

**UG SEMESTER : IV**  
**MJC-06: WESTERN ETHICS**  
**TOPIC - SCOPES OF ETHICS**

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# Scope of Ethics

The scope of ethics range of its subject-matter.

- 1) Moral quality  $\Rightarrow$  Ethics is the Science of morality of conduct. It deals with the meaning of moral qualities such as right or wrong, good or bad. The right and good are the most fundamental of all moral concepts.
- 2) Moral Standard or Ideal  $\rightarrow$  The fundamental problem of ethics is the moral standard with reference to which we pass moral judgements. It answers the question: what is good? Good? or the moral Ideal? what is the Summum bonum of life? what is the good in all good acts? But though ethics investigates the nature of the moral ideal, or the good, it does not formulate rules for the realization of the moral ideal.
- 3) Ethical Method  $\rightarrow$  every judgement has its own method known as methodology. ethics has both scientific and philosophical method.
- 4) Motive and Intention  $\rightarrow$  ethics enquires into the springs of action, motive, intentions and volitional actions, only to pass moral judgements upon them.
- 5) Moral judgement - ethics is concerned with the nature, object, faculty, and standard of moral judgements. Moral judgement is the judgement of value as distinguished from the judgement of fact. Moral judgement is the mental act of discerning and pronouncing on particular action to be right or wrong.
- 6) Moral Sentiments  $\rightarrow$  Moral sentiments are also discussed in the ethics. ~~ethics has to~~ in relation to moral judgement. Moral sentiments such as the feelings of approval and disapproval, remorse and the like comes under the scope of ethics.



Duty and Moral obligation - Moral judgements are also accompanied by the sense of duty, 'oughtness' or moral obligation. When we perceive an act to be right, we feel under a moral obligation to do it and vice-versa. Duty and moral obligation are also the fundamental notion of ethics. The consciousness of duty or moral obligation are related to the thought of good or bad, right or wrong. Thus, to discuss what is the nature of moral obligation? what is the origin of moral obligation? what is the source of moral obligation? To whom are we responsible for our conduct? comes under its scope.

Freedom of Will - Ethics assumes the freedom of the will. It discusses the nature of human freedom. We are responsible for our actions.

Reward and Punishment - Ethics deals with the idea of Reward and Punishment. If we do virtuous act we are must rewarded for that whereas criminals are responsible for their bad conduct, so, they ought to be punished. Ethics gives the moral justification for punishment.

Though Ethics has a scope of its own, yet it is not entirely divorced from all other departments of study. It has indirectly to treat of several problems which are psychological, philosophical, sociological, and political in nature.

## The End of Ethics

The end of ethics is to define the nature of the highest good of man as a member of society. It investigates the nature of the *Summum Bonum* which is the highest personal good and the highest social good. It is the root of all moral distinctions. This notion of rightness and wrongness of conduct are derived from it. This is the theoretical aim of ethics.