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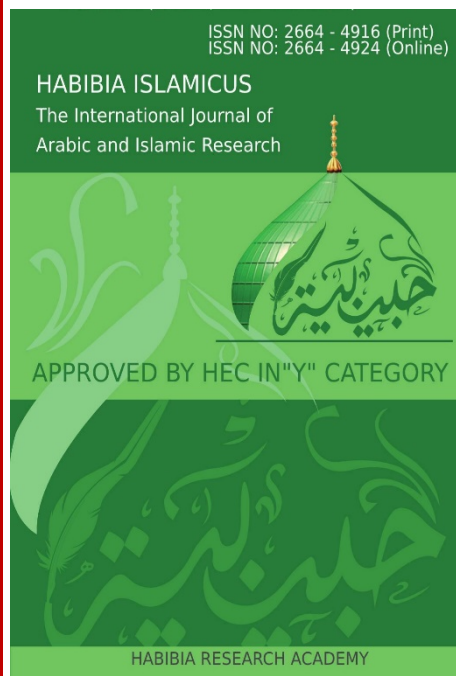
TOPIC:

EROSION OF MORAL ETHICS AND ITS IMPLICATINS ON SOCIETY

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EROSION OF MORAL ETHICS AND ITS IMPLICATINS ON SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

Concerned with the rising rate of moral depravity in our society generally and especially in our educational system, this article examines how social media might be used to improve attempts to address the continuing process of erosion of ethics and arising social issues in our society, particularly those linked to education. To achieve this goal, the study examines the declining prospects of moral life in our local society, identifying the numerous types of immorality generated by dishonesty and lack of discipline, both of which are produced by greed. This work depicts immoral acts as mountains to be smashed for moral behavior to prevail among locals, particularly the youths; it exposes the country's immoral posture; it revels the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the pros and cons of social media; it portrays immoral acts as mountains to be destroyed for moral conduct to prevail among Pakistanis', especially the youths; It presents the social communications systems that are most commonly used by the article's target audience, adolescents, as a powerful tool for mending society's moral faults.

KEYWORDS: *Social media, Ethics, Educational depravity, Moral evils,*

INTRODUCTION: In the contemporary fast and technological world values and morality is fading away very fast. If the decline of ethics is not stopped, it will have severe impacts on society. "Humans rely on varied levels of trust, respect for others, and collaboration to function in the public, whether in commerce, friendship, or any other type of relationship (Cordeiro, 2003)". No one will have trust in anybody else if ethics decline. As a result, society will not be able to function properly as it does today, and everyone will either shut themselves up in their houses or prowl the streets armed to the teeth.

However, not only there is a need to control the gradual decline of ethics, but so does the public's perception of the decline. Morgan (1993), referenced by Cordeiro (2003), "claims that individuals are judgmental and would refuse to participate in any activity if they believe the other participants are immoral." Culture, technology, religion, and politics all influence ethical norms. What is considered ethical in one society may not be deemed acceptable in another. This just adds to the difficulty of identifying what is ethical and what is not. This does not, however, suggest that the world should give up and quit. There are options available.

The one logical solution to the current issue appears "to be to follow an ethical system based on common sense and reason rather than religious dogma or punitive law (Verschoor, 2001)." This would, however, most probable work on males and females who exclusively trust in logic and rationality. Though, with every individual in society trying to utilize every chance offered, the very idea may misfire, since it is never simple to determine what is good and what is bad when the motive is self-benefit, and ethics are not written in black and white.

Definition of Ethics

Before the erosion of ethics can be described, it is necessary to establish what ethics is. Ethics, as a cornerstone to society, is extremely essential since it stems from the conscience or a feeling of good and bad. "Rightness and wrongness of human behaviour were defined by Pettifor and Jean (1996)". Bart (2011) also defined ethics "as moral principles and norms of behavior that are used to assess people's behavior."

