

Improving Ethical Engineering Practice

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Abstract

Over the years concerns over unethical conduct within the Ghanaian society in general and the engineering profession, in particular, have led to the resurgence of the debate on the need, and how to improve ethics in the Engineering professional practice. Although, there are professional systems and structures in place aimed at preventing or mitigating the effects of unethical behaviours such as bribery, corruption, substandard work, misuse of national resources and confidential information in public service organizations, these societal ills persist. There is therefore an urgent need to examine the underlying factors and root causes of such development-limiting tendencies, and help professional engineers to uphold standards and ethical values in their execution of duties.

Given the scope of this research, a comprehensive search was conducted across multiple databases. For this review, the databases utilized included; Scopus, Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ERIC. This extensive search and the subsequent review of studies were conducted between January and August 2024. The systematic literature review focused on works published between 1990 and 2024 for a wider range of review. Before finalizing the search formula, preliminary explorations were conducted using various search terms and combinations. Recognizing the importance of ethical considerations alongside engineering practices, the final search term was established as: (national values and engineering) or (cultural influences and engineering) and (practices or ethics or standards).

Keywords: Ghanaian society, engineering, morality, ethics, abuse of power, social life