



## *THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS/ MORAL PHILOSOPHY*

Human beings have evolved to be a highly sophisticated social animal species. The complexity and variedness of human social life and interpersonal relationships needs much consideration. Such a diverse nature of human interaction can and often does cause confusion, clashes and chaos in the absence of a defined way of proceeding, a set of rules or a fixed way of conduct. The possibility of interpersonal human interaction makes it necessary to have a standard for human behaviour and conduct so that there is order, convenience and protection of every individual's rights and dignity. This system of moral principles or rules of behaviour/action can roughly be called as Ethic. Ethics on the other hand refers to the study of human customs and conducts that are proper to a person as a human person.

Ethics as a science has its roots in the fact that as human beings we can and do make distinction between what is good/right and bad/wrong. The content of good/right actions and bad/wrong action may vary across groups, cultures or regions, but the distinction remains. Ethics involves systematized valuing of human behaviour as good/bad or right/wrong. It is a normative science. It lays down norms for human conduct proper to a human person. This involves both theoretical study and practical application. Ethics aims at establishing 'what ought to be', namely human conduct. What is taken into consideration is the 'Human Act', an action taken consciously, deliberately with full knowledge under circumstances that allow freedom. Thus human being can be held responsible for these acts. This plays an important role especially in the court of law and the judiciary system. Ethics also has an overall hold over almost every aspect of human life- religion, politics, business, health care, education, law and social life. Therefore study of ethics/ moral philosophy becomes very important. Without a moral order there would be utter chaos and confusion. Each one would do what he/she wants irrespective of how it may affect the other person. Such a world is surely beyond our imagination.

The content and subjectivity of ethics/ moral philosophy still remains debatable. For instance, is abortion right/ wrong? Is same-sex marriage right/ wrong? Is euthanasia good/ bad? These questions have been in the debate for long. Some have made a choice either way and others continue to grapple with the questions. However there are certain true and absolute morals that arise from the human conscience and cannot be ignored or doubted. For instance, the 'wrongness' of murder, rape, theft, etc. They form the basis for ethics/ moral philosophy without which humanity would be crippled. Therefore ethics/ moral philosophy is very important.