

## Relationship of education, ethics and excellence development

Shashi Bharti

Research Scholar (JRF) Department Of Business Administration, Faculty of Commerce University of Lucknow, Lucknow

---

### Abstract

**Purpose:** the purpose of the paper is to define the role of education in the enhancement of ethics and define the impact of education and ethics on excellence

**Destine/Methodology/Approach:** Extensive Review of literature has been done for conceptualization of role of education in ethics and excellence development

**Implication:** The paper adds to the existing literature of education, ethics and excellence. Ethics is a matter of great concern in large number of organization in today comprehensive environment, and human life also. Ethics is the input to academic excellence, as well as excellence in life.

**Keywords:** Education, ethics, excellence, values etc.

---

### Introduction

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

### Nelson Mandela

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, or research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of others, but may also be gained by oneself. Education is important to strive for self-improvement and it is also important to follow education to recognize professional goals and improvement. One should also follow education so that one can add something to the world, to human race, to something away from oneself. Real happiness and purpose and meaning in life, comes from the development of virtues. Virtues are also the basis for the recreation of excellence in all spheres of life. In fact, virtues are forms of nature excellence and virtues define what we involve by excellence in many spheres of human life. Both the philosophers Aristotle and Spinoza explained the connection between excellence and virtue. Aristotle tells that virtue is an area of excellence in character. Further, Aristotle tells that ethics with virtue he said that an ethically good person has character of virtues and is a person of excellence. For Spinoza, a life of virtue is full of challenge, and it is an exceptional achievement, it is the path to excellence.

### Literature review

#### Ethics

*Ethics can be defined as a set of principles of behaviour or a system of moral values.*

Ethics is a topic of philosophy, often taught in philosophy classes, many courses of ethics are accessible in various colleges and universities for example- business ethics, professional ethics, medical ethics, research ethics, environmental ethics, and even bio-ethics. Ethics is important for entire academic programme. In essence, ethics is the learning and exercise of what is good, what is a right, what is most excellent.

### Theories of ethics

There are many theories of what make something right or wrong:

**Absolutist theory of ethics-** when ethics is resolute by some hard and fast rules, which should never be broken down such as, “Do not steal”, “Do not lie”, and “Do not murder.”

**Universalist approach to ethics-** some universal rules should be followed by everyone. For example, should be respect to elders, believing that everyone should follow the same ethical rules or principles.

**Consequentiality theory of ethics-** you should consider the definite consequences of different behaviour in a certain circumstances in determining what is correct and what is incorrect. Which alternative leads to the best results or consequences?

**Rational approach of ethics-** you think that in its place of subsequent some set of absolute rules, you should sensibly think about ethics and what is the accurate thing to do. Ethics should be understanding rather than simply obeying rules. This is a rational approach of ethics. But an emotive approach to ethics you believe in feelings and emotions

**Care theory of ethics-** Care theory of ethics tells about love, care, and anxiety which should be follow by human beings and it is the basis of ethics.

**Relativist theory of ethics-** ethics is entirely relative and subjective. Relative approach tells about each person determines what is right or wrong for him or her or relative culture independently. This is the relativist theory, personal relativism or cultural relativism.

A person’s ethics may be obvious, physically powerful, and considerate, or impulsive, convenient, unclear and mixed-up, or some Hodge-podge combination of different ideas, but

everyone has some set of beliefs and principles for shaping what is right and wrong.

**Value**

*“Every life is a march from innocence, through temptation, to virtue or vice”.*

**Lyman Abbott**

A value is “A person’s main beliefs or principles of behaviour one’s finding of what is important in life.”

When you want to know about our personal ethics is to consider what we value. What should be do, what we think, what we want, reflect what we value. All humans have values and express them in different way as like how they behave and what they think and feel.

Values are the principles or standards that people use to express their behaviour. With the help of values people are attempt to recognize in their lives. Values are the standards we use in building judgments about what is significant in life and what is right or wrong in human behaviour. We evaluate ourselves and others in terms of our values. Everyone lives by values but we may not agree with another person’s values. Everyone makes judgments about what is essential in life through their values.

**Virtues**

“Virtues are individual character traits that symbolize and express values that are judged attractive or commendable. A virtue is a good value lived”.

**Virtues** are character traits of a person express values. which are judge desirably . A person’s virtues define the ethical character of a person. Virtues are values that have become intrinsic to the personal identity and way of life of a person. If a value is practiced enough, it becomes part of the personality the character of a person. You become what you do what you value and aspire toward.

**Education**

*“The process of developing the knowledge, mind, skill, and character of a person.”*

The main purpose of education is simply learning theories, facts, and skills, the vital goal of education is the development of people of nature who will use their understanding to benefit themselves and others .learning, thinking, integrity, honesty, growth, and excellence are the set of values and virtues connected with education. These values and virtues reproduce the common goals and values of behaviour among educators and learning institutions. What is important in the educational process, judge by the values and virtues and what types of nature traits are seen as reflecting these values?

Higher education, attempts to model and teach those key character virtues which represent these central values. And further, educators always encourage their students to pursue these values and develop these character virtues as well.

