

# **THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL BEHAVIORS IN OUR DAILY LIFE: A STUDY OF ETHICS IN PHILOSOPHY**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The area of philosophy known as ethics helps us decide what is right and wrong and directs how we should behave towards other people. By comprehending and putting ethical ideas into practise, we can enhance interpersonal relationships, foster trust, and create a society that is more just and equitable. Ethical behaviour leads one to happiness. One living life with the righteous Ethical behaviour is always a blessed being. Beyond that, ethical behaviour can foster happy relationships and, as a result, a tranquil community.

Ethics formulates a fair standard of behaviour for individuals, impacting their social & personal life; both their professional and personal ambience. This behaviour is also equal to ethical behaviour and leads to the capacity to make informed decisions ingrained in one's ethical nature. Because they direct us in making moral decisions, ethics are important. They also teach us about respect for others and how to behave in a way that is acceptable in society. It also helps people develop a strong sense of right and wrong. Strong ethical individuals typically have an easy time motivating themselves and are willing to accomplish all tasks assigned to them in time or in stipulated time, leaving no time to procrastination.

Individually, upholding moral principles is advantageous for our careers and for maintaining positive bonds with friends and family. An ethical decision is one that upholds the law, serves the interests of all parties concerned, and advances society welfare. Morally upright nations have the power to save the planet and millions of lives.

## **II. DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES OF ETHICS**

The branch of philosophy known as ethics provides guidance on how to behave towards others and helps us determine what is right and wrong. Understanding ethical concepts and putting them into action can improve interpersonal interactions, promote trust, and result in a society that is more just and equal. The purpose of moral behaviour is happiness. A happy person lives ethically, notwithstanding the opinions of others. Beyond that, moral behaviour can promote contented interpersonal interactions and, as a result, a peaceful community.

In both professional and personal contexts, ethics aid in establishing a fair standard of conduct for people. This activity, often referred to as ethical behaviour, describes the ability to make defensible decisions in accordance with one's ethical nature. Ethics are significant because they guide our moral decision-making. They also impart to us the values of respect for others and appropriate social behaviour. It also helps people develop a strong sense of right and wrong. Strong ethical individuals typically have an easy time motivating themselves and are eager to go above and beyond to finish a task or aim on time and in the correct manner.

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**According to Philosopher Albert Einstein,** “The most important human endeavor is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life.” **Philosopher Albert Schweitzer also said that,** “Ethics is the activity of man directed to secure the inner perfection of his own personality.” A system of ideals, morals, principles, norms, and regulations that direct everyone's behaviour in society is called ethics. It aims to guarantee that everyone is treated with respect, dignity, and the same opportunity. Making a society where individuals can coexist peacefully is another goal of ethics.

### III. NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of ethics in our society given how much it affects both the present and the future. Moral principles must be taught to us since they guide our decisions, shape who we are, and determine our fate. People's sense of ethics has a big impact on how they interact with other people and the world. Ethics are the moral principles that guide people's actions, decisions, and behaviours. The principles of justice and fairness, as well as of right and wrong, good and bad, serve as the foundation for these tenets.

Ethics are important in our society since it is fundamental moral principles that guarantee that everything operates as it should. We find comfort in the knowledge that we are in a nation where we are permitted to pursue our own interests. Ethics play a similar role in interpersonal relationships. People who place a high value on ethics are more likely to establish solid, wholesome bonds with others that are built on respect, honesty, and trust. Additionally, they are more prone to consider others' feelings and well-being while making judgements, looking beyond their own interests.

Our ethical understanding directs our behaviour and decision-making. Even when we have a lot of problems, at least we know how to deal with them and act accordingly. It is true that, in some circumstances, we frequently lack the knowledge necessary to resolve ethical dilemmas or simply to act in an ethical manner. As a result, ethics will instruct us on how to tackle a problem in a certain circumstance. May be you are a good person following every moral principles. You are polite to everybody, loyal to all your friends but this society sometimes forces us to be “double-faced” in some situations even if we do not want to, tell

lies to people, and break other social norms. Why? Just to help someone, to save some relationships or friendships or to do something for our loved ones.

