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(Editorial)

Ethics & Society

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The English word "**ethics**" is derived from the ancient Greek word **ēthikós** (ἠθικός), meaning "relating to one's character", which itself comes from the root word **ēthos** (ἠθος) meaning "character, moral, nature".(1). This was borrowed into Latin as *ethica* and then into French as *éthique*, from which it was borrowed into English.

The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy states that the word "**ethics**" is "commonly used interchangeably with '**morality**' ... and sometimes it is used more narrowly to mean the moral principles of a particular tradition, group or individual (2). Ethics has an old historical background, as it is an important and applicable content and it plays an important role in social life of human being (3). According to the known history and human culture, it can be said that **Zoroaster** is the first who spoke about ethics and he advised on "**good words, good thoughts and good deeds**". The core of his speeches and thoughts was ethics. The role of **Zoroaster** in philosophical ethics was highlighted and followers of **Plato** compare him with Zoroaster. **Nietzsche** said that Zoroaster is the creator of ethics (4).

One of the most important documents related to codes of ethics was the statement of **Cyrus the**

Great (538 BC). This statement includes the following features: freedom, respect for human right, respect for all religious and cultures and safe-guarding human dignity. It can be "**the base of human rights in the world**" (4)

Greek philosophers had a clear role in developing ethics. **Socrates**, **Plato** and **Aristotle** were the teachers of ethics. The first book that was written in ethics was the **Nicomachean ethics** by Aristotle. In this book, Aristotle named human as a social animal that needs social communication with others. The most important part of this communication is "**ethics**" (5).

The German Philosopher, **Kant** (1724-1809) determined that the root of wisdom is in ethical action. He believed that ethics is an instruction that agreed with each wise man. Therefore, if a human being is ethical, it is equally wise and free, and the freedom of society depends on the existence of moral and rational people(6).

Literature available from scientists and philosophers on ethics can be the witness for importance of ethics in human society. How is the society without ethics?

Ignoring ethics has deadly effects on the body of society and the following effects can be pointed out:

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- First: Immorality prevalence reduces the level of happiness and life satisfaction in society. When individuals act to profit more immoral, they do not take into account the interests of others, who may be harmed by the immoral conduct. In this way, the interests of the majority are sacrificed for the benefit of the minority, and by creating a sense of dissatisfaction and failure in the majority, the society moves toward depression, anxiety and recession. The idea that ethics and happiness are related is not new. The fact that ethical behavior leads to increase of happiness, life satisfaction and, in general, the victimization of individuals is discussed by scientists and philosophers. There are sufficient evidence showing that happiness leads to ethical behaviors and it influences on all thoughts and judgments (7).
- Second: Breach of morality affects the level of trust among individuals. Trust is an important factor that affects all social relationships. Doubts and distrust among people can put society's economy at a serious challenge (8).
- Third: Ignoring law and the prevalence of lawlessness can be a negative consequence of ignoring morality. Ignoring law, explicit and implicit, endanger the health of society. It slows the development of society by influencing on social capital and it challenges achieving sustainable development (9).

Because of the importance of ethics in society a major in ethics is formed in human sciences. It concentrates on features of values and acquiring values and leaving unethical behaviors. It can be said that ethics is the science for considering values on human behaviors.

The position of science in respect to ethics is important and clear. Scientists and researchers of different domains pay more attention to ethics from different aspects. They aim is to develop

ethics in society. In the following table, different branches of ethics are classified and presented (4).

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Table1: Ethics & Society

Domain	subset
Social Sciences	1. Education and Promotion of Ethics 2. Ethics in Education 3. Ethics in/and Family 4. Ethics in School 5. Academic Ethics 6. Ethics in/and Community/Social Ethics 7. Ethics in Social and Public Behaviors 8. Sexual Ethics 9. Ethics and Human Rights 10. Ethics from Kindergarten 11. Ethics and Children's Rights 12. Ethics and Youth's Rights 13. Ethics and Women's Rights 14. Ethics and Elderly's Rights 15. Info-Ethics 16. Ethics and Media/-TV 17. Ethics in Writing and Publication 18. Ethics in "NBICS"
Philosophical Sciences	36. History of Ethics 37. Ethics in Advice Writing/-Written Oath 38. Ethics in/and Literature
Medical and Biological Sciences	41. Bioethics 42. Medical Ethics 43. Ethics in Medical Genetics 44. Ethics in Genetics (Cloning, GMO, Stem Cells, Gene Engineering, etc.) 45. Ethics in Gene therapy (IVF, PGD) 46. Ethics in Alternative Medicine/Traditional-/Herbal- 47. Ethics in Precision/ Personalized Medicine (Cardio-/ Onco-/Nutri-/Psychoassay) 48. Ethics in Health Administration/Health Care 49. Nursing Ethics
Engineering Sciences	59. Ethics in Science and Technology 60. Ethics in IT/-ICT/-Computing 61. Ethics in Research 62. Ethics in Engineering 63. Ethics in /and Industry
Ecological and Environmental Sciences	69. Environmental /Ecological Ethics 70. Ethics in/and Water Consumption/-Management 71. Ethics and Air Pollution 72. Ethics and Noise Pollution 73. Ethics and Wastes/-Wastes Management
Commercial & Economical Sciences	79. Ethics in Commerce and Business/Marketing 80. Ethics in/and Advertisement 81. Ethics in/and Globalization/Global Ethics 82. Ethics and Income Distribution
	19. Professional Ethics/Ethics and Professions 20. Ethics and Ethnicity/-Racism 21. Ethics in/and Planning/-Management 22. Ethics in Historiography 23. Ethics in/and Art 24. Ethics in/and Civilization 25. Ethics and Archeology/-Cultural Heritage 26. Ethics and Law 27. Ethics in/and Governance 28. Ethics and Politics 29. Ethics and Police 30. Ethics in/and Militarism/-War 31. Ethics in/and Justice/-Judgment 32. Ethics in/and Amusements and Hobbies 33. Ethics in Cultural Diversity 34. Ethics and Migration/-Brain Drain 35. Ethics in Cyberspace
	39. Philosophical Ethics/Philosophy of Ethics 40. Ethics in/and Religion
	50. Ethics in Exceptional Education/and Disability 51. Ethics and Infectious/Communicable Diseases (AIDS) 52. Ethics in/and Mental Health 53. Ethics in Sport
	54. Ethics in Food Consumption/-Industry/-Technology 55. Ethics and Pharmaceutical Industry/Pharmacoethics 56. Ethics in Animal Welfare/-Rights/-Diversity
	57. Ethics in Death's Domain/End of Life 58. Ethics in Sexual Medicine
	64. Ethics in Sustainable Development 65. Ethics in Nuclear Energy/-Technology 66. Ethics in Robotic Technologies/Sciences 67. Ethics in Artificial Intelligence 68. Cosmo Ethics
	74. Ethics and Natural Resources 75. Ethics in/and Mine Consumption/-Mine Management 76. Ethics in/and Disaster Management 77. Ethics in Agriculture/-Plant Diversity 78. Ethics in/and Forestry
	83. Ethics in/and Social Capital 84. Ethics and Insurance 85. Ethics in/and Banking