**Excellence**

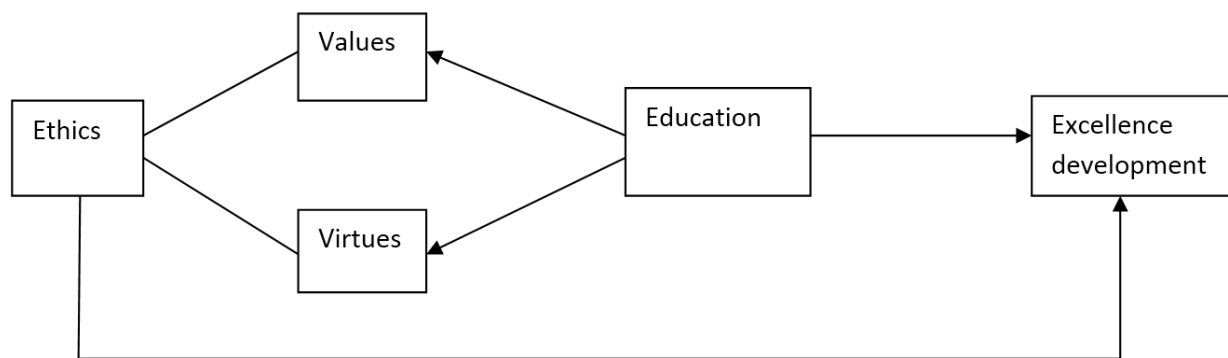
*“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”*

**Aristotle**

Excellence is the quality of being wonderful or really good. With the help of excellence assumes that things can be done well or done poorly; all behaviour and efforts are not equal in quality. Excellence involves standards and principles that define and prescribe the nature of a excellent performance. Such standards and principles of excellence are used to assess actions, results and are used both to identify what is very good and what is not good.

Excellence implies values and standards; with the help of this we can assess our actions and the actions of others. Without understanding of the concept of excellence we cannot define what it would mean to grow. To grow is to improve, to get better.

**Conceptual Framework**



**Role of education in enhancement of ethics**

Ethics is a set of main beliefs of conduct or a system of moral values, what is right or wrong. The main purpose of education is simply learning theories, facts, and skills, the vital goal of education is the development of people of nature who will use their understanding to benefit themselves and others .learning, thinking, integrity, honesty, growth, and excellence are the set of values and virtues connected with education. These values and virtues reproduce the common goals and values of

behaviour among educators and learning institutions. Education play important role in enhancement of ethics because with the help of education people can differentiate between right or wrong.

**Role of Ethics in Excellence Development**

Values and virtues, is helping students to hold and exercise them, enhances their overall academic performance, helping as the necessary basis for the attainment of factual knowledge and

intellectual skills. For example, the love of knowledge and thinking and the recreation of excellence enhance student performance in all academic disciplines. And further, it helps to make educated individuals who will benefit others and society as a whole. Aristotle tells about virtuous with excellence; virtues are areas of excellence within one's character. Consequently, a vice would be an area of weakness, deficiency, or failing in one's character. Hence ethics play important role in excellence development.

### **Role of Education in Excellence Development**

Becoming educated person is something accomplished or achieved; educated person can solve the problem efficiently whenever problems or difficulties arises. Education is important to make powerful yourself about difficulties or challenges, to see how you can solve the problem .With the help of education you can easily attain the goal .After the accomplish of goals sense of self efficacy developed which will be helpful for excellence development. Without self-accomplishment, self-efficacy cannot be determined. A person have low self efficacy then he is powerless in the future, whereas a person have high self-efficacy he has a high level of control or influence on the future. Education play important role in excellence development.

### **Conclusion**

Education is important to strive for self-improvement and to follow education to realize professional goals and improvement, for the recreation of excellence in all spheres of life. Ethics is the input to academic excellence, as well as excellence in life. The development of ethics and values, virtues deal with a life concerns, such as happiness and importance and purpose in life, and furthermore, character virtues such as knowledge, hopefulness, courage, and self-responsibility support a positive and activist approach to the future. Education play important role in the enhancement of ethics and values. Ethics and education is fruitful for the excellence development.

### **References**

1. Chakrabarty CK. Indian education system – issues and challenges Address by Dr K C Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, at the JRE School of Management, Greater Noida, 2011.
2. Haas LJ, Malouf JL, Keeping up the good work: A practitioner's guide to mental health ethics (4th ed.). Sarasota, FL, 2005.
3. Jacob S, Decker DM, Hartshorne TS. (in press). Ethics and law for school psychologists (6th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
4. Lombardo Thomas. Ethical Character Development and Personal and Academic Excellence.
5. Berger R. An Ethic of Excellence: Building a Culture of Craftsmanship with Students. (Plymouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003.
6. Lickona T, Davidson M. Smart & Good High Schools ([www.cortland.edu/character](http://www.cortland.edu/character); [www.instituteforexcellenceandethics.com](http://www.instituteforexcellenceandethics.com)).