

HUMAN BEING AS THE MAIN FACTOR IN THE FORMATION OF ETHICS

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Abstract: This article explores the role of the human being as the central factor in the formation and development of ethical norms. Ethical values are not innate but develop in the social, cultural, and individual spheres of human life. The study emphasizes the interaction between personal behavior, moral consciousness, and social influence in shaping ethical standards. The paper also highlights the importance of education, family, and environment in nurturing moral qualities and fostering a responsible individual in society.

Keywords: Human, ethics, morality, value system, upbringing, social environment, personality development.

Introduction

The concept of ethics has always played a fundamental role in human civilization. From ancient times to the modern day, questions of right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and responsibility have guided human thought and social organization. While many philosophical schools have tried to define the origins of ethics—whether divine, natural, or rational—what remains consistent is the **central role of the human being** in developing, internalizing, and applying moral principles.

Ethics is not just a theoretical system of values; it is a lived practice that reflects a person's choices, actions, and relationships with others. In this context, the human being is not merely a passive recipient of moral norms, but an **active agent** in creating, transforming, and upholding ethical standards. Thus, the

development of ethical consciousness is inseparable from the development of the individual within society.

Theoretical Foundations of Ethics and Human Role

Ethics, derived from the Greek word *ethos* meaning character or custom, refers to the philosophical study of morality. It deals with questions such as: What is good? What is the right way to act? What obligations do we have toward others?

While ethical theories vary—from deontological and utilitarian to virtue-based approaches—they all converge on the **human subject** as the point of application. A law may define what is legal, but **ethics defines what is right**, and it is the human conscience that interprets and enacts this standard in daily life.

Theories by Aristotle, Kant, Confucius, and Eastern philosophers place the **individual's moral development** at the center of a harmonious society. Without ethical humans, the highest laws or systems fail to achieve justice or cohesion.

Ethics as a Social and Cultural Product

Ethical values are **not biologically inherited**, but rather cultivated through culture, traditions, education, and interpersonal communication. A child is not born with a sense of duty, honesty, or compassion—it is **through interaction with parents, educators, and society** that these values are introduced and internalized.

Human beings, therefore, are **simultaneously the carriers and creators** of ethical systems. In each era, ethical norms evolve depending on historical, cultural, and technological changes, but always require human agency to be interpreted, applied, and passed on.

For example:

- In traditional societies, values such as respect for elders and communal loyalty were dominant.

- In modern societies, principles like human rights, environmental responsibility, and individual autonomy have become central.

Human Factors in the Formation of Moral Character

The process of forming ethical behavior includes several **key stages and influences**:

1. **Family** – The first and most influential environment for ethical education. Parental guidance, emotional care, and role modeling deeply affect a child's moral development.

2. **Education** – Schools provide formal instruction on ethics, civics, and social responsibility. Ethical dilemmas discussed in the classroom help develop critical moral reasoning.

3. **Society and Media** – Social norms, laws, traditions, and mass communication either reinforce or erode ethical behavior. Humans reflect what they consume and engage with daily.

4. **Self-awareness and Reflection** – Ultimately, the human capacity for self-reflection, empathy, and critical thinking plays the defining role in ethical decision-making.

Each human being goes through a **moral evolution** influenced by their personality traits, upbringing, cultural background, and life experiences. This moral identity becomes a cornerstone for active citizenship and peaceful coexistence.

Contemporary Challenges and the Role of Ethics

In the modern world, where globalization, digitalization, and cultural pluralism intersect, new ethical dilemmas arise: data privacy, environmental degradation, artificial intelligence, inequality, and more. Amid these challenges, the human being remains the **primary agent of moral responsibility**.

Societies must therefore focus on **ethical education**, not just as an academic subject, but as a holistic development of human values. This includes:

- Promoting empathy and solidarity,
- Encouraging critical thinking about social justice,
- Instilling a sense of responsibility to the planet and future generations.

Conclusion

The human being is the most essential factor in the formation and evolution of ethics. Without ethically conscious individuals, no society can achieve harmony, justice, or sustainability. As both a product and a producer of morality, each person holds the potential to influence ethical progress.

Educational institutions, families, communities, and governments must recognize the transformative power of moral education and invest in nurturing **ethically responsible, socially aware, and intellectually reflective individuals**. Only through such efforts can humanity confront the complex moral issues of the 21st century and build a more just and ethical world.

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