

CHEATING

**THE ORIGIN, NATURE, IMPORTANCE
AND IMPROVEMENT
OF BUSINESS AND OTHER ETHICS**

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and participates in Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs) and Joint Implementation (JI)¹³³.

New Fields for Ethics - Biomedicine

A new field for application of ethics has arisen. Due to recent and rapid scientific progress in biomedicine, bioethics has become a field of intensive inquiry which has even led to formulating acceptable bioethics norms, such as those relating to cloning and genetic selection and rules relating to use of embryos for scientific research. This is a new field, one which UNESCO has given high priority. France has underlined its importance by inserting this subject into its constitution¹³⁴.

In previous centuries, the slave trade was not generally considered unethical by most of the population but ethics have changed.

These examples demonstrate how new situations arise to which ethical principles are applied.

6. ARE ETHICS SUBJECT SPECIFIC?

Professions

Many professions have deontological rules, specially designed to fit their activity. Governments and associations for medical doctors, lawyers, accountants and architects make and enforce their special rules. Some have complained that while the American Bar Association (ABA) promulgates rules for lawyers in the United States, it also promotes the best interests of the profession. Therefore these rules may not always be only in the public interest.

¹³³ See <http://www.eco-carbone.com> (viewed 31 July 2010).

¹³⁴ UNESCO Brochure, 2nd ed. 2005. *Human Cloning. Ethical Issues*. It is stated, on page 11, that "The world community provided an answer when it declared human cloning contrary to human dignity in Article 11 of the Universal Declaration on Human Genome and Human Rights (1997)".

See also Byck, Christian. 26 March 2008. *La Constitution, loi suprême de la cité ou instrument du sacré de la bioéthique?* (The Constitution, supreme law in society or document to sacralize bioethics?). JPC/La Semaine Juridique, Edition générale, No. 13, page 3.

Corporate Codes of Ethics

Large corporations now often enact their own ethical codes which they expect their employees to follow. The OECD, in addition to preparing the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises –Revision 2000*, has undertaken the study of 246 codes of conduct prepared by companies (Gordon and Miyake 1999) reflecting an important voluntary effort, or induced by public image considerations, by the business community which some critics claim is only for "window-dressing" rather than a bona fide effort to change conduct. However, some OECD officials believe this is a necessary, useful and an important first step; mandatory corporate codes and enforceable legal rules will follow. Employees who feel they are not treated properly have claimed violations of these rules, which tend to give the rules a practical effect and more credibility. Therefore companies should be careful in formulating these rules and be sure these rules are integrated into their top level strategy.

There are great differences in the way corporate codes of ethics are applied. Some treat them as a public relations effort while others incorporate ethics deeply into overall corporate strategy as a priority for top corporate executives.

L'éthique à l'épreuve des techniques (Ethics and Technology) examines some of the ethical problems of judges, engineers, businessmen, philosophers, bioethics, arms industry, genetics, medicine, organ transplanting, human cloning, therapeutic cloning, palliative medicine, hospitals and human embryos¹³⁵.

Different factual situations require ethical rules that are flexible enough or are designed to fit each type of situation.

There are ethical problems in all fields of endeavor which include: ethics and war, ethics and democracy, ethics

¹³⁵ Michaud, Jean (collection of authors under his direction). 2007. *L'éthique à l'épreuve des techniques*. Institute Fredrik R. Bull, L'Harmattan, Paris.

and law, ethics in medicine, ethics in science, ethics and religion, ethics and government, ethics and philosophy, and ethics and journalism.

7. HOW ARE ETHICS TRANSMITTED AND FORMALIZED?

Ethical rules are transmitted orally in families, by friends, schools, churches, cultural traditions and institutions, through sacred texts, church ceremonies, books on philosophy, religious and secular law and other ways.

Predominant Influence of Mothers

The most important time and place good character is formed is in early family life under the influence of top quality parents, especially the mother who usually concentrates on caring for and teaching her young children.

Mothers Solutions to Teaching Children Ethics

A very successful brilliant and wealthy top scientist and entrepreneur told me his mother taught him that cheating and being dishonest was stupid.

Since there is a little of the devil in most children being naughty and dishonest has its attractions to a certain number of kids, so it is probably better just to say: it is stupid.

Another outstanding mother who has raised a distinguished family taught her children that "families are for building the attitudes so necessary to building a better community. Families are for belonging to something bigger than just yourself."

Later a young person is strongly influenced by friends and contemporaries. Role models and mentors often play important parts in young persons' lives.

Declarations of Human Rights and other Documents

One also finds ethical principles stated in declarations and other documents. The Declaration of Human Rights was signed by members of the United Nations in 1948, based in