Vol. No. 09, Issue No. 06, June 2021 www.ijates.com



## Importance of ethics in various Field including medical ethics Dr. Reshma Umair

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#### Introduction

Ethics is a system of principles that helps us tell right from wrong, good from bad. Ethics can give real and practical guidance to our lives. ... We have different options that affect the quality of our lives. But we prefer the life that is good for both for ourselves and others.

Ethics serve as a guide to moral daily living and enable us to justified our behavior. Ethics refers to society's sense of the right way of living. It does this by establishing rules, principles, and values on which we can base our conduct.

## Importance of ethics in variousfield

## Importance of work ethics and behaviour

5 most important work ethics are

Integrity.

Honesty. One should not deceive others by giving out misleading information. ...

Discipline. ...

Fair and respect. ...

Responsible and accountable.

#### Importance of Ethics as students

Ethical discussions not only expose students to contrasting ethical opinions, they also provide an opportunity to understand the reasons behind the differences. As a result, students are able to expand their understanding of ethics, sometimes even altering their own values and ethical decision-making process.

#### The Importance of Ethics as teachers.

The code of ethics for teachers is designed to protect the rights of the students, all the students. ... For example, you can't accept expensive gifts from students because it might appear to bias you. You can't push your personal beliefs on students because they are a "captive audience".

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#### ISSN 2348 - 7550

## Importance of ethics in professions

Professional ethics are principles that govern the behaviour of a person or group in its professional life including business environment. Professional ethics provide rules on how a person should act towards other people and institutions in such an environment.

### **Importance of Ethics in research**

Research ethics are the moral principles that govern how researchers should carry out their work. These principles are the rules and regulations made by ethical committees formed in institution, university governing bodies, communities or governments. All researchers should follow any regulations that apply to their work.

### Importance of ethics in medical Profession

Medical ethics is an applied branch of ethics which analyzes the practice of clinical medicine and related scientific research. Medical ethics is based on a set of values that professionals can refer to in the case of any confusion or conflict. The focus remains on fair, balanced, and moral thinking across all cultural and religious backgrounds around the world. professionals can refer to in the case of any confusion or conflict.

### Importance of ethics as human

Being fair, honest and ethical is one the basic human needs. Every employee desires to have such qualities and to work for an organization that is fair and ethical in its practices.

## Here are some ways you can apply ethics to your life:

Consider how you interact with animals. Some folks may think animals don't ethically matter. ...

Be kinder to the environment. ...

Respect and defend human rights. ...

Become more ethical in your career. ...

Engage with medical advances

### **Principles of Ethics**

The four principles are:

• Respect for autonomy —we need to respect the autonomy of others for performing actions. We should not impose our views on others. This principle assumes that every person knows what is good for himself/herself

Beneficence – doing good to others.

- Non-maleficence to not be the cause of harm. Also, "Utility" to promote more good than harm.
- Justice concerns the distribution of scarce health resources, and the decision of who gets what treatment. There are several codes of conduct

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## **Autonomy**

"Autos" (self) and "nomos (rule), views the rights of an individual to self-determination. This is an individuals' ability to make informed decisions about personal matters with freedom.

#### Beneficence

This essentially means doing good to others. According to this principle, all our thoughts and actions must be directed to ensure that others benefit from these thoughts and actions.

The term beneficence refers to actions that promote the well being of others that means taking actions that serve the best interests of patients and their families.

#### Non-maleficence

The concept of non-maleficence is, "first, do no harm," that it is more important not to harm others especially in medical profession for patients, than to do them good.

#### **Justice**

Justice refers to the distribution of things and positions of people within society. In a medical setting, justice involves the allocation of health-care resources in a fair way. This may be an equal distribution or a maximization of the total or average welfare across the whole society. It is basically loyalty and fairness

### **History**

Ethics has developed as a science of moral reasoning in the following phases:

#### 1. Greek Ethics:

It advocates that ethics deals with duties of a person as moral citizen of the nation. A good or ethical man is the one who performs his duties as a good citizen. Famous advocates of this view are Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

## 2. Medieval Ethics:

This is the period when Christianity spread in Europe. It spread the thoughts that ethics is not simply a part of politics (as said in the Greek philosophy). It does not deal with duties of a person. Rather, it deals with increasing the inner aspect of a person's morality.

#### 3. Modern Ethics:

This era of ethics believes in performing actions whose results bring good to us and to others. It deals with determining Tightness of the acts. It tells about what individuals or institutions ought to do.

The term medical ethics first dates back to 1803, when English author and physician Thomas Percival published a document describing the requirements and expectations of medical professionals within medical facilities. In the years 1903, 1912, and 1947, the original document.was revised.

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Professional ethics was what individual defined for themselves, from their own perspective. Their duty was to work to the standards established by their peers and avoid any action that would bring the profession into disrepute. Ethics, in this sense, has always been a central concern of medicine.

It requires critical reflection about 'norms or values, good or bad, right or wrong, and what ought or ought not to be done. 'The object of medicine continues to be the provision of net health benefit with minimal harm but modem ethical thinking insists that this must also be done in ways that respect patients' autonomy and that are just and fair.

## **Key concepts in medical ethics**

#### Euthanasia

It is alsoknown as mercy killing, act or practices of painlessly putting death if persons suffering from painful and incurable disease or incapacitating physical disorder or allowing them to die by withholding treatment or withdrawing artificial life-support measures.

Well known case of Diane Pretty, a British woman suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (motor neuron disease), who unsuccessfully petitioned the European Court of Human Rights in 2002 for the right to assisted suicide.

Voluntary euthanasia is legal in countries like Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, and the US states of Oregon, Vermont, California, Montana, Colorado and Washington DC

On 9 March 2018 the Supreme Court of India legalised passive euthanasia by means of the withdrawal of life support to patients in a permanent vegetative state.

### **Informed consent**

Informed consent in ethics usually refers to the idea that a person must be fully informed about and understand the potential benefits and risks of their choice of treatment. Patients can make their own medical decisions The value of informed consent is closely related to the values of autonomy and truth telling.

#### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is commonly applied to conversations between doctors and patients. Confidentiality is also challenged in cases involving the diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease in a patient who refuses to reveal the diagnosis to a spouse, and in the termination of a pregnancy in an underage patient, without the knowledge of the patient's parents.

#### **Privacy**

Healthcare institutions' websites have the responsibility to ensure that the private medical records of their online visitors are secure from being marketed and monetized into the hands of drug companies, occupation records, and insurance companies.

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#### Referral

Doctors who receive income from referring patients for medical tests have been shown to refer more patients for medical tests.<sup>[74]</sup> This practice of Fee splitting and the payments of commissions to attract referrals of patients is considered unethical and unacceptable in most parts of the world.

#### **Formation of Ethics committees**

Simple communication is not enough to resolve a conflict, and a hospital ethics committee must be established to decide a complex matter.

These bodies are composed primarily of healthcare professionals, but may also include philosophers, lay people, and clergy – indeed, in many parts of the world their presence is considered mandatory in order to provide balance.

It is suggested that Research and Ethical Boards (REBs) should have five or more members, including at least one scientist, one non-scientist, and one person not affiliated with the institution.

#### Conclusion

Ethics' is the discipline that examines one's moral standard or moral standards of society. Ethics refer to a set of moral principles which should play a very significant role in guiding the conduct of employees Ethics deals with what is good and bad and about right and wrong conduct, so we should and Do No Harm .medical ethics, as an essential branch of general ethics, offers a valuable framework in which to define the norms for medical care. Thus, medical ethics is concerned with promoting health and medicine and clarifying norms for improving relationships between patients and physicians.

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