

Approaches to Environmental Ethics

Nihan Yılmaz[✉]

Hacettepe University, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Ankara/TÜRKİYE

[✉]*Correspondence:* nihangursoy@hacettepe.edu.tr

Abstract: Environmental ethics is the study of ethical questions raised by human relationships with the nonhuman environment. Ethical questions are those about what we ought to do, and ethical claims are prescriptive, rather than descriptive or predictive. Knowledge about ecological systems, the state of the world, human psychology, and social institutions is crucial to good ethical reasoning. For example, part of determining whether we ought to reduce our ecological footprint is having good data about ecological limits, lifestyle impacts, and what may occur if lifestyles do not change. However, to get from descriptive and predictive claims to normative or prescriptive claims other things are required—values and principles. Industrialization, urbanization and population growth in the 19th century created a significant pressure on the environment and natural resources, and since the second half of the 20th century, the impact of environmental problems began to be clearly felt. Industrialization, population growth and urbanization have been tried to be placed on the basis of these problems. Although it is possible to explain the concrete causes of environmental problems with three variables, it should be noted that people's perspective, attitudes and values towards the environment constitute the driving force of their actions towards the environment. Questioning the values, attitudes and behaviors that determine human and environmental interaction and trying to determine what is good and right behavior for the environment has led to the emergence and differentiation of environmental ethics approaches.

Keywords: Environment, Ethic, Environmental ethics.