People use ethics to distinguish between what is right and wrong and to influence how others act in difficult situations. Despite the fact that everyone has their own set of moral standards, many people preserve basic principles such as integrity and respect. It aids in the development of environments that promote equality and success for all people. Our justice system, constitutional rights and obligations, and fundamental requirements for a society to function are all derived from these ethical norms.

#### IV. ETHICS AND MORALS

The study of good and wrong in society is the focus of the discipline of ethics, which is sometimes known as moral philosophy. A set of guidelines for what is morally appropriate in any circumstance are provided by morality. Morals are a person's personal standards of what is right and wrong. In other terms, a moral person is one who is aware of the distinction between right and wrong and chooses the former.

We face moral and ethical issues every day. These two characteristics describe a person's personality, attitude, and behaviour. In contrast to ethical behaviour, which is determined by an individual's character, moral behaviour reacts to a system of norms created by a group of people. While morality and ethics must be ingrained in people so that the society may properly function as per the expectations of the citizens, in a proper and efficient manner. These values must be interpreted again time to time for the overall well-being of the society.

So, there are special criteria for human behavior, to be considered as ethical actions. The first measure is that, whatever is admirable in view of others is ethical behavior and second one, what is done with free will; without compulsion. For example, driving the car on the right side or the left side of the road is considered 'good' but, inherently is not an ethical action; what is ethical action in this regard is observing order and respect to the rights of other people. Laying down oneself for the safeguard of others or others' rights, is always deemed as good behaviour and comes under ethical consideration.

**1. Examples of 'Moral behaviour':** Common example of moral behaviour include following rules, keeping secrets, remaining loyal and telling the truth. Following are some generally accepted important examples of moral behaviour that people can follow for peaceful life:

- **Tell the Truth:** Being honest at all times to show that you are communicating with someone in an open and sincere manner is one of the morality's guiding principles.
- **Do Not Cheat:** Honesty is the best policy & one must always adhere to it not only in letter but also in spirit. One must practise honesty and live with honesty. Cheating is quite antithetical to the principle of honesty, so one must keep cheating at bay.
- **Respect Our Lives and the Lives of Others:** Showing respect and reverence to ourselves & to the lives of others, is highest form of respect and care. Respect & care are most prerequisite for establishment of a civilized society.

- **Be Generous:** Generosity is sharing with others what one has, not only tangible but also intangible things like happiness & sanguinity. This state is the highest form of generosity.
- **Be loyal:** Loyalty, which encompasses being trustworthy, honourable, and honest, is one of the most admirable human characteristics. You are loyal when you trust someone who does not cheat, deceive, or betray you.
- **To Live According to the Rules of Society:** Our society develops norms for every aspect of our existence. For instance, how we should behave at home, school, and work, among other places. These standards assist us in becoming moral people.
- **Do Not Envy:** Envy is the agony caused by a person's possible desire for another person's possessions. In this method, moral behaviour shifts away from jealousy and towards gladness for the well-being of others.
- **Do Not Harm:** You have a duty to avoid hurting anyone. The basic idea behind the rule is that nothing you do should harm or unfairly treat others.
- **Make Things Better:** To make changes in something in order to improve it. The expression means that a bad situation is getting a bit better or becoming hopeful.
- **Be Fair:** We must be fair in our daily interactions. In this context, fair means not attempting to gain an undue advantage over others.
- **Be Loving:** When you say you love someone; you will do whatever you can to avoid hurting their feelings or breaking their heart.
- **Expressing Your Gratitude:** Genuine appreciation requires the ability to put oneself in the shoes of another. When you are given anything, express your gratitude by saying "Thank you" to the giver.

## 2. Examples Of Relative Moral Principles Are:

- Ethically, being exuberant & spending lavishly your hard earned money on luxurious life is not acceptable.
- Its our moral duty to safeguard our Mother Earth & preserve it for our progeny.

The examples given above are typical, yet morality is determined by a group's cultural and religious beliefs, which establish what is right and wrong. A set of guidelines for what is right or wrong in any circumstance are provided by morality. In this sense, it is possible to assert that what is morally just is not always factually truthful.

