

Ethics_SS Class 13

3rd July, 2024 at 9:00 AM

ETHICS IN HUMAN INTERFACE (09:01 AM)

CONCEPT OF ETHICS (09:03 AM)

- It is defined as a set of do's and don'ts that govern human action in a social setting.
- It can be summarised as "**Aatmana Pratikulani Paresham na Samacharet**" i.e., Do not impose anything on others that you yourself don't want to go through.
- Ethics is defined as the systematic study of **human behavior** with respect to **right or wrong** with the ultimate aim of happiness.

CHARACTERISTIC ATTRIBUTES (09:13 AM)

- Ethics do not dictate a single course of action however it will provide or prescribe the means to evaluate action with respect to right or wrong.
- For ex. Virtue-based, Action base, Justice, or Rights-based ethics
- Every society has a code of ethics to ensure peace, harmony, conformity, uniformity, and check deviance.
- For ex. Norms of the ethics
- Ethics remains the same within the context but changes with context.
- Society, time, and culture.
- For ex. With respect to time- Child marriage, widow remarriage, Sati paratha, etc
- With respect to culture- Matrilinearity, Patrilinearity, Rules to respect cross-cousin marriage, etc.
- With respect to society- Living relationship, Serogacy, Medieval termination of pregnancy, etc.
- Ethics operates at multiple levels
- For ex. Organizational ethics, professional ethics, and Societal ethics.
- A man not only learns from ethics but also shakes it.
- For Ex. Socio-Religious examples, Constitution makers, legislature, judiciary, etc. can help shape the society's ethics.
- Ethics is maintained and sustained by a sense of responsibility, not mere accountability to external agencies.
- For Ex. Voting in the election, Charity from personal wealth, Helping the accident victims.
- Ethics are abstract and do not have a concrete manifestation. Therefore, many times people do not realize the meaning and significance of ethics and digress from ethical behavior.

Conformity to Ideals and not Idols is the need of the hour.

(09:39 AM)

For ex. The constitution helps to give concrete **manifestation** to the ideals such as unity in diversity, Freedom of speech and expression, religious freedom, Etc.

- Ethics is beneficial for both individuals and society as it helps us to establish a good life (**Consequences of ethics**).
- Ethics are applicable with respect to voluntary actions i.e., If someone forces you to perform a task under a **gunpoint** then you will not be held morally responsible for your action because the choice is severely constrained.

ESSENCE OF ETHICS (09:52 AM)

- Individuals are capable of making **informed and intelligent** choices.
- Every choice they make has implications both for themselves and others.
- Hence, every Individual should be morally responsible for their actions.
- It is the ethics which enables you to make the **right choices**.
- The essence of ethics lies in determining what is **morally right or wrong** and guiding behavior based on the principle of fairness.
- It involves considering the consequences of actions on individuals and society, respecting the rights and dignity of others, and striving to do good.
- Lastly, ethics seeks to cultivate virtues like **Honesty, Empathy, Justice**, etc.

DETERMINANT OF ETHICS (10:00 AM)

- Determining what is right or wrong is neither universal nor absolute.
- There is no objective way of determining something to be right or wrong for all time to come. Hence, there are different determinants of ethics.
- **Different determinants of ethics.**
- **1. God and religion**
- Religion-based ethics trace the source of ethics to god.
- It believes something is right because god says so.
- According to this- Ethics is eternal, universal, and absolute.
- However, religion is one of the sources of ethics but cannot be equated with ethics because ethics are applied to ethics also.
- **2. Human Intuition**
- A: We should not harm animals for fun.
- B: Why?
- A: Because it will cause them pain and we should not cause pain to others.
- B: why?
- A: we should not treat others as we want to be treated by them.
- B: Why?
- A: Because it is the right thing to do and now don't ask why.
- Sometimes, "**Good is good because it is good**".
- **Moral Intuition:**
- The gut-level response to ethical dilemmas without deliberation is referred to as moral intuition.
- For Ex. When seeing a child in distress the moral response is to help.
- Intuition-based decision-making is quick.
- It is highly subjective as it depends upon individual moral disposition.
- Moral intuition is driven by the attitude of empathy and emotional intelligence.
- The people who make decisions based on moral intuition are found to be compassionate and virtuous.
- **Question:** Differentiate between moral reasoning and moral intuition.

- **3. Society and culture (10:25 AM)**
- Although culture and society determine what is ethical but one should not equate them with ethics as sometimes they deviate from what is ethical.
- For Ex. dowry, Caste-based discrimination, Patriarchy, etc.
- **4. Agency and Socialisation.**
- Ex. Cinema, Life experience, Peer group, workplace, Teachers, family, etc.
- Leadership also helps in determining the conduct of the followers as they set Vision, Goals, Strategy, Motivation, and Value systems.
- "The character of an institution is shaped by its characteristics"
- **5. Philosophy**
- **6. Leadership**
- Leadership also helps in determining the conduct of the followers as they set Vision, Goals, Strategy, Motivation, and Value systems.
- "The character of an institution is shaped by its characteristics"
- **7. Constitution.**
- It is the way to establish a moral disposition of society.
- Ex. Fundamental duties, DPSPs, Preamble, etc.
- Whenever you are in a dilemma always follow constitutional morality.
- **Question:** Customary morality should not be the guide for modern-day life. What do you mean by this statement? (10M/150 words)

DETERMINING THE ETHICALITY OF HUMAN ACTION (10:37 AM)

- **1. Nature of action.**
- It is the primary determinant.
- Ex. Telling the truth = morally right; Telling a lie = morally wrong; Jogging/sitting = morally indifferent.
- **2. The circumstances.**
- Impact the morality of actions.
- Ex. Giving food to a starving person. (Good act = Better).
- Sitting with a lonely person.
- (Indifferent act= Good)
- Robbing a beggar of his only meal of the day.
- (Bad act= worse)
- **3. Intentions.**
- It can alter the ethicality of action.
- Ex. Telling a lie to save a friend. (Wrong act+Good intent).
- Charity to increase Instagram followers. (good Act + Bad Intent).
- Doctor running in traffic to save patient
- (Indifferent act + Good Intent)

CONSEQUENCE OF ETHICS (10:48 AM)

- **Individual level:** Ethical life is the source of ultimate happiness.
- For ex. Act of blood donation makes us feel good.
- Ethical behavior makes a person of higher order being who is beyond the lower order needs.
- Ex. **Lord Ram** never cared about lower-order needs such as **power wealth, or Kingship** but always focused on the virtues of compassion, kindness, responsibility, etc.
- Ethical people will always be acknowledged and appreciated.
- Honest civil servant or **Sonu Sood** during COVID-19.
- Ethical behavior leads to mutual kindness and good interpersonal relations.
- Ethical behavior will ensure peace of mind, quick decision-making, and overcoming crises of conscience.
- Strengthening social capital, reducing social conflicts.
- Helping us to establish **Ram-Rajya** (Morally virtuous society).
- It will ensure good Governance.
- Ethics of care, Justice, and Rationality will motivate us to bring desirable changes.
- Ex. Abolition of **Talak-e-Biddat**, recommendation of Supreme Court to treat sex workers and their children with dignity.
- It will ensure **equitable and inclusive development** as ethics will ensure fair, opportunity and distribution of resources.
- Ethical behavior will help in establishing sustainable social order by **socializing** the younger generation with respect to ethical values.
- **Question:** It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (10M/150 words) 2022

TOPIC FOR NEXT CLASS: DIMENSION OF ETHICS