MEDIA LAWS AND ETHICS

Right. Dear Students! This lecture is about morals, ethics and laws. They are the fundamentals for the operationalization of any organization in human society and culture in order to avoid chaos and disorder, disturbances, (contextually). There is one thing common among the three; that they based on the same sources. Values, behaviours, cultural, religious and social practices. Morals and ethics can be grouped as self-imposed ideals while laws needed separate enforcing body, fully independent and authorized. Give it read. Hope you may figure it out. Try to learn it by heart.

You can contact me on 0300-5879008 for any query

INTRODUCTION

* **Ethics** are rules of conduct.
* **Laws** are rules developed by governments in order to provide balance in society and protection to its citizens.
* **Ethics** comes from people's awareness of what is right and wrong.
* **Laws** are enforced by governments to its people. ...
* **Ethics** comes from within a person's moral values.

ETHICS AND MORALS

* **Ethics** is the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.
* **Morals** are concerned with the principles of right and wrong behavior and the goodness or badness of human character.
* If you are ethical you can abide the law. If you are Moral you can be ethical. Also, if you are moral you can abide the law. But you can never be all of three together.
* Morality governs private, personal interactions. Ethics governs professional interactions. Law governs society as a whole, often dealing with interactions between total strangers.
* **Ethics and morals** relate to “right” and “wrong” conduct. While they are sometimes used interchangeably, they are **different**:
* **ethics** refer to rules provided by an external source, e.g., codes of conduct in workplaces or principles in religions.
* **Morals** refer to an individual's own principles regarding right and wrong.

LAWS

* **The Law** demands an absolute subjection to its rules and commands. Law has enforcing authority derived from the state. It is heteronymous (being imposed upon men upon the outer life of men). Law regulates men’s relations with others and with society.
* A law is basically a body of principles or rules which are the basis of a society and are abide by the society. No system in a society can exist without a law.

Human life needs a proper rule of conduct or principle at every step. It is also important for a successful society. If it will not happen then there will be anarchy and disturbance in a society and it will not exist for long.

* A rule of conduct or procedure established by custom, agreement, or authority.
* A code of principles based on morality, conscience, or nature.
* A law is rules of conduct of any organized society, however simple or small, that are enforced by threat of punishment if they are violated. Modern law has a wide sweep and regulates many branches of conduct. A body of rules of conduct of binding legal force and effect, prescribed, recognized, and enforced by controlling authority.
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ETHICS AND MEDIA

* Media has always got a great attraction for people. Since its evolution it has been performing its duty of entertaining as well as guiding people. Whether it is print media or electronic media people always tries to adopt its importance in their daily life.
* With the evolution 0f print media people had a great thirst for it. They take it as their foremost source of information.

CODE OF ETHICS

* It is also known as “Canons of Journalism”.
* **Every news organization has only its credibility and reputation to rely on.**
* Code of Ethics is a set of standards, rules, guidelines, and values that govern and guide ethical business behavior in a company, profession, or organization of it's employees, interactions among the employees, and interactions between the employees and the general public**.**
* **Journalism ethics and standards** include principles of ethics and of good practice to address the specific challenges faced by professional journalists. Historically and currently these principles are most widely known to journalists as their professional "code of ethics" or the "canons of journalism."

The basic codes and canons commonly appear in statements drafted by professional journalism associations and individual print broadcast, and online news organizations.

* **Public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Conscientious journalists from all media and specialties strive to serve the public with thoroughness and honesty. Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility***.*

COMMON ETHICS

* **Objectivity**
* **Seek the Truth and Report It**
* **Never plagiarize**
* **Minimize harm**
* **Avoid misrepresentation**
* **Get all sides of a story**
* **Respect anonymity**

PRESS LAWS IN PAKISTAN

* The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides for its citizens, fundamental rights, one of which pertains specifically to the Press, Article 19, Freedom of Speech: Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, commission of or incitement to an offense.
* The Constitution of Pakistan, then, guarantees the freedom of expression and freedom of the press, subject to reasonable restrictions that may be imposed by law. It is the responsibility of the judiciary to determine the scope and parameters of the permissible freedoms and the extent of restrictions placed on their enjoyment.
* The judiciary can play a full and effective role only if it is free and independent of any and every kind or form of control or influence.
* The press has traditionally experienced the often harsh effects of Pakistan’s political instability. When partition resulted in the establishment of Pakistan as an independent homeland for the Muslims, the Muslim League as a political party struggled with the tasks of leading the new country into stable statehood.
* Factionalism, however, quickly contributed to instability, internal strife, incompetence, and corruption. The press at this point was largely a remnant of the Muslim press present during the struggle for independence, and it was seen as aggravating the problems being faced by keeping these issues out in front of the people. Thus, the government began its long history of attempting to control the press through arrests, the banning of certain publications, and other punitive measures.