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

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