

ETHICS

At the end of this lesson, students are going to learn:

- What is meant by ethics?
- The Topic of ethics.
- Major areas of ethics.
- The importance of ethics.
- Values and ethics.
- What is meant by Deontology?
- Education and ethics.
- What are the main ethical principles?
- Teacher's values and ethical principles.

1. What is meant by ethics?

Ethics, also called **moral philosophy**, is the discipline concerned with what is morally good and bad and morally right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of moral values or principles. The English word ethics is derived from the Greek word *ēthikós*, meaning "relating to one's character", which itself comes from the root word "ethos", which means "character, way of living", ethics is a branch of philosophy that is concerned with human conduct, more specifically the behaviour of individuals in society.

According to Meriam Webster, Ethics is a system of moral principles: the ethics of a culture. The rules of conduct recognized with respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.: medical ethics...

2. The Topic of ethics:

Its subject consists of the fundamental issues of practical decision-making, and its major concerns include the nature of ultimate value and the standards by which human actions can be judged right or wrong. The terms *ethics* and morality are closely related. It is now common to refer to ethical judgments or to ethical principles where it once would have been more accurate to speak of moral judgments or moral principles. Ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, and justice and crime.

Ethics covers the following dilemmas: how to live a good life, our rights and responsibilities, the language of right and wrong and moral decisions - what is good and bad?

3. Major areas of ethics:

Three major areas of study within ethics recognized today are:

1. **Meta-ethics**: it asks how we understand, know about, and what we mean when we talk about what is right and what is wrong.
2. **Normative ethics**: is the study of ethical action. It investigates the set of questions that arise when considering how one ought to act, morally speaking.
3. **Applied ethics** attempts to apply ethical theory to real-life situations. It concerns what a person is obligated (or permitted) to do in a specific situation or a particular domain of action

4. The Importance of Ethics:

Ethics is important because of the following: Satisfying Basic Human Needs, Creating Credibility, Uniting People and Leadership, Improving Decision Making, Long-Term Gains, Securing the Society, Ethics is a key element of any profession.

5. Values and ethics:

Values and ethics represent what most of us put into practice through our actions every day. Our values, what seems desirable to us, what is important to us, what we esteem and seek to achieve, are thus reflected in what we do every day.” That is why it is important to understand that values and ethics provide a framework for decision-making and leadership. This understanding is even more important insofar as we believe, that a code of ethics and the accompanying rules are not the only components likely to promote values and ethics.

6. Deontology:

Deontological ethics or deontology (from Greek *deon*, "obligation, duty") is an approach to ethics that determines goodness or rightness from examining acts or the rules and duties that the person doing the act strove to fulfil.

7. Education and ethics:

Ethics has an important place in all areas of life. Education is also a fundamental process of human life. Therefore, in education ethics has a very important and effective role. In order to be a good human, ethics should be placed as a course in the educational system. Ethics are interpreted as the discipline of dealing with good and bad with commitment and moral duty. Ethics are well-established levels that make the measures right and wrong. It is classified as unique values such as integrity and discipline, Honesty amid others and applies them in daily routines. Ethics impacts behaviour and permits an individual to make the right options.

Ethics in Education are important because they assist to run the system smoothly. Ethics sets the standards of what's acceptable and what's not, therefore, protecting the interest of both teachers and students. Most people learn ethical norms at home, at school, or in other social settings. Most societies also have legal rules that govern behaviour, but ethical norms tend to be broader and more informal than laws.

Teaching ethics has an important and necessary place in education. Students who graduated from universities may be well-educated persons in their professions but it is not enough. Aristotle also says, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

8. Ethical Principles

/Honesty/ Objectivity/ Integrity /Carefulness /Openness/ Transparency/ Accountability/ Confidentiality
Respect for Colleagues/ Social Responsibility/ Legality

1. Teacher's values and ethical principles

The core of teaching consists of four basic values: dignity, truthfulness, fairness and responsibility & freedom. All teaching is founded on ethics – whether it be the teacher-student relationship, pluralism or a teacher's relationship with their work. Teachers are entitled to their own **values**, but in their work, teachers' responsibility is tied to their basic task and their standards such as legislation and the curriculum.