the child steers. In fact, affiliations to same religion, customs and tradition are seen in same family. However, some also break free from the beliefs, notions and ideas of their parents and choose their own set of principles according to own free will. For example – a boy may consider girl child same as that of male child even if he and his sister was treated unequally by their parents.

- **Law** - The law often incorporates ethical standards to which most citizens subscribe. However, one should not equate being ethical to following the law. Laws, at times, can deviate from what is ethical. For example – slavery laws in US did not make slavery ethical. On the other hand, laws which banned slavery and gave equal rights reflect convergence of laws and ethics. Relationship between law and ethics has been detailed above.
- **Constitution** – Constitution of various countries also is a way to establish moral disposition of their society. For example – equality, accountability, democratic values are reflected in some country's constitution and autocratic, high-handedness, and inferiority, non-participative values are reflected in the framework of other countries.

Because, law, society, religion can deviate from what is ethical, one needs to constantly examine one's moral standards to ensure that they are reasonable and well-founded. Being ethical requires continuous effort in studying our own moral beliefs and our moral conduct and striving to ensure that we follow it in our routines. Thus, **individual by oneself** is also one of the most important determinants of ethics – everyone has emotional convictions or deep intuitions about the immorality of, say, murdering an innocent victim, about aborting a female fetus, or regarding child abuse.

Skill in addressing ethical issues can be learned and cultivated if we recognize the importance of doing so. The requirement is that we view our treatment of ethical problems as an ongoing process of designing the best courses of action for specific situations we face. This demands that we are able to establish a framework for understanding ethics in dynamic rather than static terms.

2.4. Consequences of Ethics

Consequences of ethics mean the outcome of human actions which are guided by ethical thinking. This means consequences also determine how good or bad an act is.

- It **can be measured** by happiness, suffering, pain, pleasure born out of human action.
- It **motivates or prohibits** one to do or not to do certain things. For example – If hard work guided by ethical values results in desired success then action itself gets justification to be good and effective but if action does not produce outcome then it will be treated as not efficient.
- Humans in general tend to **maximize pleasure from their actions**. However, some people prefer short term pleasure without consideration of long-term consequences while some may prefer temporary pain to ensure long term pleasure in future. For example – one may satisfy its sweet tooth or give in to their cravings while ignoring the health benefits which may cause pain in future. Others may exercise daily and practice self-control to ensure disease-free life in future.
- However, predicting consequences of human actions is difficult. There is whole theory of ethics that is based on nature of consequences. It is called Consequentialism. However, please note that 'Consequentialism' is just one part of 'Consequences of Ethics'. Consequentialism is an ethical theory which says that an act should be considered ethical if it is able to produce good consequences.

2.5. Dimensions of Ethics

Different ethical theories that inform the ethical thinking create various dimensions of the subject. Ethical theories are philosophical explanation to understand, explain and perhaps guide us in practice of making moral judgments. An ethical theory is not merely description of moral

Student Notes: