



Lacking of Values in Today's World Lacking of Values in Today's World: Profession Without Ethics

SAGAR ANILBHAI GANDHI
21-B, Tagor Nagar Society,
B/H Civil Court, Navsari

Abstract:

Morality and Ethics are of fundamental importance in human life. Human beings have a natural understanding of morality and ethics. It is the ethical standard that makes man beautiful; And if there is no ethical standard, man becomes inferior to animals. Every member of the world, individual and society value the ethics and accepts its relevance. To define Ethics is quite broad process. People of religious and non-religious thought present it from different perspectives. But there is one thing in common about ethics that everyone in the world believes in, which we call Basic Human Morality. That is to say, truthfulness, honesty, integrity etc. There are many such values which man believes in as a human being. It doesn't matter if you are religious or not. Despite the importance of ethics, when we take a look at the society, the society seems to be completely careless in this regard. We no longer value ethics and moral values in various sections of society such as the political, economic and educational spheres. For now, we will only discuss the lack of ethics in profession and its consequences.

Family and society as well as education play an important role in shaping and grooming a person. The person who is given the proper education and the goal that moves towards the productive direction and plays important role to bring integrity in any profession. That is why one of the goals of our education system should be to make a good person with good profession ethics. And that is possible only when our education policy gives priority to ethics. The current academic areas and professional areas lack this. Can an ideal society be achieved only by researching things through science and mastering technology? Not really. The events that take place around us and the occasional news on TV and in the newspapers are a clear indication that the status of living can be improved by raising the level of education, but no society has become a cradle of justice and peace until then. Unless the individual has moral values and an environment is created in the society to accelerate and develop moral education. In fact, adhering to moral and ethical values is not an action that is completed in a certain time, but it is an ongoing process. Man has to avoid immorality at social as well as professional sphere till the last breath of his life. But this survival concern is the age at which we have to teach to everyone what we call childhood.

Keywords: Profession, Ethics, Morality, Values

1. Preface

According to Raka Bhattacharyya in his article 'Ethics in Profession: To Be or Not to Be That Is the Question'

"The search for something permanent is one of the deepest of the instincts leading men to philosophy"
– Bertrand Russell

The transformation of academics into profession and academicians into professional has gap of understanding. The reason behind that gap is when knowledge and values confined into the classrooms and institutes, the academicians bother about their execution and accomplishment. But the same knowledge when goes for the outer world the professional becomes the primary stakeholders of those values. Professionalism and ethics are key factors in a job setting. These two aspects work hand in hand. Education is also not a different case. Ethics seeks to evaluate deeply on moral aspects. It entails the practices that the human resources carry out in an establishment. It incorporates good values, code of conduct, moral values, principles and virtues. The ethics enable one to outlay professionalism in undertaking the good and productive career.

Ethical standards in profession help in proficiency and comprehending problems encountered in this field. Ethics assists one to know the good and bad sides of a person in a working setting. Professional ethics is the codes of standard applied in the field of any profession. In accordance with the modern advancement in professional sectors, one needs to uphold a high moral standard in terms of principles and practices. It concentrates on doing the right action without inconveniencing others. In every professional sector, one needs guidelines that propel him or her to succeed in career. The guidelines are set of values that give the ability to make correct choices, decisions and actions.

In the workplace the relationship among co-workers and co-employees in the organization or institute depends heavily on ethics. The professionals tactfully apply the code of ethics to tackle problems encountered in the field. They should offer a high standard of code of conduct and behavior. They should work towards achieving set objective as part of strengthening various skills related to particular profession.

Moreover, moral and ethical issues may arise at certain times in organization or institute. This will require one to apply professionalism and philosophical ethics to tackle such issues. Lack of ethics and moral conscious lead to many negative aspects in any profession. Lack of ethics is the very responsible reason for devastated consequences into any profession. And specially the professions related to service sector need the strong foundation of ethical standard into the employee as service sector is directly affect the human society.

