Philosophy of Education assignment.

**Ethics** refers to the study of morality in all its forms. It is primarily an academic exercise, an intellectual, pursuit, a process of inquiry and reflection. It also refers to the custom and convention of a given community.

a) **Outline various sources of Ethics.**

* Religion: Religious teachings often prescribe what is right and wrong and society subscribes to such norms.
* Traditions: Practices that are handed over from generation to generation become part of societal standards.
* Family: Family is the fundamental unit of the society and they establish certain standards for a functioning society. A child is first educated about ethical norms in family.
* Human conscience: Conscience helps a man to differentiate between good and bad, and certain standards for society are acceptable for all conscientious men.
* Government laws: Sometimes, certain standards are imposed on the society through laws, which over time are accepted by society and forms part of its ethical system
* Role Models and Philosophers: They inspire people and help in societies discovering or assimilating new virtues.

b) **Explain the following approaches approaches to ethics**.

1. **Descriptive Ethics :** This is a scientific study of ethics/morality. It involves the observation of values and the reasons given for them. It refers to the empirical or descriptive study of morality. Morality refers to a set of norms or standards – transitional or otherwise – that defines, guides and regulates good acceptable behaviour among human beings. Descriptive ethics is characteristic of social sciences such as psychology, sociology and social anthropology. An Example is when people tend to make decisions which bring pleasure, child behavior etc

2. **Normative ethics:** Normative is interested in the rules and norms of society. It attempts to give fundamental reasons for values/morality. It is reflective in nature as it seeks to inquire – rationally into the basic grounds of moral conduct and theories to justify morality in a philosophical or theological manner. Normative ethics is primarily concerned with basics; with moral principles and moral values which lay down norms for moral human conduct/action. Moral or immoral action is only a possibility with human beings. Animals and non humans are non moral. For example Is it wrong to litter on campus when there is a worker who is paid to clean.

3. **Analytical/ Meta ethics:** It goes beyond prescriptions and seeks deeper insights into the justifications of morality/values. This approach to the study of ethics is at the clarification of terms and statements that is the meaning of ethical terms and statements as used in ethics, both in the ordinary and academic sense. It is a form of linguistic analysis aimed at clarifying and validating**.** For example coming late to class.