

# Ethical Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health

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# What Is Ethics?

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- “Ethics” or “Morals” are most often used interchangeably
- **Morals (or morality)** is defined as the beliefs and standards of good and bad, right and wrong, which people actually do and should follow in society
- ❖ **Ethics** is defined as systematic study of morality
- ❖ **Ethics** in other words is theory and **morality** is the practice

# Ethics Subfields :

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- **Metaethics** tries to clarify nature and method of scientific inquiry
- **Normative ethics** develops the ethical principles, rules and ideals
  - ☐ **Bioethics** is normative ethics applied to decision-making and public policy in domains of **biology**, **medicine (Medical Ethics)**, and **health care (Public Health Ethics)**

# Public Health Ethics

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➤ **Public health ethics** has social or population-based perspective. Public health ethics deals with patterns of disease, social determinants of disease, and collective and institutional solutions to alleviate the risk or burden of disease

☐ **Environmental and Professional (Occupational) Ethics** are considered in the subfields of public health ethics

# Where We Are Standing!

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## ➤ Morality

## ➤ Ethics

- Metaethics

- Normative Ethics

- Bioethics: including medical ethics

- Public Health Ethics

- ✓ Environmental and Occupational(Professional) Ethics

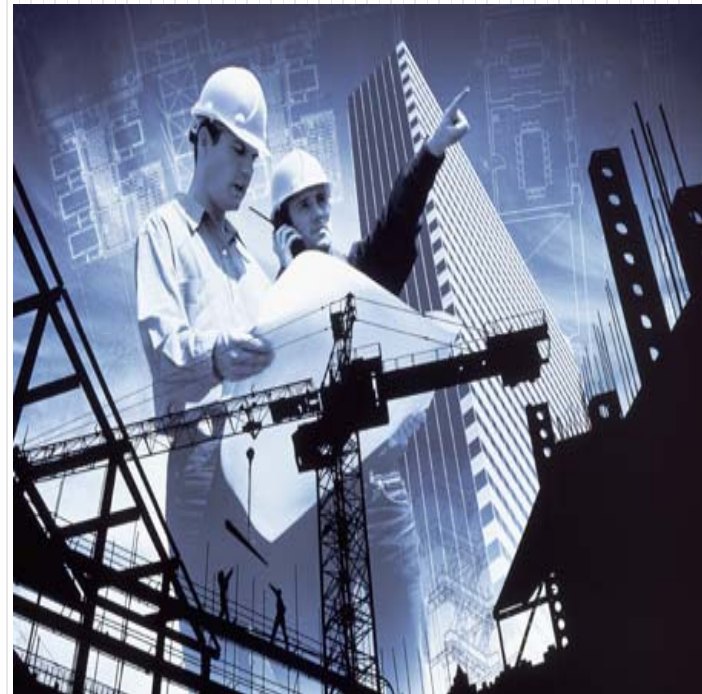
# Environmental Ethics

- ❑ **Environment** is defined as where we **live**, **work**, and **play** ( sometimes **pray** and **learn** are also included)
- ❑ **Environmental Ethics** is the part of environmental philosophy which considers the ethical relationship between human beings and the natural environment



# Professional( Occupational) Ethics

- ❑ **Profession** is a way of organizing work that gives its practitioners high levels of both autonomy and responsibility
- ❑ **Professional Ethics** is the principles and norms of proper professional conduct concerning the rights and duties of professionals



# The Challenges of Environmental Ethics

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## ➤ *Deep Ecology*

was born in Scandinavia as Næss calls it (1973) , is the “fight against pollution and resource depletion”.