## V. DEFINITION OF 'ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR'

Implication by Ethical decorum is to be ordained in conformity with societal norms laid by the moral police of the society. The ones who are ingrained in ethical behaviour are the ones who have oodles of love, respect, care & reverence for the other peoples' rights. Set of code of conduct consistent with moral strata of society is known as ethical behaviour. While being alone and still doing the righteous behaviour, is an example of ethically governed behaviour.

For Instance, Using One's Research work in one's final written assignment for in citation text & references is ethical behaviour as its student's own original work. This is an

instance of ethical behaviour as societal norms don't clash with the student's act and most of the people would judge it as acceptable.

Generally speaking, ethical behaviour is behaviour that is necessary for a society to run smoothly. Additionally, ethical behaviour encompasses bigger ideas like how people interact with their surroundings. Therefore, the concept of ethical behaviour encompasses the entire spectrum of social behaviour, from the smallest to the largest.

### 1. Examples of 'Ethical Behaviour':

Ethical behaviour is the polar opposite of unethical behaviour. Most social norms are followed by ethical behaviour, which the general public supports. It involves owning up to your errors and offering an apology. Here are a few noteworthy instances of ethical behaviour:

- **Respect:** All Citizens must show care & Respect not to themselves but also for other's choices, lives & property.
- **Honesty:** When people speak & truthfully act, even knowing that they will get into trouble, is known as honesty.
- **Loyalty:** Sacrificing one's own choices, likes and needs in favour of others.
- **Responsibility:** We take responsibility for our actions and decisions;
- **Integrity:** We're honest and truthful, acting within the law;
- **Equality:** We're ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity;
- **Regularity:** People always maintain regularity of behavior in the same circumstances;
- **Dignity:** We're all treating someone with respect and honour;
- **Justice:** We're all ensuring that people has the opportunity to be treated impartial;
- **Selflessness:** Selfless people put the needs of others before their own;
- **Forgiveness:** People have ability to forgive yourself and others;
- **Punctuality:** We're all serious, respectful of other people's time and their value;
- **Truthfulness:** People have the quality of being honest and not telling any lies and
- **Discipline:** People live their lives efficiently and effectively with standers of behavior.

Therefore, honesty, justice, equity, etc. in interpersonal, professional, academic, and scholarly activities are characteristics of ethical behavior. The rights, diversity, and dignity of individuals and groups of people are respected in ethical behavior.

2. **'Ethical Behaviour'Cause of the Following Benefits:**Ethical behaviour is important because it helps to create a more peaceful, safe, equitable and healthy society. A positive ethical behaviour helps to influence others. Ethical behaviour can have several beneficial impacts on society. The following are some of the key benefits of ethical behaviour:

- It helps us to keep a positive attitude;
- It assists us to get a good night's sleep;
- It assists us to get a positive mental attitude;
- It helps us to maintain a healthy lifestyle;

- It helps us to set a proper standard of behavior;
- It assists us to maintaining confidentiality;
- It helps us to educate people about smoking, tobacco, alcohol and drugs;
- It helps us to avoid drinking alcohol until you are completely smoke-free;
- It assists us how to reduce stress to achieve goals;
- It helps us to avoid high-risk situations where you feel the urge to smoke;
- It assists us to reduce any kind of negative thoughts;
- It helps us to reduce your internet and social media time;
- It assists us to build a personal development plan;
- It helps us to understand the importance of healthy self-confidence;
- It helps us to make expectations clear, realistic and reasonable;
- It improves our decision making capacity;
- It helps us to make society better;
- It makes us better reflect on the question of life and know our-self better;
- It makes our life easy and acceptable and
- Ethics provides us with a moral map, a framework that we can use to find our way through difficult issues. Thus it secures society and unites us.

So, all the ethical behaviour has an important role to help maintain a respectful and healthy environment at work. Thus, every ethical behaviour is essential for a society to function properly. So, ethical behaviour has several components that contribute to its importance.

## VI. DEFINITION OF 'UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR'

Broadly speaking, unethical code or behaviour implies the utter opposite to what is considered as ethical decorum in a way that is not considered 'Just', "Legitimate" or "Justified". The lack of ability is some people to sift from right from wrong and act accordingly, is known as unethical behaviour.

