

By the condition of editor in chief of a specialized journal in the field of health, with 40 years of uninterrupted circulation, have occupied me to convey to the readers of "**O Mundo da Saúde**" high level of scientific research, anchored in the values of ethics and morality. In this brief editorial space, I would support the theme of the content proposed in its conceptual, historical aspects and the practical use involving ethical principles and moral values as the most important instrument of the conduct of man in society.

As we know, concerns about respect for life, liberty and the individual and collective autonomy of people, cut across the cultures since the earliest times of human existence. This justifies the fact that the more a society evolves in its socio-cultural, political, economic and technological dimensions, have greater need to improve their conduct and ethical behavior, their values and their morals, as well as its rules and general rules expressed in specific laws. For example, the standards and values small groups, families, professional codes of ethics, rules and laws of the cities, national laws and international treaties.

It originated with the customs, practices, experiences the most elementary everyday life of people, ethics throughout the history of the human race, it gained the status of a theoretical set or status of science that aims at analyzing the men moral behavior company, is responsible for studying the moral, challenging and identifying what we can call existing moral rules, which are changed with time. It manifests itself in different ways, according to the culture, customs and habits of certain populations.

The intrinsic condition of ethics with morals and morals with the values and principles, there is a natural difficulty for the vast majority of people on the understanding and distinction of these concepts in a clear and objective manner.

As the renowned Spanish philosopher and professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Adolfo Sánchez Vázquez (1995), we can say that "*as the moral theoretical problems do not identify with the practical problems, although they are closely related, also can not confuse ethics and morals.*" Ethics, therefore, is not responsible for creating a certain moral behavior of man in society, but it is through the study of ethics as a science of moral behavior of man, we can assess the stage of compliance with the principles of morality of a people. On the other hand, the moral values and principles are the means by which the morality of a society is experienced or put into practice. And in this case, is the exclusive competence of ethics as a science, to assess whether such behavior is contributing to the realization of justice and the right of all persons belonging to the same group are signatories.

It is necessary to affirm, therefore, all this is a function of rationality, self-reflection capacity and perfectibility, these elements that distinguish humans from other beings that make up the animal kingdom. And so, we can safely add that it is impossible to think of the existence of a society that is not organized on bases well established ethical foundations and moral values.

Therefore, we conclude this edition with the publication of 11 articles of scientific and social relevance, always valuing ethics, believing that this is an essential element in society. In this sense,

the magazine O Mundo da Saúde prioritizes the formation of principles and values, which are associated with our efforts to improve a culture and are essential to the strengthening of our contemporaneity.

Good reading.

João Batista Gomes de Lima*