

Chapter 30

Information Ethics in the Context of Current Developments

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of globalization due to information technologies and the changes and/or developments brought about by globalization require organizations to have more knowledge about ethics and therefore to be more interested in this issue. The use of information and communication technologies in organizations in accordance with ethical values is considered important in terms of the integrity, functioning, and efficiency of both employees and organizations. Individuals, managers, organizations, and researchers have important duties in the field of information ethics in order to prevent the making of difficult mistakes that will adversely affect individuals and organizations during the use of information technologies. In this context, information ethics has been examined in this study in the context of recent developments all over the world, especially the developments in the global COVID-19 pandemic process.

INTRODUCTION

New developments in information and communication technologies contribute to the simultaneous circulation of information all over the world without any obstacles related to time and space, with the transformation of information into a decentralized structure, but they cause violation of information security, privacy and confidentiality (Bitirim Okmeydan, 2017). Internet technology is developing rapidly today and the number of users of social networks is increasing day by day. Social networks, one of the most basic indicators of the technology age, attract the attention of all age groups. Due to the application services offered, the virtual world takes precedence over real life. Everyone who uses technology, espe-

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cially young people, show an intense interest in social media, and social media addiction is increasing both in Turkey and in the world. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Youtube and Periscope, which allow users to share information such as photos, texts, audio, and videos with each other, in addition to their purposes such as raising public awareness and mobilizing the masses, attract the attention of individuals from all age groups and classes with whom it interacts by sharing data (Kırık et al., 2015). The addiction of social media, which people from all walks of life use for various purposes both in organizations and at home, causes behaviors against information ethics and thus leading to cybercrimes. As a result of the absence of a control mechanism (Ministry of Social Media etc.) and any filtering regarding the publication of information on the internet images, videos, gambling and betting games that are violent or contrary to moral norms negatively affect the moral development of individuals, which leads to socially important problems (Söylemez & Balaman, 2015).

The spread of new technologies in the world and the use of individuals deeply affect human behavior. New technologies enable people to discover abilities they did not have before. However, this may lead to unethical environments and situations. While individuals using new technologies gain power, individuals who cannot use these technologies lose power. The assembly line, which was established by Henry Ford in 1913 to produce Model T cars, is important in terms of being the first moving line and being seen as a technologically and economically strong step, while at the same time it caused a decrease in the value of human beings. As another example, the discovery of the atomic bomb has also given an unimaginable level of power to countries that have been hesitant to use or not use the bomb in the future. Similarly, the anonymous creation of copies of digital music has led many music lovers to download this copyrighted music without any payment. These examples show that, digital technologies can provide information from multiple sources on the creation of human profiles and that jobs that would have taken more time in the past can now be compressed into seconds. Although this information is valuable, it is an undeniable fact that it destroys the privacy of individuals (Bourgeois et al., 2019).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, it is aimed to examine the ethics of information conceptually in the context of current developments. For this purpose, after the introductory part of the study, ethics, information and access to information, information and information crimes, information ethics were examined and evaluated in a theoretical framework.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Ethics

The concept of ethics is derived from the Greek word “ethos”. The word ethos means “character”, “custom”, “procedure” or “tradition”. The concept of “morality”, which is constantly confused with the concept of ethics in daily life, is the plural of the Arabic word “hulk”, which means “behavior” (Esmer, 2020). Ethics refers to traditional values and codes of conduct, as well as to cultural values and social mores, and to insights into what drives human development and excellence. Ethics goes beyond the rules of etiquette, but is concerned with issues such as not lying, breaking a promise, or killing someone,

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