# The Challenge of Environmental Ethics

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## ➤ *Social Ecology :*

Bookchin's version of critical theory takes the “outer” physical world as constituting what he calls “**first nature**”, from which **culture** or “**second nature**” has evolved. He suggests that we can choose to put ourselves at the service of natural evolution, to help maintain complexity and diversity, diminish suffering and reduce pollution

# The Challenge of Environmental Ethics

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- *Consequentialist ethical theories* maintain that whether an action is right/wrong is determined by whether its consequences are good/bad
- *Deontological ethical theories*, in contrast, maintain that whether an action is right or wrong is for the most part independent of whether its consequences are good or bad

# The Challenge of Environmental Ethics

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## ➤ *Wilderness and Developing Trends*

### ➤ **Wilderness, the Built Environment, and Poverty :**

They have focused mainly on issues concerned with wilderness and the reasons for its preservation

# The Challenge of Environmental Ethics

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## ➤ *Wilderness and Developing Trends* (Cont'd)

### ➤ **Origins of Environmental Crisis: Philosophical approach**

At the heart of this philosophical and cultural-historical analysis seems to be a simple structure:

W1. Christianity leads to anthropocentrism.

W2. Anthropocentrism is very damaging to the environment.

W3. So, Christianity is the origin of environmental crisis.

# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

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**Climate Ethics** or **Climate Justice** is a new and growing area of research which focuses on the ethical dimensions of climate change



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

**Human-induced climate change** raises many profound ethical questions, yet many believe that these ethical issues have not been addressed adequately in climate change policy debates or in the scientific and economic literature on climate change; and that, consequently, ethical questions are being overlooked or obscured in climate negotiations



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

- ❑ **Minority** typically refers to a socially subordination ethnic group (understood in terms of language, nationality, religion and/or culture)
- ❑ **Minority Health** addresses the special medical and health needs associated with specific ethnic and other minority groups
- ❑ **Minority Health Inequalities**



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

## Environmental Racism

refers to intentional or unintentional racial discrimination in the enforcement of environmental rules and regulations, the intentional or unintentional targeting of **minority** communities for **the siting of polluting industries** , or the exclusion of minority groups from public. The term was coined and defined by **Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis**





# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

Environmental  
Racism



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

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Environmental  
Racism



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

**Health disparities** or **Health Inequalities** refer to gaps in the quality of health and health care across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups:

- **Disparities in access to health care**
- **Disparities in quality of health care**



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

## Social Inequality

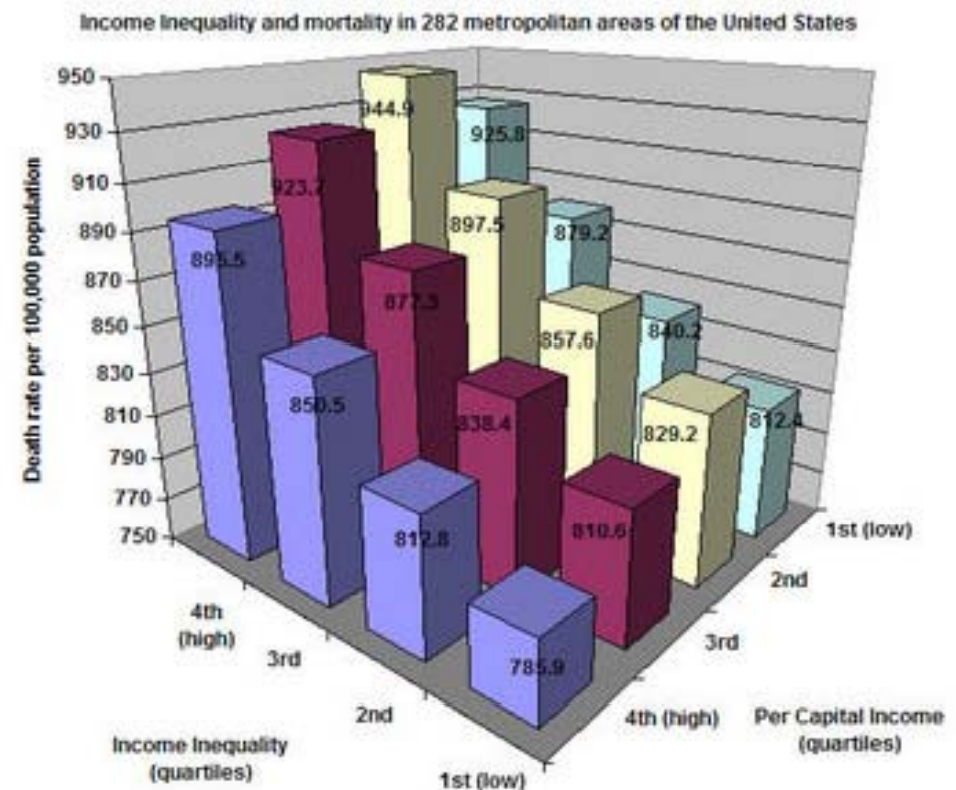
is the expression of lack of access to housing, health care, education, employment opportunities, politics, and status



