

## Ethics, Diseases and Communities

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What does ethics have to do with diseases? And who determines what ethics is? These are two important fundamental questions which come to mind when we ponder upon a particular behavior as ethical or unethical! The issue is further confused when question of legal versus ethical is raised. Are legal actions necessarily ethical and illegal actions unethical? Is there same uniform criteria to determine 'legal' across the globe. An illegal action in one country may be quite legal in another country. The legality also had been changing over time. For example at one time slavery was legal although every-one at heart knows that it is not right and no one wants to be a slave. Despite ban on slavery in many countries, slavery is still rampant at the state level. Nations are controlled through implanted and/or 'controlled' rulers! Those who benefit from slavery care less about legality or ethics! They impose slavery through brute force, underhand political influences, attractive slogans and media manipulations! The recent decision of American Supreme Court re-garding gay 'marriages' has brought up these issues in lime light as the decision has wide implications. These implications are not merely related to social life or behavior of certain individuals or groups. If that was the case it would not have been even worth talking about! But to condone and 'legally' accept those behaviors which are proven detrimental to the society is something else. This decision creates an impression as if such behaviors are totally benign, innocuous and carry no threat to the society. This is far from truth!