



## International Journal of Ethics & Society (IJES)

Journal homepage: [www.ijethics.com](http://www.ijethics.com)

Vol. 1, No. 1 (2019)

(Editorial)

### Ethics & Society

Darius D. Farhud

*School of Public Health, Tebran University of Medical Sciences, Tebran, Iran  
Dept. of Basic Sciences/Ethics, Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, Tebran, Iran  
Ethics Committee on Genetics, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland  
World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy*

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:

Corresponding Author: Email: [akhlagh\\_drfarhood@yahoo.com](mailto:akhlagh_drfarhood@yahoo.com)

Received: 11 Apr 2018

Accepted: 27 Jun 2018

- ≠ 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).

## References

1. Liddell HG, Scott R (2013). *An intermediate Greek-English lexicon*. Martino Fine Books, USA.
2. Audi R (1999). *The Cambridge dictionary of philosophy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Cambridge University Press, New York.
3. Farhud DD as Contributor (1995). *Guidelines on ethical issues in medical genetics and the provision of genetic services*. Blue Book, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland.
4. Farhud DD (2007). History of ethics and review of ethical implications in different domains. *Iranian J Ethics in Science & Technology*, 2(1,2): 1-6. (In Persian).
5. Aristotle. (350 BC). *Nicomachean ethics*. Ross WD. (1999). Available at: [www.efm.bris.ac.uk/aristotle/ethics.pdf](http://www.efm.bris.ac.uk/aristotle/ethics.pdf). Accessed: 6 Apr 2014.
6. Farhud DD (2013). Adherence to principles of professional ethics in traditional professions, new professions and governmental professions. *Iranian J Ethics in Science & Technology*, 8 (1): 1-4. (In Persian).
7. Malmir M, Khanahmad M, Farhud DD (2014). Are happier people more ethical? *Iranian J Ethics in Science & Technology*, 9(2): 1-9. (In Persian).
8. Arun M (2011). Ethics and trust in society and business. Available at: <https://www.global-economic-symposium.org>. Accessed: 28 Oct 2018
9. Salamat MR (2016). Ethics of sustainable development: the moral imperative for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Natural Resources Forum*, 40: 3-5.

**Table1: Ethics & Society**

Domain	subset
Social Sciences	1. Education and Promotion of Ethics
	2. Ethics in Education
	3. Ethics in/and Family
	4. Ethics in School
	5. Academic Ethics
	6. Ethics in/and Community/Social Ethics
	7. Ethics in Social and Public Behaviors
	8. Sexual Ethics
	9. Ethics and Human Rights
	10. Ethics from Kindergarten
	11. Ethics and Children's Rights
	12. Ethics and Youth's Rights
	13. Ethics and Women's Rights
	14. Ethics and Elderly's Rights
	15. Info-Ethics
	16. Ethics and Media/-TV
	17. Ethics in Writing and Publication
	18. Ethics in "NBICS"
Philosophical Sciences	36. History of Ethics
	37. Ethics in Advice Writing/-Written Oath
Medical and Biological Sciences	41. Bioethics
	42. Medical Ethics
Engineering Sciences	43. Ethics in Medical Genetics
	44. Ethics in Genetics (Cloning, GMO, Stem Cells, Gene Engineering, etc.)
	45. Ethics in Gene therapy (IVF, PGD)
	46. Ethics in Alternative Medicine/Traditional/Herbal-
	47. Ethics in Precision/ Personalized Medicine (Cardio-/ Onco-/Nutri-/Psychoassay)
	48. Ethics in Health Administration/Health Care
	49. Nursing Ethics
	59. Ethics in Science and Technology
	60. Ethics in IT/-ICT/-Computing
	61. Ethics in Research
Ecological and Environmental Sciences	62. Ethics in Engineering
	63. Ethics in /and Industry
	69. Environmental /Ecological Ethics
	70. Ethics in/and Water Consumption/-Management
	71. Ethics and Air Pollution
Commercial & Economical Sciences	72. Ethics and Noise Pollution
	73. Ethics and Wastes/-Wastes Management
	79. Ethics in Commerce and Business/Marketing
	80. Ethics in/and Advertisement
	81. Ethics in/and Globalization/Global Ethics
	19. Professional Ethics/Ethics and Professions
	20. Ethics and Ethnicity/-Racism
	21. Ethics in/and Planning/-Management
	22. Ethics in Historiography
	23. Ethics in/and Art
	24. Ethics in/and Civilization
	25. Ethics and Archeology/-Cultural Heritage
	26. Ethics and Law
	27. Ethics in/and Governance
	28. Ethics and Politics
	29. Ethics and Police
	30. Ethics in/and Militarism/-War
	31. Ethics in/and Justice/-Judgment
	32. Ethics in/and Amusements and Hobbies
	33. Ethics in Cultural Diversity
34. Ethics and Migration/-Brain Drain	
35. Ethics in Cyberspace	
	39. Philosophical Ethics/Philosophy of Ethics
	40. Ethics in/and Religion
	50. Ethics in Exceptional Education/and Disability
	51. Ethics and Infectious/Communicable Diseases (AIDS)
	52. Ethics in/and Mental Health
	53. Ethics in Sport
	54. Ethics in Food Consumption/-Industry/-Technology
	55. Ethics and Pharmaceutical Industry/Pharmacoethics
	56. Ethics in Animal Welfare/-Rights/-Diversity
	57. Ethics in Death's Domain/End of Life
58. Ethics in Sexual Medicine	
	64. Ethics in Sustainable Development
	65. Ethics in Nuclear Energy/-Technology
	66. Ethics in Robotic Technologies/Sciences
	67. Ethics in Artificial Intelligence
	68. Cosmo Ethics
	74. Ethics and Natural Resources
	75. Ethics in/and Mine Consumption/-Mine Management
	76. Ethics in/and Disaster Management
77. Ethics in Agriculture/-Plant Diversity	
	78. Ethics in/and Forestry
	83. Ethics in/and Social Capital
	84. Ethics and Insurance
	85. Ethics in/and Banking