The Indian movie, GURU, revolves around the story of a business owner who rises from rags to riches. The main character of the movie Gurukant Desai builds his business empire by whatever means he can.

Guru is the son of headmaster of a local school in a backward Indian village. His father wants him to be a scholar but he has other plans. He dares to dream, which his father never did. He applies for a labor job in Turkey and heads there without his father’s approval. The trend of going to foreign countries for labor is common in India,
especially around 1950’s, the time era portrayed in the film. There in Turkey he initially delivers petrol cans along with his friend Ghanashyam. They then enter the stock market in Istanbul and the owner of the brokerage firm is very impressed by guru’s work that he decides to promote him to sales supervisor. Because this was an achievement made in a short period of time, Guru realizes his potential and decides to return back to his village and start his own business instead of working for others.

On the way to his village he meets a beautiful young woman who was running away from home trying to elope with a local union leader. But she had become alone when the man did not gather enough courage to elope. Her father takes her back home and announces a dowry of 25000 rupees to the man who would marry her. Guru needed a capital of 30000 rupees to start a polyester import business but he had only 15000 with him. So he decides to marry her so that he could start the business.

He moves to the city but he finds that he could not join business, as the rich men of that time would always want to maintain their monopoly in corporate world. He obtains a trading permit by trapping a government official to issue it to him. Then further obtains an import permit for polyester by faking exports. Once he succeeds in this phase, he decides to open a polyester factory in his village. He raises capital by selling shares of his company to the villagers. In his factory he installs twelve spinning machines even though he has permit for only six and thus he is also guilty of tax evasion.
An existing wealthy person of the time wants to buy his business but Guru instead publishes false accusations against him by bribing workers at an independent newspaper agency. After all this, an honest person in that agency exposes all the unethical deeds of Guru through the newspaper, leading to criminal cases against him with accusations of fraud. All the shareholders are unhappy and raise their voice against him. As a result of extreme stress he suffers a paralytic stroke. He has to attend the court hearing as he is recovering from the illness. During that hearing he gives an explanation as to why he had to use so-called unethical means to run his business.

**Portrayal of business world**

The business world has been portrayed negatively in this movie. The laws are made in favor of already rich and powerful people. Anybody else who wants to become wealthy finds his path to be full of obstacles that he has to pass through. Then the person would resort to different unethical means like bribery to get things done, mud sliding to get rid of the competitors, faking transactions to earn trading permits, running more than allowed production units to maximize profit and tax evasion.
Ethical issues

First ethical issue:

Guru obtained trading permit by trapping a government official to issue it to him. He brings truckloads of polyester cloths to his house so as if it would seem that the official had seized those items from Guru by unfairly exercising his power. The only way that would solve the problem would be by issuing Guru a permit and he would take his items back.

Second ethical issue:

Guru took revenge against the existing wealthy person by defaming him through newspaper articles by bribing its employees and that was unfair and unethical. But when we look at the situation in which Guru was he seems very right to have done it as he also each time had tried to hinder Guru's progress.

Third ethical issue:

The third ethical issue is similar to the first one where Guru obtains import permit by faking to be already rich. He exports empty
boxes claiming them to be his products. His motive here was to import polyester at a much cheaper price generating maximum profit. However the law at that time was written for the rich. So anyone else could not thrive in business. From his prospective it seems very ethical that everyone should have equal opportunity to prosper.

**Fourth ethical issue:**

His failing to realize that he could not install twelve spinning machines instead of six for which he had permit seems to be an illegal act. But when I watched the movie I felt that in those existing circumstances it would have been impossible for him to get the permit for twelve machines. After all he had to consider the interest of all his shareholders by meeting the demand of his products. Also being not so knowledgeable about tax laws was not completely his fault, with his background of coming from a backward village.

**Learning Experience**

After watching this movie, I came to realize that to achieve success a person may have to undergo difficult circumstances and some situations may carry ethical dilemmas with them. Many times laws are written by the powerful. However, it does not mean that you have to work illegally to achieve success; one should be able to defend true and honest intentions and be accountable in whatever you do.