

Business Ethics

Q1. Explain what dumping is, giving some examples. Does dumping raise any moral issues? What are they? What would an ethical relativist say about dumping?

Ans. Dumping is when a company for some reasons is unable to sell their products due to if it is used it may cause harm to the environment, humans etc. Through research on this product it has been determined that it is unsafe and the government has declared it illegal to sell the product. The producer then finds ways to dump their products to other countries that are willing to buy them. One example of a dumped product is the pajamas that were made with flame-retardant chemical TRIS. These pajamas were banned from being sold and recalled by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). Another example is the pesticides that are illegal to use in the United States, yet these chemicals were dumped into other countries that used these pesticides on their crops, then the harvested crops were shipped into the US. Dumping do raise moral issues because if the product is for some reason unsafe to sell in the United States, then it should never be allowed to be dumped into other countries because it is still unsafe no matter which country it is in. An ethical relativist would say that dumping is fine as long as the other countries have no legal reason that the product being dumped cannot be used in their country.

Q2. Speculate on why dumpers dump. Do you think they believe what they are doing is morally permissible? How would you look at the situation if you were one of the manufacturers of Tris-impregnated pajamas?

Ans. Companies dump their products to other countries because for some reason their products can no longer be used or sold. The producer can sell (or dump) the product to other countries which in turn results as an income from the product instead of losing money. Some producers don't want to take the time or money to correctly dispose of their products as they were directed to do by safety agencies. I believe that producers that are dumping their product to other countries don't think that they are doing anything wrong because it is not against the law. Companies that don't have moral standards don't believe that they are doing anything wrong even if they know that their product is harmful. If I was one of the manufacturers of Tris-impregnated pajamas, I would find out the legal way to dispose of these pajamas (bury, burn or use and industrial wiping clothes). I would then research each option for disposing of the pajamas and I would then bring my findings to the management team where we would decide which option would be best. Then we would dispose of the pajamas in a proper way.

Q3. If no law is broken, is there anything wrong with dumping? If so, when is it wrong and why? Do any moral considerations support dumping products overseas when this violates U.S. law?

Ans. Just because no law may be broken, it is still morally wrong for companies to be dumping an unsafe product. It is wrong when the product that they are dumping may cause

harm to the environment, animals, humans etc or the product is used on crops which eventually end up back in the US. If the product is safe and the producer manufactured an over abundance amount of the product, then I think that it is morally right to dump products into other countries if those countries lack or need these products to survive.

Q4. What moral difference, if any, does it make who is dumping, why they are doing it, where they are doing it, or what the product is?

Ans. It makes a great difference. If it is a company who is dumping chemicals because they are illegal in US and because it causes cancer, then it is morally wrong. If it is a company who has over produced winter coats and need to clear out their warehouse and they are dumping them to countries that need them, then it is morally right. If a country is dumping because they don't want to dispose of the product or wants to make money or earn profit then it is wrong. But if the product doesn't cause harm to anyone or anything, then it is morally right.

Q5. Critically assess the present notification system. Is it the right approach, or is it fundamentally flawed?

Ans. In theory the present notification system has great intention of doing the right thing. It is morally right to notify countries of the products that the US has banned use of. But it is fundamentally flawed if the other countries do not utilize the information that is given to them to notify their public of the dangers of using the product. Some of these countries don't have regulatory agencies to ensure that the products being brought into their country are safe. They don't have adequate testing facilities to test the products that the companies are trying to send into their country and they don't have well-staffed custom departments to ensure that unsafe products are brought into their country.

Q6. Putting aside the question of legality, what moral arguments can be given for and against dumping? What is your position on dumping, and what principles and values do you base it on? Should we have laws prohibiting more types of dumping?

Ans. A pro to dumping products into third-world countries can help these countries by bringing products that they may otherwise never get. But the con to dumping unsafe products into other countries can actually kill people. I don't agree with dumping illegal products into other countries. Not only it is morally wrong, but some of these countries government don't care or understand the consequences of the potential harm that these products may cause. Killing is against law and the companies are killing people in other countries by dumping illegal and unsafe products into their country. We should have law against dumping illegal products into other countries and these companies should be heavily fined.