Tutorial 5

Cultural, family and religious beliefs help us in trying to reach conclusions about what is morally wrong or right. 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. Every time I leave the house, I make sure I am decently dressed up in a modest way as this is what is deemed morally right by my religion, whereas other religions do not find difference in dressing as a sole determinate of what is morally right or wrong. Therefore, the religious beliefs that one is surrounded by, or grew up in, guides us in trying to reach conclusion on what is morally wrong or right.

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. In addition, in the African culture, women are supposed to cook and take care of their men as this is seen as morally right. This is because from a young age, African women are taught how to nature their husbands when they get married. The man is the dominant one in the marriage and should provide for the family while the woman cooks and takes care of the family. However, in other cultures, having gender distinguish who takes care of whome is seen as immoral as the man can do exactly what the women can do and vice-versa.

As a result, failure to do so will be considered morally wrong by other members of the culture. Jim states that, ‘Morals are held and agreed to by all members of the culture’ (2020). If one does not conform to the morals of their culture, this could result in a punishable offense as their actions would be seen as ‘wrong'. Therefore, whatever culture one follows will have an impact on what they perceive to be morally right or wrong. In addition, sometimes fear of being ‘punished’ or perceived as an outsider will lead people to follow various cultural beliefs that are deemed morally right in their culture, religion or family.

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. For example, personally, in my family, if you go out with friends you should be home before six at night, that is the time that my family deems to be morally right for a child to get back home, any hour after six is morally wrong and can result in a punishable offense unless if there’s a clear reason why. However, the same time (six) in another family may be too early. Some of my friends can get home around ten or eleven at night and their families still find it morally right. Therefore, family beliefs also have an impact on our views on morality.

On the other hand, 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, do not follow any culture and might not really have a strong family belonging. This, however, does not mean that they do not have views on morality. Universal laws can be used to distinguish between what is morally right or wrong. Laws like do not kill, do not steal are valid in most belief systems and can also be utilised to reach conclusions about what is morally right or wrong.

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>.