

*Asesorías y Tutorías para la Investigación Científica en la Educación Puig-Salabarría S.C.
José María Pino Suárez 400-2 esq a Lerdo de Tejada, Toluca, Estado de México. 7223898475*

RFC: ATI120618V12

Revista Dilemas Contemporáneos: Educación, Política y Valores.

<http://www.dilemascontemporaneoseducacionpoliticayvalores.com/>

Año: VI

Número: Edición Especial.

Artículo no.:136

Período: Junio, 2019.

TÍTULO: Reduccionismo: idea incompleta e imprudente sobre la ética profesional.

AUTOR:

1. Assist. Prof. Rafat Rezapour-Nasrabad.

RESUMEN: El reduccionismo es una idea incompleta de la ética profesional, y la percepción reduccionista de esto causa muchos daños. El reduccionismo y una visión incompleta del estado de cosas se encuentran entre los daños perjudiciales que amenazan a los investigadores y gerentes. El reduccionismo es una plaga para la cognición, que viene con una variedad de dimensiones en el campo de la ética profesional como en la reducción de la ética profesional a las reglas y regulaciones, su reducción a responsabilidades profesionales o normas laborales comunes. El propósito de este estudio es explicar el concepto de reduccionismo y sus efectos dañinos, y tratar de revelar los ángulos de este enfoque en cuestiones de ética profesional al señalar las causas y los factores del reduccionismo.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Ética profesional, reduccionismo, promoción de la moral.

TITLE: Reductionism: incomplete and imprudent idea about Professional Ethics.

AUTHOR:

1. Assist. Prof. Rafat Rezapour-Nasrabad.

ABSTRACT: Reductionism is an incomplete idea of professional ethics and reductionist perception of it causes a lot of damages. Reductionism and an incomplete view of the state of affairs are among the harmful damages that threatens researchers and managers. Reductionism is a blight on cognition, which comes with a variety of dimensions in the field of professional ethics as in reduction of professional ethics to rules and regulations, its reduction to professional responsibilities or common job norms. The purpose of this study is to explain the concept of reductionism and its harmful effects, and attempt to reveal the angles of this approach in professional ethics issues by pointing out the causes and factors of reductionism.

KEY WORDS: Professional ethics, Reductionism, Promotion of morality.

INTRODUCTION.

What does Reductionism mean?

Reductionism is a kind of attitude in which a field of topics (such as properties, concepts, etc.) is taken in another domain or taken away in favor of another domain (Jaegwon, 2008). In other words, reductionism is to associate any phenomenon to a matter lower than it and take on an aspect of that object in lieu of its root and truth (Qarameleki, 2006).

Specialists in sophisticated systems have referred to it as an approach that describes a system outside of its subsystems that constituted it and disregards the relationship between them (Adnan, Hashim, Mohd, Yusuwan, & Ahmad, 2012). Since reductionism has spread to almost all domains, scientists in various domains came up with different accounts on this matter. According to them, reductionism is the reduction of phenomena or concepts to one of their subsets (sayari, 2008).

