Situational Assessment as a Turning Point for Improving Moral Training and Counteracting Ethical Stumbles

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Abstract: This text proposes a middle ground in the person-situation debate that emphasizes the interplay between character, motives, and situational constraints in ethical decision-making. The examination then delves into the multifaceted nature of moral behavior, exploring the symbiotic relationship between morality and norms. The concept of "bounded ethicality" is presented to shed light on unethical behaviour stemming from cognitive biases and external influences. Strategies for improving moral conduct are also explored, including implementation intentions, education, nudges, and situational design. This work acknowledges methodological challenges in defining situations and proposes further research for refined conceptualizations, particularly in the context of moral training and behavior prediction. What will be put forward is the necessity of a clear conceptualization of situations if philosophers and educators aim at improving moral conduct, as situational wrongdoings cannot be properly addressed otherwise. Ultimately, the aim is to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of situations and ethical decision-making.