Moral philosophy, sociology, and psychology, on the other hand, are necessary for ethical advancement. Individual and social relationships are the initial places where ethics arises. In other sense, sociology and ethics are knotted. Sociology is a fundamental foundation for ethics because it sets the course for the individual and social evolution of human life in order to promote society's variety and agreement. "Ethics may help individuals create trust and close relationships in society by interacting with them" (Girard, 1998). Therefore, society's members will demand others to behave honorably and not harm others for personal achievement.

Moreover, not everybody is clearly aware about the good and bad. According to Donaldson (1994), "there are two types of ethical perspectives: relativist and Universalist." Good and bad are decided by situation and society, according to the relativist position. A Universalist ethical approach, on the other hand, contends that all acts, regardless of context or culture, should be judged using the same and unified criteria. As a result of people's varied viewpoints on various situations, ethics has become polluted, and the deterioration of ethics has increased significantly in recent years.

"The progressive destruction or deterioration of something," according to the Oxford dictionaries. As a result, the progressive loss or weakening of ethics in a community is referred to as erosion of ethics. An destruction of ethics in society indicates that people of community are no longer, or are growing less and less eager, to make socially approved judgments since the main incentive appears to be self-promotion devoid of concern for the agony and anguish of others.

Elements responsible for the Erosion of Ethics

"Role models have a significant influence on an individual's life development" (Perry & Nixon, 2005), and ethical thought and behaviour development is no exception. Role models are now more influential than ever before, thanks to the rise of media such as tv and, particularly, the internet. As a result, if a particularly ethical person is viewed as a role model, that person will undoubtedly grow up to maintain a high standard of ethics. Contrary to it, if one's idea personality acts unethically, they are more inclined to act unethically themselves.

Those who turn to religious leaders, university tutors, or advisers as mentors are less likely to engage in unethical behavior in most scenarios. "Those who look up to journalists and spouses as role models, on the other hand, are more likely to accept unethical behaviour (Zekos, 2004)." It may be assumed that the growing influence of journalistic pieces, particularly on the internet, will have a significant impact on forming the next generation's ethical perceptions, whether they are reinforced or eroded.

Globalization, "on the other hand, has a significant impact on the public's ethical behaviour. Globalization is a multinational community in which national borders are only a political annoyance (Zekos, 2004)." Globalization fosters the deterioration of ethics, particularly in underdeveloped nations. This is due to the fact that emerging economies are in desperate need of foreign investment and have a poor negotiating position in comparison to more prosperous ones. As a result, local law implementation lacks the desire to pursue any form of fraud, and instead opts to turn a blind eye, even if they discover it, fearing that doing so may scare away potential

investors. This creates an unhealthy atmosphere in which project bidding is essentially a ruse, and a project is won by the bidder who invests the most illicit funds or provides the most presents.

In a circumstance like this, it's up to the stakeholders to maintain a high level of ethical behaviour. If no financiers contribute in the corrupt practices, the native business will have nothing to corrupt initially, then ethical deterioration may be limited. "Conflicts between people's personal moral systems and ideals quickly lead to ethical difficulties" (Ferrell, John, & Linda, 2010). Ethics refers to an individual's sense of right and wrong, as well as a set of moral values and the norms of behavior that govern human activities. So, morals are the concepts, beliefs, and principles that individuals use to monitor their behaviour, but not every individual has the similar idea of what is good and wrong.

Morals are a worldwide notion or one of the mechanisms that may be used to influence someone's behaviour and build socially constructed rules. To put it another way, value is a tool for controlling people's behaviour. "Moral principles may serve as a guideline for determining whether an activity is right or wrong" (Navran, 2010). Honesty, justice, integrity, trust, and other moral virtues are examples.

