

## LECTURE SESSION 10

### ETHICS AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Lecture Outline

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#### 10.1 Introduction

Welcome lecture ten in development studies and ethics. In this lecture, we shall explain the concept of development. At the same time we shall gain an understanding of the goals of development and their impact on growth of a nation.



#### 10.2 Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lecture, you should be able to:

- i. Define ethics
- ii. Identify Levels of Value Issues
- iii. Explain types of Value Inquiry
- iv. Relate Morality and development
- v. Explain the Role of morality in society
- vi. Discuss the big four agenda for Kenya

## Ethics

Let us start our discussion by asking ourselves this question.



**In text Question 1: What stops doctors from having relationship with patients?**

### 10.3 Definition of ethics

Ethics refers to the study and development of one's ethical standards. As mentioned above, feelings, laws, and social norms can deviate from what is ethical. So it is necessary to constantly examine one's standards to ensure that they are reasonable and well-founded. Ethics also means, then, the continuous effort of studying our own moral beliefs and our moral conduct, and striving to ensure that we, and the institutions we help to shape, live up to standards that are reasonable and solidly-based.

#### **What is Development Ethics?**

Development ethics is a field of inquiry that reflects on both the ends and means of economic development. It typically takes a normative stance asking and answering questions about the nature of ethically desirable development, what ethics means for achieving development, and discusses various ethical dilemmas that the practice of development has led to. In short, its aim is to ensure that value issues are an important part of the discourse of development. It typically looks at development theories and practice and their relationships with social justice, human rights and basic needs.

Denis Goulet, one of the founding fathers of the discipline argued in *The Cruel Choice* (1971) that development ethics is useless unless it can be translated into public action. By public action is meant action taken by public authority, as well as actions taken by private agents

by having important consequences for the life of the public community. The central question is: How can moral guidelines influence decisions of those who hold power?



#### **Take Note**

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We have learnt what ethics are and their importance in development. We shall now look at levels of value issues, types of value inquiry and the role of morality in society.

### **10.4 Levels of Value Issues**

1) The recognition of value issues as an important part of development discourse. These issues are not peripheral, mere extras after the technical and economic analyses have been done. They ought to be at the very heart of all development thinking.

- 2) The careful defense of basic normative theories, whether secular or religious, that justifies a model of local, national, or global development. For example, such theories appeal to social justice, human rights, basic needs, and theological understandings of the human condition.
- 3) The application of values to concrete decision making, whether at the level of donor organization or grassroots communities. There is a vast agenda on the “ethics of the means” – both how to realize goals and what ethical limits must be observed in pursuing goals.

### **10.5 Types of Value Inquiry**

The above value issues can be taken up in a number of different but complementary ways.

- 1) Reflection: Philosophical thinking can clarify what development is; it can defend normative positions by critical and rational thinking about ethical alternatives; it can identify the complexities involved in the rational choice of means. Philosophical and theological reflection can provide a basic understanding of the human condition and of morally relevant facts.
- 2) Application: the social scientist, technologist, economist, medical expert, or agriculturalist can integrate their expertise with properly articulated values to make their prescriptions and policies more ethically authoritative.
- 3) Practice: the committed development worker or policy maker engaged with concrete problems can gain from more abstract thinking and at the same time keep such reflection firmly rooted in and informed by development practice.

### **10.6 Morality and development**

Morals are the rules that govern which actions are right and which ones are wrong. A moral can be for all of society or an individual's beliefs. Sometimes a moral can be gleaned from a story or experience. The following are examples of morals in society.

- i. Do not gossip
- ii. Do not vandalize property
- iii. Have courage
- iv. Do not cheat
- v. Treat others as you want to be treated
- vi. Be trustworthy
- vii. Be dependable
- viii. Respect others
- ix. Keep your self control
- x. Have humility

### **10.7 Role of morality in society**

- Provide security to members
- Create stability
- Removes harmful conditions
- Foster trust
- Facilitate cooperation in achieving shared or complementary goals

### **10.8 The big four agenda for Kenya**

The following Big Four Agenda were launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta as he led Kenyans in the Jamhuri Day on December 12, 2017 at Moi Kasarani Stadium. The Big Four Agenda are meant to help the president fulfill the promises he made to the citizens during his campaign. In his second and last term, the president has promised to dedicate his time, energy and resources to the achievement of the Big 4. According to the president, the promises will ensure that Kenyans get employment which will in turn improve the dignity of Kenyan people. The following are the Big Four Agenda: -

1. Expansion of the Manufacturing Sector
2. Affordable Housing
3. Affordable Healthcare
4. Food Security



### **Activity**

Explain how ethics can help Kenya develop?



### **10.9 Summary**

We have come to the end of the lecture. In this lecture we have looked at the concept of ethics ,levels of value issues,types of value inquiry,morality and development and the Big 4 Agenda.



#### **10.10 Review Activity**

1. Discuss the importance of ethics in development
2. Explain five moral ethics respected by Kenyans
3. Discuss the success or failure of the Big 4 agenda



#### **10.11 References and Further Reading**

- 1 .Desai, V. & Potter, R. (2014). The Companion to Development Studies. (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). London: Routledge. ISBN-13:978-1444167245.
- 2 .Byrd, M. & Edwards, S. (2014). Leadership Development Studies: A Humanities Approach. (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Plymouth, USA: Hayden-Mc Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0738066042.
- 3 Spear, J. & Williams, P. D. (2012). Security and Development in Global Politics: A critical Comparison. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. ISBN-13: 978-1589018860