

Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Report: Ethical Dilemmas in Corporate Governance and Business Leadership- Lessons from Mahabharata

Date: 23rd November, 2013

Venue: Gujarat Technological University



The Centre for Business Ethics and CSR is the transforming seed that changes both the economy and education. This Centre is a place for rediscovering “WISDOM”, so that we could use our technical and human educational skills to build a much wiser world. This Centre is to co-creating wiser organizations, corporates and big business houses.

Looking to the needs of Organisations and to bring Students, faculties and corporate people out of this dilemma our Centre organised an International Seminar on *Ethical Dilemmas in Corporate Governance and Business Leadership-Lessons from Mahabharata* on 23rd November, 2013. Around 80 Faculty Members, Principals, Directors and GTU Officers participated in the Seminar organised at GTU, Chandkheda Campus.

In today’s world everybody is busy in their hustle and bustle, and is unable to take decisions. Many questions like this is right or wrong; this will benefit the society or not? For this we need to think in a sattvic way which is the basic need of the society.



This thought-evoking and practical Seminar was for exploration of ethical dilemmas and covered various ranges of situations:

- Decision-making in today’s business environment;
- Decision-making when the personal values and principles of the decision-maker may be at odds with the organisation’s values and principles;
- When the decisions have the potential of impacting multiple stakeholders in crucial ways.

The Chief Guest of Seminar was Shri. Bhupendra Singh Chudasma (*Education Minister Govt. of Gujarat*), and the Guest of Honour was Mr. Sunil Handa (*Founder and Chairman of The Fifthveda Entrepreneurs and Flourish Purefoods Pvt. Ltd.*) and other dignitaries were Dr. M.N. Patel (*Director, GTU*), Dr. Shailesh Thakker (*Honorary Director of CBE & CSR*)



Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Dr.Mamta Singh- E-mail - ap1_cbe@gtu.edu.in, Mrs.KrutikaRaval- E-mail-ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in.

and Dr. Indrajeet Patel (Associate Dean, GTU)

Inauguration function was shared with the Felicitation of Vishwakarma Yojna. Function started with the Lamp lighting and floral welcome of all dignitaries.

Dr. G.P. Vadodaria (I/C Registrar, GTU) welcomed all dignitaries, Industry persons, Faculty Members and GTU officers on behalf of GTU. He said that “Everyone knows that GTU is today the best & largest university of Gujarat.” He said about the importance of the seminar and congratulated the Centre for organising such a grand Seminar.

Mr. Sushil Handa who was Guest of Honour of the Seminar congratulated the Hon. Vice Chancellor for his dedication and new thinking behind organising such a great Event. Mr. Handa has dedicated over 3 decades of his life to the pursuit of entrepreneurship, Sushil Handa sums up his long and eventful journey, with its accompanying achievements and challenges, as experiencing the “Magic of Life”.



As a first generation entrepreneur, he took his own decisions, made his own mistakes, learnt from them and continued to grow. However, one thing he has sorely missed is the presence of a 'mentor' who could have guided him through the various crests and troughs of his career and life.

He shares his view and importance of the Ethics in today's life. He shared few examples of real world and Mahabharata. He said that “History stands testimony to the fact that the world owes its progress to the entrepreneurial spirit, which constantly strives to create new paths, and give new direction to mankind.”



Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasamaji shared the importance of Character & ethics in today's life. Example of Bhagat Singh & Madanlal Dhingra touched everyone's Heart shared by him. He explained the true meaning of two well-known Poems: “**Manushyatubada Mahan hai**” & “**Vaishnavjantutene re kahiya**”,

Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Dr. Mamta Singh- E-mail - ap1_cbe@gtu.edu.in, Mrs. Krutika Raval- E-mail- ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in.

how it is related with ethics in today's world. He requested all teachers that to mould students to become good human being so that they understand their role in society. He said that we should not feel satisfied by looking at our achievements & should keep in mind the problems which are yet to be solved. Lastly he congratulated GTU for organising such big Seminars from time to time in interest of students and Faculty Members.

