**ETHICAL AND PROFFESSIONAL ISSUES**

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**Introduction;-**

An ethical framework is like scaffolding around action made up of moral Philosophy, professional codes of behavior, values inherent in the therapeutic model, personal ethics, the law, organizational context. **(Bond 2008).**

Every individual must understand the scope of organization legal and ethical responsibilities and to minimizes the liabilities. . Ethics is the study of ethically right actions and choices. and considering what has to be done. Human behavior can be molded and shaped by ethics. It helps workers fulfil their responsibilities.

Clinical issues with substantial ethical ramifications present an ever-growing conundrum in modern medical practice and infrequently have a straightforward solution. This is especially true when it comes to moral dilemmas concerning minors and individual’s incapable of making their own decisions. While the needs of the patient should always come first and any personal, cultural, and religious prejudice should be eradicated, it is also important to consider the impact of an expensive course of treatment on the available healthcare resources. In order to provide a reasonable and objective management strategy for the kid as well as society at large, regardless of creed or culture, it is crucial to establish a morally acceptable code of behavior. But unless we "practice what we preach," or else, the effect of preaching will only last as long as a house of cards, ethics cannot be instilled.

Ethics is the discipline that examines one’s moral standards of society. It asks how those standards apply to our life and whether these standards are reasonable or unreasonable – that is whether these are supported by good reason or poor one. - (**Manuel G. Velasquez).**

Professional ethics are principles that govern the behavior of a person or group in a business environment. Like values, Professional ethics provide rules on how a person should act towards other people and institution in such an environment.

Ethics are formalised principles derived from social value. These are moral principle which originate from social value and represent rules for moral behaviour and conduct of individuals or groups there of carrying on business.” — **Webster’s Directory**

**These definitions reveal the following characteristics of ethics:**

(i) Ethics is a set of moral standards and values acceptable in a society. It is relevant in the context of a society only.

(ii) Ethics guides human conduct or behaviour. If any member of the society behaves contrary to the norms and customs, society disapproves it. Moral principles serve as a guide for personal and professional conduct. Ethics checks people from taking decisions and actions which are harmful to society.

There are three main theories of ethics. First, the utilitarian theory suggests that actions become right or wrong on the basis of their consequence. Second, the theory of rights holds that all people have certain basic rights. Third, the theory of justice demands that actions must be fair and equitable.

(iii) The nature of ethical values is universal. These impose duties and ideals on every member of a society.. Ethics is important not only in business and politics but in every human endeavour.

(iv) Ethical standards differ from society to society. What is considered ethical behaviour in one society might be considered unethical in another. For example, abortion and artificial birth control is a taboo in most of the Islamic countries and catholic Christian communities. But these practices are fully ethical in China, Russia, Japan and many other countries. Similarly, euthanasia (mercy killing) is permitted in some countries but is strictly unethical in most countries.

(v) Ethics is normative or prescriptive in nature. It deals not with what is but what ought to be. It does not rest on feelings of approval or disapproval but on principles. For example, it may be unpleasant to fire an employee but morality may require it.

(vi) Ethical norms might not be legally binding. But these are more powerful than law because these have the sanction of society. When a person’s behaviour is inconsistent with the prevailing values and norms, it is called unethical. Ethics serves as a guide to law by highlighting its short comings.

(vii) The conduct of both individuals and groups is related to ethics. Animal, bird, and insect behaviour is exempt from ethical standards. Only humans possess the ability to direct and control their behaviour..

(viii) Ethics are not absolute laws. They represent the attitudes and values of a society. There is a degree of discretion because one has the choice to follow moral guidelines. There may be regional and seasonal variations in ethics.

(ix) The line separating moral and unethical behaviour is not well defined. Because of this, ethical choices are frequently difficult for people to make.

(x) The Ethics aims at perfection in human conduct. It guides law makers in framing proper laws to regulate the behaviour of all citizens. Existing norms may contain valuable insights but ethics sets out to critics and test them in terms of ultimate norms.

(xi) Ethics includes the ideas of justice and equity by default. Its main objective is to treat all people fairly and equally.

(xii) Ethics and morality are interrelated but not synonymous. In the words of Rogene A. Buchholz “Ethics deals with the formalisations of ethical principles in the abstract or the resolution of concrete ethical problems facing individuals in their daily life. Morality on the other hand generally refers to the tradition of belief that have involved over years. concerning right and wrong conduct, so that morality has its roots in belief of a society while ethics aim at formulating the principles to justify human behaviour.” According to Clearance C. Walton, “morality is the standards than an individual or group has about what is right and wrong good and evil.”

