

Philosophy  
4th Semester

Ability Enhancement Course

PAISSECO2M (Business Ethics)

What is Ethics?

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct. It is a discipline that sets up criteria for 'good' and 'bad' behaviour or actions, and to evaluate the motives for these actions and the consequences.

Nature of Ethics

Ethics has some common features:—

- (i) Ethics has its roots in the individual values called as moral values and collective values also called as social values.
- (ii) Ethics is a study under social science.
- (iii) Ethics is a normative science.

The term normative implies a guide or conduct of action. So, normative ethics ~~tells~~ tells us what we ought to do.

(iv) ~~Ethics~~ Ethics deals with human conduct that is voluntary and not found formed naturally by any person or his circumstances.

(v) Ethics leads to Coexistence and smooth functioning of a system, hence it has to be enforced to a person and is not in-born as morality.

(vi) Ethics of a system, (like organisation, institution or group) helps in forming its code of conduct which in turn dictates the expected behaviour of the individuals involved in it.

(vii) Ethics is learned behaviour. Individuals need to be informed, educated, guided and motivated so that they follow the ethical norms with its true spirit.

(viii) Ethical values may change with time and environmental conditions.