ETHICS

Ethics is a branch of philosophy. It is related to human nature. It reflects our behaviour.It plays an

important role in building up our nature and behavior. As a society is made by people and their behavior

and ethics plays an important role in organizing our behaviors so it is an important part of a society.

DEFINITIONS

Following are some of the definitions of ethics as is defined by some philosophers.

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with moral component of human life.

Ethics are involved in a society to a great extent. Even they are much involved in human life therefore the

more a person is having or following ethics in his life, the more his life become decent, disciplined and

organized. Hence it is an important component of human life.

Ethics can also be defined as

It reflects a society’s notions about the rightness or wrongness of an act and the distinctions

between virtue and vice.

Ethics is taken as a collection of principles or a code of rules. It consists of such rules which a society

adopts in its daily routine. Sometimes some of the rules or principles are set by the society and you have

to obey them.

For example drinking is prohibited in an Islamic society but there are no restrictions in western societies

on it. Therefore being a Muslim and a part of Muslim society it is compulsory for us to stay away from it.

Even for an Islamic state it is unlawful. But if we are in a western society as there is no restriction hence

now is the place where our ethics comes into action.

Ethics is often thought of as a set of principles or a code of moral conduct.

As we have discussed in the above example, that there are some places where we are no bounded for

certain things. There are no restrictions on us. It is that time where we have to utilize our personal ethics

to differentiate between right and wrong. Hence ethics regulate our moral conduct.

Another definition of ethics is

Ethics involves the evolution and application of those moral values that a society or culture has

accepted as its norms

It means that there are certain things which are purposed and applied by the society. They are then accepts

as the cultural norms of that society. It also differentiates it from other societies.

Hence it has been shown by the above definitions that ethics is a branch of social sciences that deals with

the moral conduct of individuals and also it is a collection of certain norms that are formulated and

followed by a society.

Ethics and Media

Media has always got a great attraction for people. Since its evolution it has been performing its duty of

entertaining as well as guiding people. Weather it is print media or electronic media people always tries to

adopt its importance in their daily life.

With the evolution 0f print media people had a great thirst for it. They take it as their foremost source of

information. Hence media start playing three main roles which are as follows.

• Information

• Entertainment

• Guidance

With the addition of features and columns and magazines people’s interest was enhanced and they started

idealizing the writers. They take their writings as for their guidance.

Observing that much importance of media, there should be some limitations set for it. So that writers cant

go beyond the ethics. Their writings and publications should be checked and controlled.

For that matter certain laws to regulate media were formulated to keep a check on it. Hence a code of

ethics was formulated for print media which is to be obeyed by the publishers. Then with the gain in popularity of electronic media again there was a need to put a check on it. So

different regulatory committees were made to regulate a code for them. So with the passage of time many

codes were formulated and applied for them.

By now a proper and complete code of principles is been set for whole media. but still there is another

debate of freedom of media due to which changes keep on happening in these4 principles.

Sources of Ethics

There are certain sources of ethics. These sources include those persons, places or people which affect our

lives at different stages and thus help us in developing and adopting our ethics.

These sources are as follows.

• Parents

• Peer groups

• Educational institutions

• Teen Age [school level]

• Adult Age [higher studies]

• Observations & Experiences

• Society

Parents

Parents are the primary and most important source of ethics. They are the first source whish introduce us

to the worlds. They teach us how top behave, how to talk how to walk, how to eat and above all hoe to

develop our ethics i.e. the way to deal with others.

Peer Group

Our second source of ethics is our peer group. This includes our age fellows and our friends. So it is the

first time when you interact with the people other then your family. You gain many things from here also.

The most important thing you get from your peer group is the development of your attitude. For example

some of the children developed tolerance. Others may gain to react harshly to certain situations .Hence it

also play an important role in developing ones self.

Educational Institutions

It includes development at two levels.

School level when we are at a stage of learning and adopting thing. At this period of age children try to

copy others. They try to gain the qualities of those personalities which they like the most. So people

around him specially teachers try to develop good qualities in them. They try to make them differentiate

between right and wrong.

At Higher Educational level when children have both the pictures in front of them. Now they are

socially bound to show their ethics. It is the time when others expect the particle side of their ethics they

have learned so far. Hence they have to prove themselves what kind of nature he has developed so far.

Observations & Experiences

After passing through your higher education, the next source is our own observations and experiences.

Because at this level we are mature enough to observe our society.

Secondly when we talk about experiences then there are two possibilities.

1. We can learn from others’ experiences

2. We can experience our self.

Society

This is the biggest source of learning as it is effective at all stages of life but becomes even more effective

when we comes in our particle life. It is the time or stage which requires more responsibilities and ethical behaviours from us