**ETHICS AND SUPERVISORY PRACTICE;**

An ethical framework is like a scaffolding that surrounds an action and is composed of moral philosophy, professional standards of conduct, principles found in therapeutic models, individual ethics, and the legal and organisational framework.

* Moral philosophy's guiding ideas for creating ethical decisions

1. Kant absolute duty
2. Consequentialist theories
3. Virtue theory.

**The British Philosopher W.D. Gross has listed six basic duties of a person:**

(i) Fidelity – doing no harm to others

(ii) Reparation – compensating those we have injured

(iii) Gratitude – giving back to those who have aided us

(iv) Justice – treating people as well as they deserve

(v) Beneficence – when we can, we try to aid others

(vi) Self-improvement – bettering ourselves but not at the cost of others

**Basic Ethical Principles**;

The ethical principles are general statements about what types of action are right or wrong. Which is including the principles of Autonomy, Beneficence, Non- maleficence and Justice. A medical professional shall in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical care to the needy one. A medical professional must acknowledge their obligation to take part in initiatives that enhance the community and the general public's health. additionally providing people with access to healthcare.

All experts make blunders. What matters is that individuals provide their best effort while being aware of ethical ideals and norms of conduct.

All norms of behaviour for professionals are founded on ethical ideals. Different professions may have different ethical standards..

Professional ethics, for instance, will vary depending on whether a person works as a doctor, lawyer, or real estate agent.

There are, however, some universal ethical standards that apply to all professions, such as;

**1. Beneficence:**

The "beneficence principle" outlines a fundamental rule of moral behaviour. In essence, this implies showing kindness to others. This principle states that all of our thoughts and deeds must be focused on making sure that others gain from them. It is not too difficult to accomplish this. Most of the time, people are more concerned with themselves than with others. We can base even our smallest activities on this theory.

As an example, consider a person parking his/her motor vehicle, a car or a motor cycle. He/she is required to park the car so that it doesn't restrict anyone else's parked car, people crossing the street, or the free flow of traffic. People frequently park on the side of the road without considering the inconvenience they are causing to others.

As another example, consider an unfortunate accident where a person has been hit by a vehicle and the driver of that vehicle has fled. The person has been badly injured and requires urgent help. What would you do? Here, doing good to others would mean mitigating the injured person’s suffering by ensuring that he/she gets immediate medical help.

**2. Least Harm:-**

The least amount of harm to others must be caused by our acts is the second ethical rule to keep in mind. Even when we have the best of intentions, there are times when our actions may wind up hurting someone. In such a circumstance, we must make sure that we act in a way that harms no one else more than absolutely required.

**For example;-**

Let us consider the case of a train accident. One’s duty in such an event is to help the injured passengers. He/She must get them out of the compartment; help the authorities take the injured to the hospital, and so on. On the other hand, sometimes it is seen that people use such incidents as an opportunity to steal the belongings of the injured, hapless people.

This is what doing harm is. The least good one can do in such situations is to prevent people from acting in such an unethical manner. Consider another example of a day-to-day occurrence. In a metropolitan bus, it's common to see young people snatching up seats as soon as they become available, while an elderly person or a mother with a young child must travel standing up. If you are sitting, it is your responsibility to offer these people your seat.

If you are standing and a seat opens up, don't leap to get it by taking advantage of the person's clumsiness or slowness of movement. Permit them to take that seat. The least you can do is this. If you are standing and a seat opens up, don't leap to get it by taking advantage of the person's clumsiness or slowness of movement. Permit them to take that seat. The least you can do is this.

**3. Autonomy:**

In essence, this principle argues that we must respect the autonomy of others in their acts. We shouldn't force our opinions on other people. This idea presupposes that everyone is aware of what is best for themselves. One may also consider the situation from the viewpoint of the individual taking action, who determines that what he or she is going to do is beneficial to themselves.. One can also look at it from the point of view of the person performing the action, who decides that what he/she is going to do is good for himself/herself.

As an example, consider your own case. As a student you may have opted for a course based on your love for the subject. On the other hand, some of you may have taken up the course because your parents took the decision for you. They have invaded your autonomy to take decisions about yourself. This is a very common occurrence and many students end up pursuing a course for which they have no aptitude or do not like.

As another example consider the instance of Indian arranged weddings. Parents frequently choose a mate for their sons or daughters without considering their feelings or wants, depending on considerations like wealth or family standing. This clearly violates the individual's autonomy. The success of marriages greatly depends on securing the children's consent before having the couple married.

