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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* (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 devel-

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

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**Table1:** Ethics & Society

| <b>Domain</b>                              | <b>subset</b>  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 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 Hobbies               |
|  | 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                               |
|  | Philosophical Sciences   | 36. History 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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