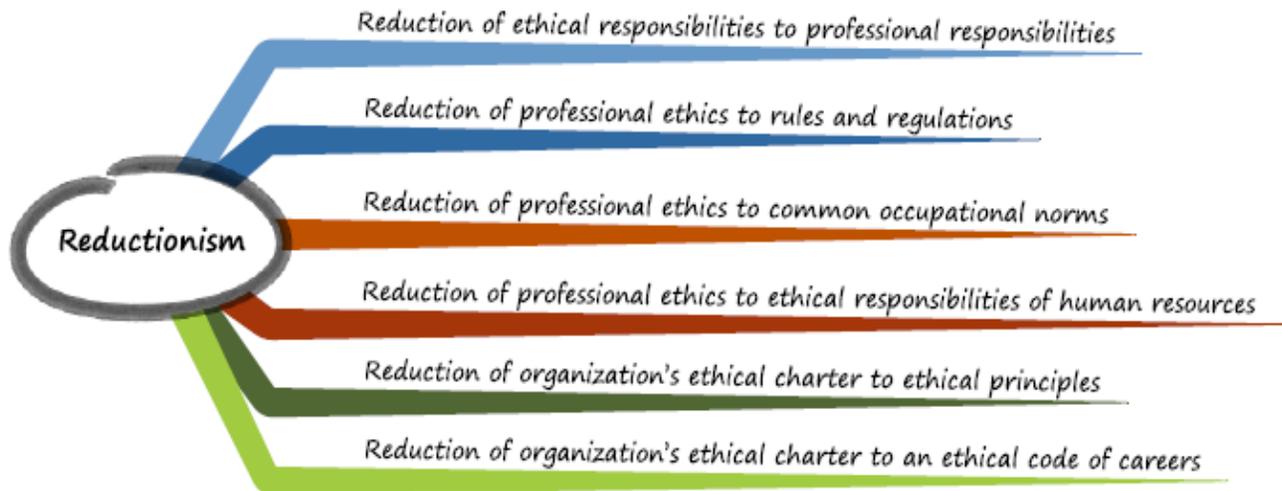
DEVELOPMENT.

Dimensions of Reductionism in Professional Ethics.

Reductionism has been recognized as the most important obstacle to moral development in organizations (Polkinghorne, 2004; Qarameleki, 2006).

In reductionism, everyone deals with an activity in accordance with his understanding of it. The idea that we have about a target determines our way. Managers set out to promoting professional ethics with respect to their perception of it. An incomplete or instrumental idea prevents morality from spreading in an organizational culture (Switzer, Guta, de Prinse, Chan Carusone, & Strike, 2015).

Reductionism comes with a variety of dimensions in professional ethics, some of which are elaborated in figure 1.



1) Reduction of professional ethics to rules and regulations.

Rule is intricately linked with professional ethics. As a matter of fact, rules were ethics in the first place, and then, began to take on a legitimate form in order to statutorily support morality. Morality is the spirit of law and its sanction is without rules and regulations. However, morality has a domain by far wider than law and ethical commitments; that is, the latter is more effective at a deeper level

of professional relationships. For this reason, reduction of professional ethics to rules and regulations are deleterious (Jaegwon, 2008).

2) Reduction of ethical responsibilities to professional responsibilities.

It is ethical to be professional in fulfilling occupational tasks, but professional ethics are much richer than one's professional responsibilities. In fact, it is the least encounter that suffice to delineate staff responsibilities, and moral responsibilities inspire an individual to take actions loftier and, in some cases, with sacrifice.

Professional responsibility allows you to postpone the profit of a fiscal year until the second half of the next year, but moral responsibility requires the individual to accelerate shareholder profit sharing (Luyckx, Miljeteig, Ejigu, & Moosa, 2017; Qarameleki, 2006).

3) Reduction of professional ethics to common occupational norms.

It governs every discourse of occupation, and one of the elements of this discourse is the norms and conventions prevalent in that occupation. It is because of this discourse that one can talk about the behavior and conduct of business owners.

Professional ethics should not be misinterpreted as prevailing norms in an occupation. Norms are reliant on a group and are not universal. Norms can be either ethical and unethical. For example, lassitude can grow into a norm in an environment, while lassitude is not well suited to any moral system and has been condemned in Islamic culture as an example of “giving less in measure and weight” (Milliken, 2017; sayari, 2008).

4) Reduction of professional ethics to ethical responsibilities of human resources.

Ethics in organizations can be discussed with two approaches: Human resource management approach calling on individuals to be ethical in jobs, such an approach has a long history in the East

and West traditions, in ethical resources and professional principles, we often encounter the ethics of engineers, the ethics of managers, and that of doctors. The second approach is that although it consists of individuals, organization as a judicial personality is never the algebraic sum of natural persons. The notion that an organization is nothing but individuals is a reductionist notion. Strategists' approach to professional ethics is in pursuit of an ethical organization, and it interprets how an organization is ethical as a strategic advantage (Mulder, Jordan, & Rink, 2015).

