technological capacity of organizations can collect, store and use personal information, and track the physical location of individuals which may be aggregated, analyzed and sold.

Nonetheless, these breaches of privacy might be a sign of weakness in the system of data protection, incompetence or lack of care. Law and Ethics provide resolution for this. For example, in Philippines, Data Privacy Act is passed and committee is formed to help in implementation and monitoring.

Constructive step for this ethical issue may be addressed by ethical decision-making and this requires balancing the interest of parties involved. Whether the good of society or the privacy of a person involve is at stake, it must be decided ethically without breaking what is due to society’s good and those that protects the right of every one for privacy and confidentiality.

References:

Data Privacy Act