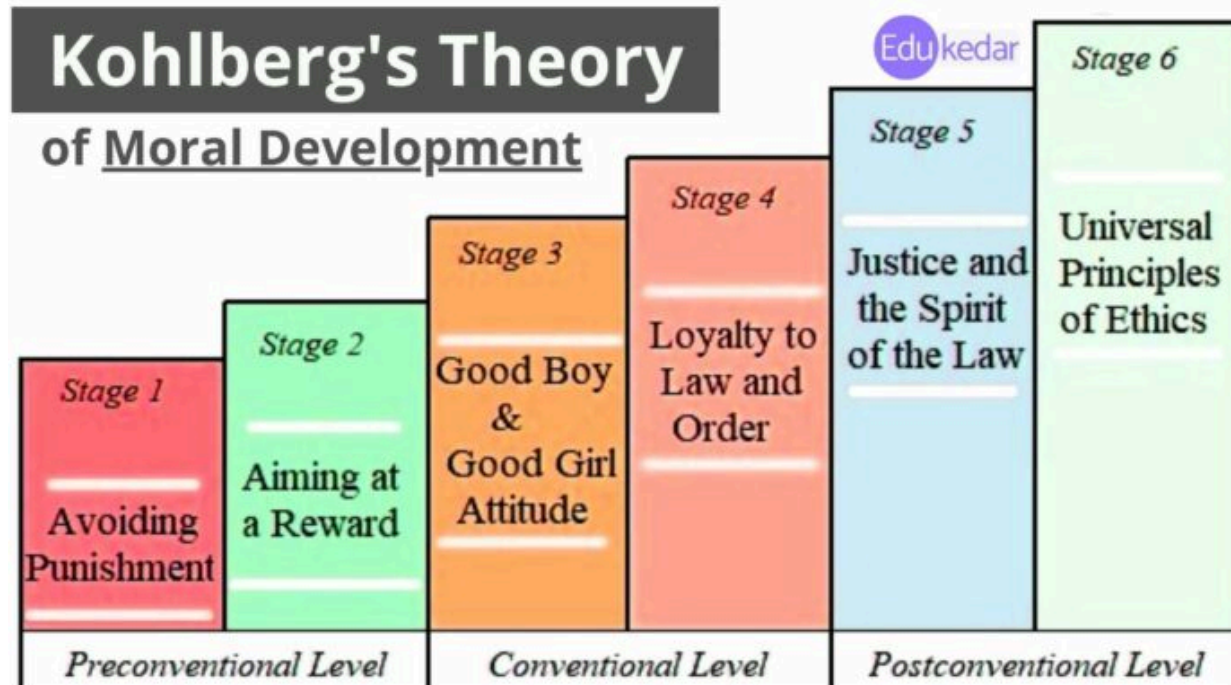


The Heinz Dilemma

In Europe, a woman was near death from a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. It was a form of radium that a druggist in the same town had recently discovered. The drug was expensive to make, but the druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. He paid \$200 for the radium and charged \$2,000 for a small dose of the drug. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money, but he could only get together about \$ 1,000 which is half of what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said: "No, I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So Heinz got desperate and broke into the man's store to steal the drug-for his wife. Should the husband have done that?

Kohlberg (1963)

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Kohlberg's Levels and Stages of Moral Development

Stage of Moral Reasoning		Arguments Favoring Heinz Stealing the Drug	Arguments Against Heinz Stealing the Drug
LEVEL I Preconventional Level	Stage 1: Obedience and punishment orientation; behavior is judged good if it serves to avoid punishment	Heinz should steal the drug to avoid being blamed if his wife dies.	Heinz shouldn't steal the drug because he would be punished for stealing it if he were caught and would be sent to jail.
	Stage 2: Instrumental purpose orientation; behavior is judged good when it serves personal needs or interests	Heinz should steal the drug because he needs his wife and she might die without it.	Heinz would likely be sent to prison and his wife would probably die before he gets out, so it wouldn't do her or himself any good to steal the drug.
LEVEL II Conventional Level	Stage 3: "Good boy–nice girl" orientation; conforming with rules to impress others	People would lose respect for Heinz if he didn't at least try to save his wife by stealing the drug.	Heinz shouldn't take the drug because others will see him as a criminal, and that would bring shame and dishonor to his family.
	Stage 4: Authority or law-and-order orientation; obeying rules and laws because they are needed to maintain social order	Heinz must steal the drug because he has a duty to protect his wife. People need to do their duty even if they might get punished for it.	People should not be permitted to break the law under any circumstances. The law must be respected.
LEVEL III Postconventional Level	Stage 5: Social contract orientation; viewing rules and laws as based on mutual agreement in the service of the common good.	While laws should be obeyed to maintain order in society, an exception should be made in Heinz's case because a law should not take precedence over protecting a human life.	Though Heinz faces a difficult choice, he reasons that respect for the law outweighs individual needs no matter what the circumstances.
	Stage 6: Universal ethical principle orientation; adopting an internal moral code based on universal values that takes precedence over social rules and laws.	Heinz would be morally wrong not to steal the drug because it would violate his belief in the absolute value of a human life.	Sometimes doing what we believe is right requires personal sacrifice. If Heinz truly feels that stealing is worse than letting his wife die, he must not steal the drug.