Tutorial 5

Cultural, family and religious beliefs help us in trying to reach conclusions about what is morally wrong or right, however these beliefs can create prejudices and blind spots that we still need to work through .To teach this person on morality, I will look at how cultural, religious, family and other universal laws impact us on what we think is morally right or wrong.

Firstly, religious beliefs create a huge impact on what we think is morally right or wrong. ‘Most religious people think that their morality comes from their religion.’, (Jim,2018). As someone that grew up in a strictly Christian household, with a handful of beliefs on what we believe is right or wrong, it is safe to say religion plays a huge role in trying to reach conclusions about what is morally wrong or right. For example, in my religion, modest dressing is what is seen as morally right. If as a woman, you dress immodestly, with parts of your body showing, lacking decency, then that is seen as morally wrong, as that goes against the religion’s beliefs. Dressing immodestly is seen as wrong as it is believed that you will be attracting attention from men, which might lead to adultery or sin. Therefore, what I perceive to be morally right or wrong is mostly influenced by the religion I grew up in as these views are planted in us from a very young age.

However, while different groups might disagree on certain views on morality, they are some views that are universal and are agreed on universally. There’s a base level of morality amongst different countries and beliefs. There are some people that are not religious, but this does not mean they cannot make decisions between what is wrong or right. Examples of universal laws are laws like do not steal, do not kill and these laws can help us make moral decisions, despite not belonging to a particular religion.

Secondly, cultural beliefs also impact on what we think is morally right or wrong. Different cultures contradict with one another and vary in morality. In my culture, for example, homosexuality and polygamy are regarded morally wrong because same sex marriages are seen to be disrespecting God, whereas, in some countries or cultures, they are both accepted and are seen as morally right because love is love despite the gender. However, despite personal culture it is universal for us to accommodate one another and be kind to each other as there is a base level of morality amongst different beliefs, thereby assisting us in making more ethical decisions regardless of whether we belong to a certain culture or not.

Thirdly, family beliefs also impact our views on what is right or wrong. Every family has different views on what is morally right or wrong. Things like the time you get back home after going out with friends, removing shoes before you enter the house, not hitting your children as a way of discipline if you are parent, are different beliefs that can be viewed as morally right or wrong in different families. However, universal laws like respecting one another, honouring elders, can be utilised by those without strong family backgrounds and beliefs, to distinguish between what is morally right or wrong.

In a nutshell, different beliefs have an impact on what we perceive to be morally wrong or right as these views are planted in us from a very young age, however, universal laws could also be used to help us in making moral decisions as not everyone belongs to a certain religion, culture or family.

Referencing

Worthy, L.D., Lavigne, T. and Romero, F. (2020) *Culture and morality*, *Culture and Psychology*. Available: <https://open.maricopa.edu/culturepsychology/part/culture-and-morality/#:~:text=Morality%20refers%20to%20a%20system,a%20wide%20variety%20of%20behaviors>.