People may come to an invalid or immoral summary on their own in a continuously fluctuating world where values and society bump into and intermingle, Because knowledge is so easily accessible and without sufficient direction in the present period, when the internet revolution serve as powerful mediums for delivering foreign ideals and ideas, This dilemma is extremely persistent in an ever-changing globe where cultures and people clash and interact, particularly in the modern day where the internet and television serve as a potent channel for producing worldwide views and ideals.. Worse yet, individuals may mistakenly believe that their actions are ethical, allowing them to engage in immoral behaviour without feeling guilty.

 Lying, cheating, and stealing are its antonyms. Being honest is pointing out the truth to the best of your ability and not concealing anything. If someone lacks integrity," they are dishonest, which may lead to dangerous driving" (Blankenship & Whitley, 2000), "stealing from employers" (Hilbert, 1985), "alcohol misuse" (Kerkvliet, 1994), "and tax fraud" (Blankenship & Whitley, 2000).

In a fast globalized society, honesty appears to be in short stock, with individuals pursuing maximal self-interest without regard for others. This loss can be linked to causes such as self-centered immigrants and refugees who ignore local rules and conventions because they are only here for a short time (Fass, 1989).

The Role of Social Media in the Erosion of Ethics in Society

Power comes from knowledge. Everyone must have heard this statement, but few truly realize the power and reach of social media. Interestingly an unrestricted exchange of information on internet empowers people to add to their knowledge repository via social media. Lately, it is irrefutable that social media has a substantial influence on our values, commerce, and entire

worldview. Public utilize social media to exchange thoughts, link with, relate to, and organize for a reason, seek counsel, and provide support.

Social media has disappeared the communication barricades and provided open channels of communication, allowing everyone, even those in authoritarian nations, to have a voice and engage freely. This stage promotes a diverse range of spontaneous, official, spontaneous, instructional, and non-scholarly works. It allows people who share same objectives, such as students, to collaborate on projects outside of class.

It inspires collaboration and creativity among a wide set of commentators on a number of issues, plus as academia, the business, politics, racism, health, and relations. Although it's various profits, such as enabling us to interact instantly with friends and family around the world and bridging international and social divides, considered to have a negative impact on our lives because the blend of alienation and global reach has undermined our society.

Social media is stealing us of our confidence in one another, replacing communication link for true social, physical, and emotional needs. It robs us of our capacity to think for ourselves and leaves us gullible enough just to embrace any group that supports bizarre assertions that entertain and pleasure our senses without regard for the consequences.

Social media, unfortunately, is pushing us to convert one of the most antagonistic cultures in the past human history. We choose texting to phone calls, online chat to face-to-face meetings, and many people would prefer social networking sites like "Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram" to human interaction. "Each step ahead in social media has made it simpler, just a little, to escape the emotional effort of being there, to give knowledge rather than people," Jonathan Safran Foer said in his piece "How Not to Be Alone." These phrases become more and truer with each passing day. The goal of this article is to make available information from different research works piloted by several scholars in various backgrounds that visibly demonstrate the damaging effect of social media in three areas. To begin with, social media allows for the creation of a fictitious sense of online "connections" and shallow interactions, which can develop emotional and psychological issues. Second, social media may quickly turn addictive, depriving individuals of their time with their families and friends while also degrading social skills and encouraging violent behaviour. Finally, criminals and terrorists have used social media as a tool for doing illegal acts. The last study will focus on verifying a link between social media-induced psychological difficulties and criminal activity.

The Erosion of Ethics from the Religious and Folk Beliefs' Perspective

Human humans are the most highly evolved species among God's creations, according to Religion, and they perform an important role as the world's housekeeper. Because people are born with greedy and self-preservation tendencies, ethics can be eroded. It would be fascinating to investigate if humans are inherently born immoral as a result of innate sin.

Religiously, individuals who do not adhere to religion may be more inclined to to immoral behavior since they are not afraid of divine wrath. When there is no one to educate them the proper

manner, some youngsters are labelled as greedy. A child knows how to lie even when they are very young in order to achieve what they want. This is the point at which ethics naturally erode, resulting in humans acting unethically. As a result, concerns of ethical contamination are becoming increasingly significant as Ethics can be undermined because individuals are born with selfish and self-preservation instincts. It would be intriguing to see if humans are born with a moral inclination as a result of congenital sin.