Dr. Akshai Aggarwal (Honourable Vice Chancellor, GTU) a visionary personality expressed views about the Centre and the activities done under the tree of GTU. These PG Research Centres help out the University to develop and sustain a research culture and play a key role in expanding the frontiers of knowledge for the world. He narrated about this thought provoking Seminar and thanked all participants for showing their interest. He also visualized the objectives of the Seminar as



- To develop and provide systems
- Making Employees capable of thinking ethically
- Training 'Minds' of people
- Using their WISDOM in Decision Making
- Creating an environment with mutual understanding
- Harmonious Environment

He ended his speech by introducing the Speakers and the themes of the Seminar which will create mutual understanding at every person's mind so that every individual may be able to reach his/ her optimum capability for harmoniously moving together towards achieving the larger objectives of the Organisation

The Seminar was organised in two Sessions the speakers of first Session were Dr. Charles Savage and Swami Nihilshwaranadji. The speakers of second Session were Guruji G. Narayana, and Dr. Shailesh Thaker.

Session I:

Speaker – Dr. Charles Savage (Board of Advisor for Centre for Business Ethics and CSR)

Theme: Game of Dice in Kaurava's Assembly- What to do and what not to do:



This thought provoking Seminar started with the International Speaker **Dr. Charles Savage**. He explained about the Great Game of Dice in Kaurava's Assembly. He correlated the incidence with the real dilemmas of corporates. When Yudhishtira pledges Draupadilike chattel at a game of dice; she stood with many questions in front

of Assembly in which all were unanswerable and she was left alone in the battle of Dharama and Adharma. When higher authorities follow the path of Adharma i.e. close their eyes while doing injustice with their stakeholders then they have to see the outcomes of the adharma i.e. loss.

In continuation **Swami Nikhileshwaranadji (Head of Ramkrishna Mission, Vadodara)** explained the general lessons on Mahabharata and emphasised on applying the principles in the real life and business. He also explained the Great Examples of Swami Vivekananda.



Session II: (Post Lunch Session)

Speaker-Dr.ShaileshThakker(Honorary Director of Centre for Business Ethics and CSR)

Theme: Draunacharya and Eklavya- Ethical Dilemma of Thumb

Dr.ShaileshThakker started the Session with the relationship of Draunacharya and Ekalavya. The same relationship was correlated with the CEO and Stakeholders. CEO should be always ready to provide any information to their stakeholders without looking to personal benefits and profits. The governance should be transparent and accountable towards its Stakeholders.



Speaker Guruji. G. Narayana(Board of Advisor for Centre for Business Ethics and CSR & Emeritus Chairman of Excel Industries Ltd)

Theme: Abhimanyu in Chakravyuha- Dilemma of Ethics and Victory

Guruji. G. Narayana explained the Dilemma of Chakravyuha and achieving Excellence, Success and Progress in Ethical Business Processes. Guruji explained the story of Chakravyuha and gave the Chakravyuha Mantra for the corporates. He taught that the main conflict is the *ETHICS V/S EGO* and that can be removed from our minds by the only tool i.e. *WISDOM*. In today's Scenario every person is imprisoned in some or the other Chakravyuha, so in reference to it he emphasised on basic four habits:



- Be in time
- Gain Goodwill
- Get Clarity

Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Dr.Mamta Singh- E-mail - ap1_cbe@gtu.edu.in, Mrs.KrutikaRaval- E-mail-ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in.

- Be Responsible

He summed up all sessions and gave simple one mantra to make understand in nutshell

THIS IS THAT

THIS (Chakravyuha Mantra) IS THAT(Chaitnaya)

The Seminar ended with the Vote of thanks by Dr.Mamta Singh and Mrs.KrutikaRaval. The Speakers were presented with the Mementos for their special efforts and shower of their great thoughts. The Centre presented hearty gratitude and thanks to all Participants. Through this seminar we tried to correlate the corporate dilemmas with Mahabharata's Episodes so that one can find solution in ethical ways for business. At last but not least in this seminar our Centre provided a platform where business and academic leaders (professors and students) explored the challenges ahead and presented them a path from Smart to Wise. All participants felt very glad to attend such a thought provoking Seminar and demanded for such series of program in near future.

Special Moments of the Great Event:



Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Dr.Mamta Singh- E-mail - ap1_cbe@gtu.edu.in, Mrs.KrutikaRaval- E-mail-ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in.

Centre for Business Ethics and CSR

Dr.Mamta Singh- E-mail - ap1_cbe@gtu.edu.in, Mrs.KrutikaRaval- E-mail-ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in.