2. What is Value?

Hodgkinson defines morality as following:

‘A value is a concept of the desirable with motivating force.’ (M. Karthikeyan, Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Defining the term value is one of the most difficult concepts in ethics because it can be defined from various perspectives, that is, philosophical, sociological, psychological and so on. Though values are indefinable, they are not unintelligible. It can be defined by pointing out an instance or it can be with regards to an object of interest, it can be seen as a process of realization, it can also be seen as judgements on objects which are verifiable by experience.

Rokeach defines values as ‘Values are beliefs about how one ought or ought not to behave, or about some state of existence worth or not worth attaining. Values are abstract ideals, positive or negative, that represent a person’s belief about ideal modes of conduct and ideal terminal goals.’ (M. Karthikeyan, Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Values are generally learnt in the process of socialization right from his/her childhood, and though internalization of values happens throughout our lifetime, it is more rapid in the early stages. Experience one gains transforms into values.

In professional fields, values are important because an individual's behavior is definitely conditioned largely to the values he or she has internalized. Values help to determine whether an employee is passionate about work and the workplace, which in turn can lead to above-average return, high employee satisfaction, strong team dynamics and synergy. Values are usually shaped by many different internal and external influences, including family, traditions, culture and recently media and internet. A person will filter all these influences and meld them into a unique value set that may differ from the values sets of others in the same culture.

3. What is Morality?

Charles Colson defines morality as following:

'Morality describes what is. Ethics describes what ought to be.' (M. Karthikeyan, Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

The word morality is derived from the Latin word *moralis*, meaning traditional customs or proper behavior. These morals are given out by the society at large, or a particular community, or might have religious sanction, or even exist within one's family. Thus, these morals judge the actions of individuals whether they are right or wrong, and if it goes against the existing morals, it is termed as immoral. Morals can be defined in accordance with individual's behavior.

In short, morals are the set of principles associated with person's conduct and behavior with the society and community. Morality is the recognition of that structure of principles based on which the person deals the world and response to the world. Morality is the foundation based on which person's ethical self has been developed. Morality guides the person to choose right and wrong. Virtue and vices etc. Morality becomes most important concept with regards to ethics in profession because profession without morality is just a job for salary and not to attain integrity for duties. Without morality person considers profession as only one of means to earn money while the presence of morality makes the person realize about the cultivation of various humanistic and universal values to make the life prosperous.

4. What is Ethics?

In a broad sense, ethics the study of what is right and wrong in human behavior. Ethics is the set of beliefs about what is morally correct or acceptable.

Mackenzie defines ethics as following:

"Ethics is the study of what is right or wrong in human conduct or the science of the ideal involved in human life." (M. Karthikeyan, Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Theodore Roosevelt said 'to educate a man in mind, but not in morals is to create a menace to society. (M. Karthikeyan, Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Ethics as the science of morality criticizes vague and sometimes inaccurate, popular notions of right and wrong, vice or virtue. Ethics exposes the defects and inconsistencies of customs and usage of social, political and religious institutions, and gives us a real insight into the nature of the moral ideal. Ethics teaches us how important is morality not only by exposing the errors but by criticizing those erroneous notions. It also prepares oneself to move forward constructively; it helps us to separate essential from non-essential, the spirit from the form, constant from temporary and thereby helps us to distinguish right from wrong, virtue from vice and benefits from harm.

Nearly all people acknowledge the importance of ethics. Unfortunately, very few really understand ethics as well as they think they do or as well as they should. Ethics can be meaningfully discussed and

applied only when it is fully understood. This understanding requires a periodic revisiting of the basics. So;

Ethics is about right and wrong.

Ethics is about virtue and vice.

Ethics is about benefit and harm.

While ethics encompasses all of the above, it is more simply about ‘fixed, universal rule of right conduct that are contingent on neither time nor culture nor circumstance. And yet, it is also about character, ‘the traits, qualities, and established reputation that define who one is and what one stands for in the eyes of other’. Lastly, it is about example, ‘an established pattern of conduct worthy of emulation’.