**4. Non-Violence or Peace:**

This principle has become very relevant today. Violence has now pervaded all sections of society and has become its greatest bane. A fundamental ethical precept is to abstain from violence and to oppose those who use it. No real advancement in ethical behaviour can be made until we abide by this idea.

Our greatest concern is that there is a tendency to resort to violence in cases where many other options are available. There is also a nonchalant attitude to violence among people. This is a major cause for concern.

In an incident, a person was killed by a group. The police could not even investigate the case because in the violence that spread in the aftermath of this murder, many people were killed, a large number of houses were burnt, and hundreds were injured. In this case, there was violence for no particular reason.

In one instance, a group was gathering funds for a festival, according to press coverage of the incident. A modest shopkeeper was approached by the group, who made a Rs. 1000 demand. The store owner declined to accept more than Rs. 250.The bunch used force, assaulted him, and looted his store. It is important to keep in mind that donations are by definition optional.

However, the extortion of money in the name of religious festivals and, in case someone refuses to pay, resorting to violence and causing bodily harm have become common nowadays. As a society, we have become violence- prone and there is an urgent need to curb this to prevent further damage.

Thus, commitment to peace and non-violence is a fundamental principle of ethics. There should be a commitment to not resort to violence and explore other better options to solve a problem.

**5. Justice:**

The principle of justice states that our actions must be such that they are fair to everyone concerned. All ethical decisions must be based on the principle of fairness. There can be situations where a deviation from past practice is required. All such cases must be analysed and justified before a decision different from earlier decisions is made.

For example, consider the many development-induced displacements that make headlines in the newspapers these days. The building of a dam, the requirement of a weapon-testing ground, the need for a nuclear power plant, or the need for an expressway might necessitate displacement of a community to clear land for such a purpose.

If you take the specific case of a dam, it is a necessary part of infrastructure development as it provides water for irrigation and electric power generation. The construction of a dam is, thus, for the common good of a large section of the society. However, thousands of people are displaced from their land and their means of livelihood threatened because of such a project.

It is generally found that the rehabilitation of people affected by such projects is shoddy. They are left in the lurch at the end of the project with, in some cases, inadequate compensation and in others, no compensation, land, or means to earn a living. Here, injustice is done to the thousands affected. Similar examples can be seen in many developmental projects.

**6. Truthfulness:**

Truthfulness is the quality of telling, adhering to, or upholding the truth. This appears to be a universal principle. Truthfulness also leads to other values such as trustworthiness and honesty. Mahatma Gandhi highlighted this principle when he undertook the freedom struggle and named it Satyagraha, desire for truth.

We will seldom find an example where not telling the truth gets us any real benefit. In the Upanishads, it is said asatoma satgamaya, meaning ‘lead me from falsehood to truth’. Truthfulness is thus a universal principle propounded by all religious texts. In engineering measurements, it is mentioned that the true value of a quantity is not known.

By making repeated measurements, we can come close to a true value called the most probable value. In real life too, there may be many instances where the truth is not known. We then accept the best possible conclusion derived from the available/perceived facts and circumstances as the truth. This is the only way to keep one’s conscience clear and remain happy.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES;**

The ideal code of ethically acceptable practice may be approached, if not fully achieved, by applying the following accepted principles in the decision-making process.

1. RESPECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S AUTONOMY

Autonomy implies that all are free to take an active and totally independent role in the decision-making process. For this to occur, patients must be fully informed and understand the implications of their medical condition, its treatment, complications and outcome. In practice, however, the vast majority of children do not have the ability to be truly informed, and rely on others for guidance. If anything, this situation heightens the doctors’ responsibility to ensure true informed consent, albeit through third parties.

2. RESPECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S COMPETENCE

Competence implies the patient's level of understanding that allows him or her to weigh up the ethical issues posed by a clinical situation, assimilate these and reach a rational decision. This degree of comprehension is often a problem with young children, thereby increasing the responsibility of parents and the medical team to assume the role of competent advocates on their behalf.

3. RESPECT BENEFICENCE

Beneficence defines the medical principle of ‘do no harm’, a hallmark of the Hippocratic oath, and should apply in all cases. Medical practice frequently entails a compromise between benefit and harm, especially with regard to interventional procedures and drug therapy, but should always be biased toward ‘benefit’. Hence, in practice, it may be perfectly acceptable to embark on high-risk therapy in a fully informed individual (or his/her advocate), provided there is a realistic chance of reasonable benefit.

