



MAD – 2020

Day – 8

Ethics

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Question

"Relativity applies to physics, not ethics" Do you agree? Justify.

Answer:

- **Ethical relativism** is the most prevalent philosophical sub discipline. Ethical relativism represents that there is no moral right or wrong, asserting that morals evolve and change with social norms over a period of time. But Albert Einstein does not adhere to the same school of thought and simply refers that the regard less of time and place, irrespective of a person's cultural context, societal environment, and personal upbringing; there are some things that retain their moral value.

Is Ethical Relativism – Valid?

- Certain Basic Ethics– Might or might not be the same!
- Change in Social Norms – Might or might not lead to change in Ethics!

Most Important Factor Influencing Ethical Relativism:

1. The Idea of Ethics are absolutely dependent on the following:
 - Human Intent as a Group or Society
 - Social Setting
 - Expected Output

The Idea of Basic Ethics:

- The concept of Ethics has always found its origin in morals, values and majorly the norms of society, so the concept of Basic Ethics signifying values such as honesty, empathy, trustworthiness etc. are same for all the societies without any change. But the application of the same would definitely depend on the individual as a part of Society and the output expected with the same.

Example

- Ideas of Mahatma Gandhi have stood upright since generations and have tested the waters of time and relativity. But certain Pressure groups or Historians in India still portray and use the Gandhian Philosophy being the sole reason for Partition. Hence; it can be seen both in positive and negative shade depending on the nature of the expected ideology from the same.

Change in Social Norms:

- Ethics develop over the time with **developing societies and changing times, therefore they are also progressive in nature and thus they become relative across time frames, across societies, across generations.** But still it ultimately depends on the intent of the individual (as a social animal) and output expected by the same.

Example

- Cannibalism which was considered as ethical in primitive tribe of India and across the world is considered unethical in modern societies. The reason there being Cannibalism was seen as part of life in primitive societies and now it is seen as Murder.

Conclusion

- **Although** Ethical relativism represents that there is no moral right or wrong, asserting that **ethics evolve and change with social norms over a period of time**; the **influence of Human intent** and the **expected output** plays a very important in **developing the idea of Ethics for a specific society in every Era.**