Week 13

a. The main ideas I have internalized are…

For the first time, I was presented with a full and extremely complex picture of the concept of "ethics". It helped me see how many factors, dependencies, social and cultural conditions lie behind the norms of ethical behavior. Ethics is often confused with standards of behavior in given groups and areas - and here there is a great risk of the harmful impact of egocentrism and sociocentrism on ethical norms.

It also made me realize that the influence of religion on ethics is dangerously large, and yet ethical norms should be universal, above religions.

My thoughts now revolve around the question of whether there are truly ethical norms around me, whether people behave ethically (I know they often hide behind ethics, but...) whether my behavior is ethical? Am I now able to analyze and verify them according to the steps provided?

b. These ideas are important because…

I have the feeling that in most cultures, social groups, workplaces, ethics or ethical behavior is an empty, undefined slogan. People like to talk about the ethics of individual professional groups, they like to use so-called ethics to explain unpopular opinions or decisions. However, they very rarely act ethically. Most political or armed conflicts are caused by unethical behavior, the lack of ethics in organizations leads to plagiarism, theft, embezzlement. The lack of ethics in education among teachers causes young people to adopt negative behavior patterns, and school becomes a place of indoctrination.

Therefore, it is important to teach young people what ethics is, how to recognize unethical behavior, and what tools to use to be sure that they are making ethical decisions. Currently, what they can learn from adults regarding ethics is the repertoire of penalties for unethical behavior and broadly understood hypocrisy in perceiving and defining ethics.

c. My life should be different in the future in the following ways…

I have made the decision to consistently develop in the area of critical thinking and I realize that this is lifelong development and hard work. I believe that as I integrate further thinking tools and develop the habit of stop & think with each major decision and before taking action, I will be able to act more and more efficiently in accordance with the principles of ethics. I believe that the key here is to pay attention to the traps of egocentrism and sociocentrism - this is where I most often catch myself in the low quality of my thinking, especially when it comes to emotional issues that are very close to me and very important to me.

I feel that religious or cultural norms no longer have such a great influence on me - although this will certainly become clear only when I start to look more closely at my behaviors and thoughts and analyze them using tools and thought processes.

d. Ethical reasoning in my current daily life can be described as…

"I think I'm doing it" - mainly because I have been working in the field of critical thinking for 4 years and I feel that my actions and thoughts are of much better quality than 5, 10 years ago... but... In fact, so far I honestly didn't look into this area (I see it now, after reading the texts you recommended). I see that the topic of ethical thinking is undefined, unexplored and underspecified by me, which is why external factors have a huge impact on it. I feel and know that this is the main area for me to take care of now - I need to look at myself, my actions and the thinking behind it. I also have to look at the organization I co-create from this perspective.

When finishing my studies in Educational Management and Non-Governmental Organizations, I wrote a diploma thesis on ethics in management and it seemed to me that since I had explored this topic quite extensively in the literature, even subjected it to critical analysis, I already knew a lot about ethics. It seems funny to me now, now I know how much I still don't know about ethics.