For Instance, Using other's research work without acknowledging it, in one's own final written assignment, is plagiarism and in unethical. Totally unethical as the student does not work on his/her original ideas rather plagiarized someone else's material, mugged up & vomited in examination to romp through it with flying colour, is seen to be unethical as the student even did not bother to acknowledge the contribution of other person while pilfering the material.

Taking unduly advantage of some person without their consent or without their being aware of, is often deemed as unethical. To put it in another definition: Using your will over the will of others, or in a way controlling them, is to unethically exploiting them. Therefore, when someone says something is unethical or immoral, they are implying that it ought to be unethical or immoral for everyone. One loses the confidence of others if their conduct is unethical. Moreover, their unethical actions are illegal and subject to legal punishment.

**1. Examples of 'Unethical Behaviour':** It is predominantly significant for us that we all adhere to certain set of values in all walks of life. It is not astonishing to visualise what

will be the state of affairs of our nation if values are not followed? You can think of so many answers to this question:

- Violating law and order;
- Lying and Cheating;
- Break down of families;
- Bad company;
- Sexual harassment;
- Stealing others property;
- Harmful use of alcohol or drugs;
- Crime and corruption;
- Money under the table;
- Taking advantage of misfortune;
- Destroying public property;
- Internet addiction and risky behaviors;
- Profuse languages, acting violent towards others;
- Verbal attack such as threats, slurs, name calling, insulting to others;
- Physical attack such as slapping, kicking, punching, pinching, pushing, obstructing to others and
- Exploitation of womenfolk, children and other highly vulnerable members.

Individuals who act unethically typically lose the trust of others; hence the law should likewise punish them for their unethical actions. Therefore, we can define unethical behaviour as the deliberate failure to uphold moral principles.

**2. ‘Unethical Behaviour’Cause of the Following Problems:**A behaviour that society disapproves of is unethical behaviour. The behaviour itself is what is "bad" or "wrong" in a certain circumstance. The following outcomes of unethical behaviour are examples:

- Gender discrimination;
- Grappling with one's own psychological health
- Aloofness, alienation & troubled relations. Not knowing how to balance work and study;
- Feeling like you are not good enough;
- Bad life experience of yourself;
- Poor confidence and lack of control;
- Trouble accepting positive feedback;
- Social anxiety disorder and panic disorder and
- Damages reputation and credibility.

Summing up unethical behaviour implies certain set of actions which are against societal norms, and the society is critical of approving such behaviour, is known as unethical behaviour. Hence, unethical behaviour has a negative impact on every part of your life.

## VII. CONCLUSION

According to the topics we've covered, ethics is unquestionably a rule of conduct for all rational creatures in their interactions with the environment, non-rational beings, and other rational beings. Human behaviour and how he should interact with his surroundings are governed by ethics. Human happiness is the primary goal of ethical behaviour. The presumption is that a person should be happy if they have positive relationships with other people and their surroundings.

A Meaningful Life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated, or being perfect. It is about being real, being humble, being strong, and being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others. It is only then that we could have a full, happy and contented life.

When we try to make society better, we profit by making our own lives, as well as the lives of our friends and family, better. Without ethics, society would be a terrible place. When confronted with challenging situations, our ethics can guide us as humans in determining what is right and wrong and guide our behaviour in such situations.

The greatest benefit of being ethical is peace of mind. If you perform actions that morally correct or that you truly believe are at the time then you will have nothing to feel guilty about later and for your ethical behaviour no need to take extra stress. On the other hand, if you do something unethical and morally wrong you must always wonder if someone will discover you and you may end up losing your job and your reputation.

For me, being ethical means coexisting peacefully with people around us. It entails choosing to be as honest as possible (lies are unavoidable, but revealing the truth is always the preferable option), to offer happiness to others rather than take it away from them, and to help others instead of adding to their problems. Being ethical entails holding fast to your convictions and never letting avarice cause you to compromise them. Respecting others' differences with us and those around them entails this. Thus, ethics aims to instill in society a feeling of good and wrong, and frequently, when the law fails, it is ethics that may prevent harm to society or the environment.

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