

Date: 06.12.2022

NATURE OF ETHICS

CC-6

Semester -III

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NATURE OF ETHICS

Introduction

Definition of Ethics

Nature of Ethics

Scope of Ethics

Answers to check your progress

Possible Questions

Introduction

- ▶ Why be moral?
- ▶ How moral can we be in a non-ideal world?
- ▶ Are we moral by nature?
- ▶ Are moral judgments true?
- ▶ Such questions cannot be avoided when we confront the problems of life particularly in a non-moral world.

Definition of Ethics

- ▶ The word “ethics” is derived from the Greek word ethos (character), and from the Latin word ‘mores’ (customs).
- ▶ Derived from the Greek word “ethos”, which means “way of living”, ethics is a branch of philosophy that is concerned with human conduct.

Definition of Ethics

- ▶ Ethics consists in a code of conduct of human beings living in a society. Ethics examines the rational justification for our moral judgments; it studies what is morally right or wrong, just or unjust.
- ▶ Ethics is an attempt to guide human conduct and it is also an attempt to help man in leading good life by applying moral principles.

Definition of Ethics

- ▶ Ethics refers to well based standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues.
- ▶ It is also defined as the science of the highest good.
- ▶ Mackenzie defines ethics as “the study of what is right or good in human conduct” or the “science of the ideal involved in human life”.
- ▶ it is clear that ethics is the study which determines rightness or wrongness of actions.

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NATURE OF ETHICS

- ▶ Ethics aims at systematic knowledge. It is a science concerned with a specific sphere of nature, dealing with judgments about human conduct. Ethics systematically explains the rightness or wrongness of actions in light of the highest Good of man.

NATURE OF ETHICS

- ▶ Ethics is a normative science focused on what ought to be done rather than what is the case. Unlike positive science, which deals with facts and does not judge its objects, ethics deals with values and judgments of value. Thus, ethics is a normative science, not a positive science.

NATURE OF ETHICS

- ▶ Ethics is not a practical science. While practical science deals with means to achieve an end or ideal, teaching how to do things, ethics does not teach how to live a moral life. It is not concerned with means to achieve moral ideals like rightness or goodness. Therefore, ethics cannot be regarded as a practical science. Additionally, ethics is not an art as it does not teach the art of leading a moral life.

NATURE OF ETHICS

- ▶ A norm or ideal in ethics is a regulatory principle guiding thought and action. Ethics, as a science of values, identifies forms of conduct characterized by "oughtness." There are no clear boundaries between science and philosophy, descriptive science and normative science, or between ethics and philosophy.



**THANK
YOU**