5. What is Profession?

The typical profession involves technical, specialized and highly skilled work. In a profession, members achieve employment and success based on merit and corresponding voluntary relationships rather than on corrupted ideals such as social principles, mandated support, or extortion.

According to Cambridge Dictionary (2022) Profession can be defined as ‘any type of work that needs special training or a particular skill, often one that is respected because it involves a high level of education’.

A profession is a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards and who hold themselves out as, and are accepted by the public as possessing special knowledge and skills widely recognized body of learning derived from research, education and training. Any profession needs an individual with certain kinds of capabilities to attain several types of work assigned to him or her associated with that particular profession. There are various significant qualities that every professional individual should develop. Such qualities in collective form give a birth to the concept of ‘professionalism’.

Professionalism involves a good behavior in an ethical manner while assuming and fulfilling your rightful responsibilities in every situation without fail. To get a bit more granular, one can say that it means, in part, conducting your affairs in such a way as to engender trust and confidence in every aspect of your work. It means having the requisite ability to be worthy of the confidence other place in you. It means having already made the right choices so that you attract the right sort of working environment and stakeholders. That can help to work under good circumstances rather than having to continually make the best of bad circumstances and take whatever is tossed your way, regards of its quality. Good and prosperous virtues, best moral values, ethical standards and good code of conduct make the person more capable, productive and authentic in any profession.

6. Profession without Ethics in Current Scenario

21st century is the century of knowledge and advancement of new technologies. Such advancement supplements the overall growth into the all types of professions and employment sectors. Moreover, virtues and vices, values and flaws, good and evil are the two sides of one coin. We can’t ignore the darkness hidden into the light. Lacking of ethics is that darkness hidden into the advancement and constructive growth.

Professionals associated with any sectors of employment in India are becoming more objective towards the personal profit due to the diverse impact of corruption, malpractices and subjugated behavior of all the stakeholders. People in the modern age are affected from the capitalism and materialism, such trends have two kinds of impacts, positive and negative, however, we may find the

negative impact of such trends with regards to the conservation of traditional values and moral practices.

Corruption is one of very sensitive issue that hinders the overall growth of any nation or any community. Corruption becomes very sensitive issue on which everyone should have to think about for reformation in society. In professional fields, corruption is the negative outcome of lacking of values, morals and ethics. Profession without ethics and morals becomes merely a mean to earn money for the survival of life. Profession with the standardize ethics leads a person towards most prosperous life with internal peace and satisfaction. Loss of ethics in professions may create various kinds for mental, financial, personal and social difficulties which are the very result of person's own ignorance towards the ethical standards in life.

So, ethics becomes the vital component to be successful in any occupation and to sustain the constructive standards of professionalism.

7. Role of Education to Inculcate Ethics

Inclusion of value education into the curriculum is becomes the need of the hour in current time as the entire world is passing through the chaos of pandemics, wars and economic degradation where the balance of ethical modes become the important pillar to survive.

John Dewey defines values in education as;

“Value means primarily to prize, to esteem, to appraise and to estimate. It means the act of achieving something, holding it and also the act of passing judgement upon the nature and number of values as compared with something else.” (George Varghese, www.slideshare.net.)

Education plays vital role to inculcate the values into the human beings which have been further reflect into the professional career of the person. Education helps to attain the values which allow the individuals to interact harmoniously with others. Education provides the foundation to attain the values to guide the behaviors and establish best identity as individual. Education is the medium through which person can recognize own's role into the community, society and nation. Though the various subjects, learners can learn certain kinds of values such as aesthetic values, personal values, social values, moral values, spiritual values, behavioral values and materialistic values.

Education is the very sublime foundation to inculcate essential ethics into the learners so that they can promotes best moral conduct into the professional fields. Education allows one to recognize Indian ethics and values such as truth, beauty, goodness, spirituality, simplicity, tolerance, pursuit of truth and non-violence.

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