



MALUKA IAS

ETHICS

UNIT - I & II

CLASS NOTES

UNIT 1 : ETHICS AND HUMAN INTERFACE

- Basic concepts : Beliefs, Values, Attitudes, Behaviour and Morals
- Properties
 - i. Abstract
 - ii. Contextual
 - iii. Subjective

- i. Abstract – Things we cannot feel through 5 senses. Example – love, happiness
- ii. Contextual – Lying in Mahabharata was ethical. Otherwise, it may not be unethical.
- iii. Subjective – based on the interpretation of the subject
 - Subjective – objective
 - Objective : Beef is rich in protein
 - Subjective : Eating beef is against my religion.

In western culture, people are communist in 20s, capitalist in 30s and 40s and socialist in 50s.

Empirical - evidence based, which can be proved.

Theory of absurd – If human nature is subjective, what is the use of studying ethic?.

Theory : Inductive, empirical(starts with evidence)

Deductive, Rational(start with theory, results in thesis)

Corruption is wrong

- Utilitarian approach (Deductive) : Greatest good for greater number is against corruption
- Prove in court of law(inductive): Start with evidences.

Human beings are emotional beings:

- i. Abstract : Anything which exists in thought or as an idea. But does not have a physical or concrete existence. It cannot be perceived by any of the five senses.
- ii. Subjective: Anything which is mind depended and subject specific. Thought process of humans is not always objective and things like stereotypes, prejudice and attitudes, dominate them in different situations.

Concept 1 : Belief

Beliefs are fundamental ideas which make our cognition system.

Beliefs: What we hold to be true.

Belief is not from birth they are made by external agencies like family, society, media, etc.

Core beliefs: which are strong beliefs, are difficult to change. Example – religious beliefs.

Peripheral beliefs : Beliefs that are temporary. Example: A belief after visiting Australia telling that Australians are good.

(If you are visiting a peripheral belief, again and again, it converts into a core belief.)

A belief is an internal feeling or idea that something is true even though that belief may be unproven or irrational. A belief is a simplest form of mental representation and therefore one of the building blocks of our thought processes.

Concept 2- Values

Values: Anything which is important for us.

Values are standards which help us to judge. What is desirable and what is non-desirable?

Example : Values in service class family – low risk taking
Values in business class family – high risk taking.

Values = Core belief + Emotions

Example – Child visiting Republic Day parade again and again – Value – patriotism.

Patriotism + more emotions – nationalism + more emotions for jingoism, chauvinism, fascism.

George Orwell : ‘Nationalism in excess is a danger to peace.’

Values are the standards which help us to evaluate something or make judgement about how desirable, undesirable that thing is to use. That thing can be a person, a place, an object or any event. We are more likely to make choice that support our value systems than choices that will not.

Relation between Values and Beliefs :

Values are fundamental beliefs, that is, they are the most important and core beliefs of any persons with an emotional touch. *All values are beliefs but all beliefs are not values.*

Concept 3: Attitude

Attitude : Our tendency(not just action) to behave in a certain manner. Attitudes are manifestation of our belief system.

If one has patriotism (value), then attitude is liberal, tolerant, altruistic.

An attitude is an expression of favour or disfavour towards a person, place, object or event. Attitude can be from a person’s past and present environment.

Concept 4: Human behaviour

Human behaviour refers to the range of behaviours exhibited by humans and which are influenced by culture, attitudes, emotions, morality, values, ethics, authority, persuasion, coercion, and genetics.

Genetics also impacts our value system. Example: extrovert/introvert nature.

Beliefs and values happen to be the building blocks of human behaviour.

Values:

Socio-cultural values: Respect to elders, honesty, etc.

Political values: Liberty, democracy, secularism.

Economic values: Profit making, efficiency, effectiveness.

Aesthetic values : Beauty(Highly subjective in nature), devotion to god is religious values as well as aesthetic value.

Religious values : Discipline, devotion.

International values: Panchasheel, peace, harmony, non-interference.

Professional values : Integrity, impartiality

Above categorisation is not exclusive. One value may fall in many categories.

All values may not be ethics

Ethics

It is derived from Greek word ‘Ethos’ meaning custom, habits of society.

Ethics – standards which decide between right or wrong.
Everything right is desirable
But everything desirable is not right.

All ethics are values but All values are not ethics.

Ethics as a field of study (part of philosophy) that studies the human morality.
Morality – at individual level
Ethics – at social level

Ethics in practice are the standards on the basis of which one can decide what is right and wrong. They prescribe what is or is not considered appropriate behaviour in living one's life.

Ethics as a branch of philosophy is also defined as a study of what we understand to be good and right behaviour and how people make those judgements. It is a discipline that examines one's moral standards or the moral standards of the society.

Morals

It is derived from the Latin word 'Moralitas' meaning Character.

Example – In India, inter-caste marriage may be ethically wrong but morally right.