The traditional Chinese idea of human genesis, "on the other hand, is completely different from the Christian viewpoint. When they are born, Chinese people believe that man is nice" (Sun, 2005). Because all living creatures, according to Buddhism, have the nature of a Buddha, A man is incapable of committing an initial sin. It is also supported by customary Chinese belief that "misfortunes, not other reasons, produce wicked ideas, which lead to human criminality" (Sun, 2005).

As compare to Christian and Chinese concept of moral ethics, the last and final divine religion Islam present a different view in this regard. Islam categorically reject the idea of original sin and belief on misfortunes. According to a saying of the prophet (peace be upon him) every human child born into this world with peaceful nature, however, wicked people turn him into a corrupt person. Similar was the idea of Romantic poets like Wordsworth, Coleridge etc. The man is fully responsible for his actions.

The Consequences of Destruction of Ethics in Society

For example, an absence s ethics can cause harm to guiltless individuals. It's because, in order to obtain greater profits, individuals act dishonestly and without regard for others, cheating, deceiving, and violating rules. All these practices might hurt the innocent. "People's ethics are sometimes eroded, and few are surrendered to meet the demands and happiness of the majority" (Jessica, 2005). Finally, society suffers from distrust as a result of harm meted out to them despite the fact that they had committed no wrongdoings.

One key concept underlying all relationships: trust. However, "the erosion of ethics has had an impact on interpersonal trust" (Hill, 2009). Everything from friendships to financial transactions is severely restricted as a result of this. This is due to their shared sense of unease and uncertainty. Businesses will become enveloped in piles of red tape and bureaucracy as a consequence, suffocating economic progress.

Apart from that, "there is a panic that if individuals know that everyone else is deceitful or being dishonest, they will be more likely to fraud themselves, causing in self-inflicted ethical erosion (McCabe, Trevio, & Butterfield, 1999; McCabe & Trevino, 1993)." Likewise, when one involves the multitudes of society and makes cheating seem public and acceptable, individuals will eventually engage in immoral behaviour as a result of it becoming the custom, and ethics will erode (Cole & Smith, 1996; Mangan, 2006). People eventually undermine ethics in search of self-benefit.

Furthermore, one of the negative effects of ethical erosion is usually violating rules or irregularities. Breaking the rules can result in fines and even punishment. Others may be able to hide part of the unethical behaviour. Nevertheless, society may incur detrimental repercussions over time (Janette, 2011). Ethics degradation is like to a viral disease; if not stopped, it will extend and become more dangerous. Families may be broken apart if one of its members is found to be involved in criminal conduct. The individuals engaged risk damaging not just their own reputation and image, but also that of their families.

Conclusion

Ethics, as a concept and standard that aids in the creation of a harmonious and conforming atmosphere, has been exposed in this research to play an important role in modifying one's behaviour to determine what is ethical and immoral in today's society. Furthermore, rather than being prejudiced toward a subset of people, to address the erosion of ethics in society, one must first comprehend why ethics are so important to all of us. This study has revealed a great deal of data that seems to be highly beneficial in identifying how, when, how, and why ethical destructions may befall, as the importance of ethics is sometimes ignored. It is difficult to define ethics universally, but in the face of the world's complications, ethics continues to behave as a prime motivator to determine an individual's understanding of ethics, and the decline of ethics is getting growingly worrisome, and if not properly resolved, will prove problematic for all society, because the sudden increase of regional integration has linked everyone in the world. Religion proves to have an influence on its adherers, whether it is the beliefs themselves or the stringent religious leaders. It needs to be evaluate whether there is a direct relationship between the two. firm belief and good ethical conduct, but what is clear is that all mainstream religions create excellent and compassionate behavior toward the common public, which is in no way a bad thing.

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