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

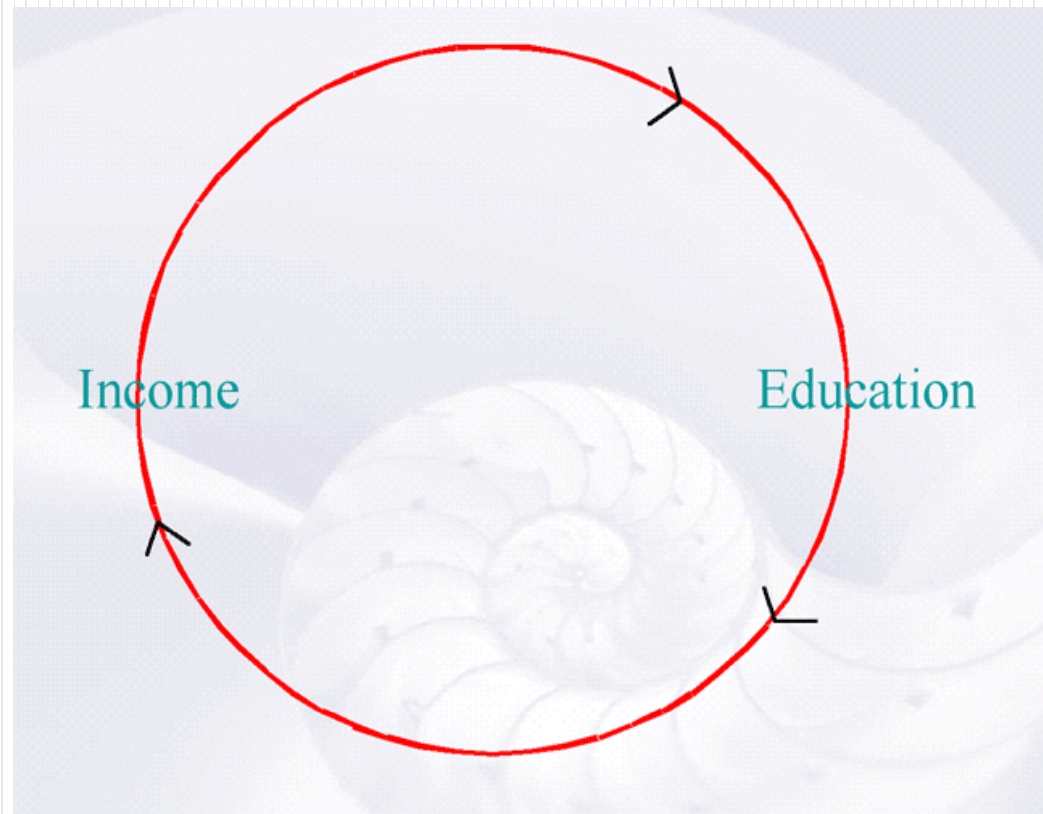
## Economic Inequalities

refers to disparities in the distribution of economic assets and income



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

**Income  
and  
Education**



# Ethical Issues In Environmental and Occupational Ethics

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## Environmental Justice

is the movement to reverse environmental racism