Morality of majority becomes the Ethics of society.
Morality of the individual comes from agencies (like family) and tools (methods and rewards like punishments)

Individual also changes the society through leadership.
Example – Gandhiji, Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Ethics is about creating an environment that supports the expression of ethical values while keeping in check non-ethical values. Morals are expression of moral values.

In most situations, ethics and morality are in correspondence to each other.

Relation between Ethics and Values-

Ethical values are a subject of various values held by a person. Concepts such as material success, individualism, courage, hard-work, prudence (wisdom), competition, patriotism, and punctuality are all value standards but are probably not seen as ethical or moral standards of right and wrong. However, standards such as honesty, truthfulness and justice are used in making ethical judgements of rightness and wrongness in human behaviour.

Conflict between ethics and morality is more in Indian society because :

- i. Society in transition
- ii. Diversity

Example : a doctor who is catholic. Moral – no abortion.

Professional ethics – he should abort.

Other example : Section 377, honour killing, inter-caste marriage.

A non-violent police officer – conflict between morality and professional ethics.

But in most societies, ethics and morality have no conflict.

Ethics and Moral : Ethics refers to the series of standards provided to an individual by an external source like his profession, society and religion. On the other hand, morals refer to an individual's own standards regarding right and wrong. Individuals recognise and follow ethics because society says it is the right thing to do. Not following ethics may lead to social disapprovals and sanctions.

Morals are principles which define how things should work according to the conscience of the individual. Not following morals may lead to remorse, discomfort, depression or dissonance. In most cases, there is congruence between ethics and morals as morality of an individual is developed within the environment of ethics prevailing in the society.

Principle : It is the applications of value system. They act as manifestations for the society. Principles are means which are used to apply values.

Example : Principles related to the value of Justice are equality before law, equality in equal circumstances and non-equality in unequal circumstances.

Norms : Principles at the social level.

(Individual – Always associate with “virtue”, never with “values”)

Ideals – What we should try to achieve.

Human attributes which are used to achieve ideals are known as virtues.

Conflict between virtues and ideals leads to Hypocrisy.

ESSENCE OF ETHICS

Essence : Main components, key properties of something

Example : essence of Gandhism :- non-violence etc.

Essence same as characteristics, attributes etc.

All ethics are values. All properties of ethics are also properties of values.

➤ Attributes of ethics :

- i. Ethics can be shaped and sustained in isolation. A person's environment interact with his or her genotype to influence the behavioural outcomes.
Genetics affect intelligence, creativity and all those affect ethical formulations. Both nature and nurture play a role but role played by nurture is dominant.

Socialisation: Deliberate attempt of society to inculcate the societal values such that the newly inducted member behaves in a socially ethical way.

Why India is cultural connected and culture is preserved? Because people live with their parents for 25-30 years.

Socialisation is a life long process through which norms, customs, values and ideologies of a society are passed on to the next generation so that they can become a responsible participating member of their society. It is thus the means by which social and cultural continuity is maintained.

- ii. A man is not only the product, but also the producer of his culture or ethics prevailing in the society. He not only learns from the culture but will also lead to a change in ethical system of the society.
- Culture basically represents the average behaviour of the person in a society – It is sum total of values, norms and ethics.
Few individuals change the values/ norms of the society.
Example – Gandhiji, Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- iii. Ethics depend on the context in which they are operating. They vary in their meaning and intensity according to time, place and person.
- iv. Ethics operate at different levels like individual, organisational, socio-cultural, political and international level. Ethics at each level affects each other.
Example : Trump's nationalism will affect the values of other nations e.g. withdrawal from Paris climate Agreement.
Modi sweeping for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (individual level) leads to (socio-cultural level) change in behaviour of people.
(Ethics in family – Ethics in individual.)
- v. Ethics are abstract and subjective in nature that is they are affected by individuals, emotions and perceptions.
- vi. Ethics are inter-related to each other.
Example : Honesty and Truthfulness – inter related
Probity and Integrity - inter-related
- 2008 GFC – Economics was preferred over environmental values – took so long for climate change deal(Paris Agreement was signed in – 2015)
- vii. Ethical behaviour also comes into play when humans interacts with other things like machine, animal, environment.
Example : Jallikattu (human + animals)
Artificial Intelligence (Human + machine)
- viii. Ethics originates from the sense of justice prevailing in a particular society.
- ix. Ethics are maintained and sustained by a sense of responsibility and not mere accountability to some external agency.
- x. Ethical standards may transcend the narrow stipulations of laws and code of regulation.

DETERMINANTS OF ETHICS

Determinants – Factors which contribute to the formulation of ethics.

Ethics is also impacted by person, place and time.

Determination of ethics is a complicated task as criteria of judging what is right or wrong is neither absolute nor universal, but variable depending on person place and time.

Effects from person :

- i. Girl's fathers
- ii. Financial status of father
- iii. Genetics
- iv. Thinkers and feelers
- v. Emotional intelligence
- vi. Optimism/Pessimism