An organization is ethical when it hands over its goals, tasks, structure to ethical audits, and makes its organizational relationships ethical by all elements of internal and external environment, interest groups (Palazoglu & Koc, 2017). Human resource is entrusted with the management of ethical issues in a firm, on the basis the first approach, but based on the second approach an upstream entity (such as council, committee, office, etc.) is directly supervised by a managing director responsible for ethics (Pauly, 2008).

5) Reduction of organization's ethical charter to ethical principles.

Organization's ethical charter involves company's ethical responsibilities for organization's rights of elements of internal and external environment. The charter, as it suggests literally, is multifaceted, because its dimensions in any way represents organization's ethical policy towards one of the propositions of stakeholder in that environment; organization's ethical policy towards clients, organization's ethical policy towards competitors, shareholders, suppliers, citizens, the environment etc. (Potash et al., 2017; Qarameleki, 2006).

Organization's ethical charter has certain characteristics and its development requires a certain methodology. Some ethical organizations feel that making some statements involving a few general ethical slogans and principles will suffice, instead of developing a multifaceted ethical charter. Such

statements come in the form of decorative commodities and in some cases impede the promotion of professional ethics in the organization (Shanmugaratnam & Edwards, 2016).

6) Reduction of organization's ethical charter to an ethical code of careers.

Every career has a code to which proprietors of jobs can adhere in their job relations, namely code of doctors, code of lawyers, and code of audits etc. In fact, ethical code plays a major role in professional ethics, but its orientation is individualistic and addresses people in their careers, while organization's ethical charter has an organizational orientation and moralize organization.

The premise that organization's ethical charter is nothing more than a moral code is the upshot of reductionism (Zeni, Buckley, Mumford, & Griffith, 2016). Today, organizations are engaged in various occupations, and organization's professional relationships are miscellaneous and diverse. Therefore, organization's ethical charter is far more complex than moral code is (Sinclair, Papps, & Marshall, 2016).

Prevention and treatment of Reductionism.

Experts in ethics view a phenomenological approach as a method of treating reductionism, but after 50 years, the effectiveness of their practices has been questioned, particularly in the field of professional ethics phenomenology failed to provide operable research patterns (Danel-Brunaud et al., 2017). Following this, from the sixties to the twentieth century, interdisciplinary problem solving strategies have been introduced as an effective approach to the prevention and treatment of reductionism. Unfortunately, some people again had an understanding of reductionism based on an interdisciplinary approach and attributed it to a multidisciplinary study (Pandza & Ellwood, 2013).

Ethical issues in an occupation have multidimensional nature and cannot be analyzed without interdisciplinary patterns. The notion of reductionism confuses the multiplicity of ethical issues, which limits one's understanding and analysis of professional ethical issues. This per se exacerbates

and fosters reductionism; in which case, the defective circle of reductionism begins to grow (Reed, Fitzgerald, & Bish, 2017; Sayari, 2008).

In order to prevent reductionism in drawing up professional ethical responsibilities, a comprehensive professional ethics document is suggested to be drawn up. This document embodies ethical principles, organization's ethical charter, and ethical code of staff and managers, which in ethical survey of interdisciplinary patterns, it prevents and treats reductionism (Shanmugaratnam & Edwards, 2016; Wolf, Drake, & Snow, 2017).

CONCLUSIONS.

As for a problem, it must be recognized well in the first place and its existence needs to be so that a suitable solution can be found for it. Delving into ethical responsibilities of different organizations reveals the existence of reductionism in them. To treat this issue, we need consider professional ethics by far broader than rules and regulations and professional responsibilities and current norms of jobs, ethical responsibilities of human resources and ethical codes of careers.

Among a variety of solutions, we need to be vigilant that this issue does not represent itself as a treatment, in such a way that some interdisciplinary approaches have been reduced to multidisciplinary so as to deal with reductionism. In this regard, drawing up a comprehensive ethical document for organizations, which works by a dynamic method in two patterns namely integration of disciplines and methodological challenge of approaches, seems to be a good solution.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.

