

# Basic Notions

## Introduction

Morality, ethics and ethics are fundamental topics for practice and academic life. We integrate these words into fashion as ethical, moral or ethical, without always knowing what is behind these words which, in some cases, may seem synonymous. In order to clarify these expressions, we need to go through the definition stage. At the end of this chapter, the learners will be able to:

- Define the different notions of ethics and ethics
- Know the distinction between these concepts
- Integrate these concepts into the academic community

## Definitions

### 1. Moral:

Morality is the science of good and evil, it is considered a theory relating to human conduct as it has the good for purpose. It also refers to the customs, habits and rules of conduct accepted and practiced by society as belonging to the property. It also refers to institutions that enable a society to achieve its objectives, in particular to legal or quasi-legal institutions. Moral discourse is usually imprescriptive.

### Morality has several sources among which we can mention:

- **Religion:** Texts of the Book of Saint (Quran);
- **Consciousness:** It is my conscience that tells me what is good or bad.
- **The sense of duty:** Accomplishing the good or seeking it is, above all, a duty.
- **The reason:** Philosophical sense;
- **The sense of respect:** Interpersonal relationships should be governed by respect;
- **Justice:** We are all born equal in law, in other words, there is only one rule that applies to all. But these rules are not necessarily legislative in nature.
- **The virtue:** Virtue is proper to the character of the person, to his identity. A good person, a virtuous person will accomplish good things.

## 2. Ethics:

Ethics can be distinguished from morality understood as the activity of choosing and deciding, judging, justifying, and defending conduct, while ethics studies how moral choices should be made.

### Description of Ethics:

- Art of directing human conduct, taking into account, in conscience, the values at play.
- • It also refers to the product of a reflection on values in order to criticize them, to renew them, and this to the extent of the changes that daily life brings out.
- • Ethics is an approach aimed at a given problem to adopt the best solution based on values learned, accepted and integrated and taking into account the context in which the problem is currently arising. Which relates to morality. Discipline of philosophy which has as its object the moral principles guiding the conduct of an individual, of a group.
- • Currently ethics refers to a specialized sectoral morality in one field:
- Ecological ethics (respect for nature);
- • Biomedical ethics;
- • The Ethics of War;
- Ethics of business.
- • Applied ethics affect the different areas of life:
- Professional Ethics;
- • Organizational ethics;
- • Environmental Ethics;
- • Social Ethics;
- • Political Ethics.

## 3. Ethics "Theory of Duty":

Ethics (this word comes from the Greek deon, deontos the duty and logos the discourse), is the theory of moral duties and the set of rules of conduct that man must respect with regard to society in general. In a less technical sense, and more widespread today, it refers to the set of duties imposed on professionals by the exercise of their profession. This set of assignments can be formalized by the governing bodies or representative bodies of a profession in the form of a code.

- It is necessary to distinguish between morality, which refers to morals as they are practiced and the notion of ethics, which is the concern to found a morality, which refers rather to theory, rules and principles.
  - While morality defines general principles or laws, ethics is an individual provision to act according to the virtues, in order to seek the right decision in a given situation. Morality does not incorporate the constraints of the situation. Morality ignores nuance, it is binary. Ethics admits discussion, argumentation, paradoxes.

#### 4. The right:

Law is distinguished from morality and ethics in the sense that it is not pronounced on the value of acts, good/evil, good or bad, and defines only what is permitted and defended by power in a given society.

- Each person must know the purpose and mission of his function in the organization.

To summarize :

**Moral:** what society deems good

**Ethics:** what I think is good

**Ethics:** what the profession imposes on me

**Law:** what the law defines as a permit or defended

#### Distinction between different concepts

- The question of the distinction between morality, ethics and ethics is essential because it questions precisely the problems of the world of work, studies, research. So this distinction seems emblematic to us, and it is often missed and/or mishandled.

#### Distinction between Ethics and Moral

- Etymologically there is no difference between ethics and moral. Indeed the word morality comes from the Latin word “mores” and the word ethics comes from the Greek word ‘ethos’ which both mean “mothers” or behavior of morals. Yet in the common language, namely scientific, social or political. Rather, morality has a religious connotation and ethics has a rather scientific connotation.

- We can note the following differences between ethics and morals:

### Ethics

- To a secular connotation,
- It starts from our interior,
- It empowers us,
- It is discernment and enlightened judgment
- It is judged on a case-by-case basis

### Morality

- To a religious connotation,
- It is outside the individual,
- She challenges us with authority,
- It is an absolute reference

### Ethical-moral interaction

- As mentioned above, a morality is obviously to subscribe to ancestral values and is always the subject of a renegotiation and discussion. Indeed no religious or no one acts as he was present at the time of writing or the birth of his religion, so he adapts his deduced morality from his religion to contemporary problems. This is why rules of ethics are incorporated into presupposed religious issues.
- For ethics, when we bring together people from ethics committees, these people have moral convictions, that even if they discuss with impartiality they are still animated by a moral.

### Distinction between ethics and ethics

- The word ethics refers to all duties and obligations imposed on members of an order or professional association. Like the rules of law, the ethical rules apply identically to all members of the group, in all situations of practice. An authority is responsible for enforcing

them and imposing sanctions in the event of a derogation. Ethics, on the contrary, invites the professional to reflect on the values that motivate his action and to choose, on this basis, the most appropriate conduct.

## Conclusion

- In recent years, the debate on ethics and ethics has invaded the university space.
- It has become necessary to introduce these notions within the university family and especially to clarify them in order to make them assimilate to the different stakeholders
- Ethical reflection is a question about acts and abstentions.  
Morality governs acts and abstentions, but also intentions even if they remain in the hidden state. Ethics guides acts and abstentions.