1. Adnan, H., Hashim, N., Mohd, N., Yusuwan, & Ahmad, N. (2012). Ethical Issues in the Construction Industry: Contractor's Perspective. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 35, 719-727. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2012.02.142>

2. Danel-Brunaud, V., Touzet, L., Chevalier, L., Moreau, C., Devos, D., Vandoolaeghe, S., & Defebvre, L. (2017). Ethical considerations and palliative care in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: A review. *Revue Neurologique*, 173(5), 300-307. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neurol.2017.03.032>
3. Jaegwon, K. (2008). Reductionism problems of Encyclopeia of Philosophy (General edition Edward carig ed. Vol. 8). London.
4. Luyckx, V. A., Miljeteig, I., Ejigu, A. M., & Moosa, M. R. (2017). Ethical Challenges in the Provision of Dialysis in Resource-Constrained Environments. *Seminars in Nephrology*, 37(3), 273-286. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.semnephrol.2017.02.007>
5. Milliken, A. (2017). Toward Everyday Ethics: Strategies for Shifting Perspectives. *AACN Adv Crit Care*, 28(3), 291-296. doi:10.4037/aacnacc2017406
6. Mulder, L. B., Jordan, J., & Rink, F. (2015). The effect of specific and general rules on ethical decisions. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 126, 115-129. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.obhdp.2014.11.002>
7. Palazoglu, C. A., & Koc, Z. (2017). Ethical sensitivity, burnout, and job satisfaction in emergency nurses. *Nurs Ethics*, 969733017720846. doi:10.1177/0969733017720846
8. Pandza, K., & Ellwood, P. (2013). Strategic and ethical foundations for responsible innovation. *Research Policy*, 42(5), 1112-1125. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2013.02.007>
9. Pauly, B. (2008). Shifting moral values to enhance access to health care: Harm reduction as a context for ethical nursing practice. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 19(3), 195-204. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2008.02.009>
10. Polkinghorne, J. (2004). Reductionism, *International Encyclopedia of Religion and science* (1 ed. Vol. 3). USA.

11. Potash, J. S., Bardot, H., Moon, C. H., Napoli, M., Lyonsmith, A., & Hamilton, M. (2017). Ethical implications of cross-cultural international art therapy. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 56, 74-82. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aip.2017.08.005>
12. Qarameleki, F. (2006). *Professional Ethics (Vol. 2)*. Qom, Iran: Majnoon.
13. Reed, F. M., Fitzgerald, L., & Bish, M. R. (2017). A practice model for rural district nursing success in end-of-life advocacy care. *Scand J Caring Sci*. doi:10.1111/scs.12505
14. Sayari, S. (2008). From Decart Analyticism to Reductionism Modernization. *Andishe Novin Deine Journal*, 5(4), 23-30.
15. Shanmugaratnam, S. H., & Edwards, A. (2016). Ethical aspects of risk communication. *Medicine*, 44(10), 607-610. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mpmed.2016.07.005>
16. Sinclair, J., Papps, E., & Marshall, B. (2016). Nursing students' experiences of ethical issues in clinical practice: A New Zealand study. *Nurse Education in Practice*, 17, 1-7. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nepr.2016.01.005>
17. Switzer, S., Guta, A., de Prinse, K., Chan Carusone, S., & Strike, C. (2015). Visualizing harm reduction: Methodological and ethical considerations. *Social Science & Medicine*, 133, 77-84. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.03.040>
18. Wolf, D. A., Drake, S. A., & Snow, F. K. (2017). Ethical Considerations on Disclosure When Medical Error Is Discovered During Medicolegal Death Investigation. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol*. doi:10.1097/paf.0000000000000343
19. Zeni, T. A., Buckley, M. R., Mumford, M. D., & Griffith, J. A. (2016). Making “sense” of ethical decision making. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 27(6), 838-855. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2016.09.002>

DATA OF THE AUTHORS.

1. Rafat Rezapour-Nasrabad. Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Management, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Email: rezapour.r@sbm.ac.ir

RECIBIDO: 8 de mayo del 2019.

APROBADO: 21 de mayo del 2019.