4. RESPECT OF THE TRUTH

There is never a case for wilfully lying to patients. Similarly, there is rarely any justification in withholding or omitting information from patients.

5. RESPECT OF PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

All patients have a right to confidentiality. However, disclosure of confidential information without consent may be justified in situations where failure to report may lead to greater disadvantage to the patient (e.g. physical abuse).

6. AVOIDANCE OF PATERNALISM AND BIAS

Practitioners should strive to remain truly objective and avoid all personal, racial, cultural, religious or other bias when counselling or treating children. Personal prejudice and preconceived ideas must never influence the provision or withholding of medical care to patients, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged, have a pre-existing disability or otherwise. The wishes of parents and guardians must also be respected, again regardless of any personal bias.

7. AVOIDANCE OF ALL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The patient must always come first, before any vested interest of any third party including physicians as well as the parents, guardians, extended family and society.

8. RESPECT THE LIMITATIONS OF MEDICAL CARE

Medical care should strive to support the patient, and should be tailored to the needs of the individual including any complications or disabilities. It is ethically appropriate to appreciate realistic goals which medical care can achieve, and wrong to aim toward exaggerated or impossible expectations. Hence, it is equally unacceptable to ‘treat at all costs’, as it is to ‘play god’**.**

**CODES OF CONDUCT;**

Professional codes of conduct draw on these professional ethical principles as the basis for prescribing required standards of behaviour for members of profession. They also seek to set out the expectations that the profession and society have of its members. The intention of codes of conduct is to provide guidelines for the minimum standard of appropriate behaviour in professional context. Codes of conduct sit alongside the general law of the land the personal values of members of the profession.

The main value of a professional code of conduct is not as a checklist for disciplining non-conforming members although breaches of carry a professional disciplinary consequence. Rather, code of conduct is primary value is to act as a prompt sheet for the promotion of ethical decision- making by members of that profession.

**Professional Code of Conduct Provide Benefits to;**

The public as they build confidence in the profession’s trustworthiness. Clients, as they provide greater transparency and certainty about how their affairs will be handled. Members of the profession, as they provide a supporting framework for resisting pressure to act in appropriately and for making acceptable decision in what may be ‘grey areas’. The profession as a whole, as this provide a common understanding of acceptable practice which builds collegiality and allows for fairer disciplinary procedures. Other dealing with the profession as the profession will be seen as more reliable and easier to deal with.

**Basic Approaches to Ethical Behaviour;**

**Three basic approaches to ethical behaviour are suggested:**

**i. Utilitarian Approach:**

This approach proposes that actions and plans should be judged by their consequences. People should therefore behave in such a way that will produce the greatest benefit to society with the least harm or the lowest cost. This approach suffers from the difficulty in recognizing all the benefits and the costs of any particular decision.

Research reveals that only the stakeholders having the most power (ability to affect the company), legitimacy (legal or moral claim on company resources), and urgency (demand for immediate attention) are given priority by CEOs. It is therefore likely that only the most obvious stakeholders will be considered while others are ignored.

**ii. Individual Rights Approach:**

This approach proposes that human beings have certain fundamental rights that should be respects in all decisions. A particular decision or behaviour should be avoided if it interferes with the rights of others.

The U.S. Constitution includes a Bill of Rights that may or may not be accepted throughout the world. This approach can also encourage selfish behaviour when a person defines a personal need or want as a “right”.

**iii. Justice Approach:**

The justice approach proposes that decision makers be equitable, fair and impartial in the distribution of costs and benefits to individuals and groups. It follows the principles of distributive justice and fairness. This approach can also include redistributive justice and compensatory justice.

**Cavanagh proposes that we can solve ethical problems by asking the following 3 questions regarding an act or decision:**

1. Utility- Does it optimize the satisfaction of all stakeholders?

2. Rights- Does it respect the rights of the individuals involved?

3. Justice- Is it consistent with the canons of justice?

**Factors Affecting Individual Ethics;**

**Individual ethics are determined by the following factors:**

1.Family Influences – Individuals, as children, develop ethical standards if other family members engage in ethical behaviour.

2.Peer Group Influences – The children, when they grow up, are influenced by the behaviour of their friends and peer group. High or low standard of ethical behaviour is likely to be followed in the same manner by the members of the peer group.

3.Life Experience – The way an individual’s behaviour is dealt with in real life situations also affects his ethics. If his behaviour (right or wrong) is reprimanded by his elders, he tends to avoid repeating it in future thinking that it is unethical and vice-versa.

A person who speaks harshly, if, never objected to by his parents or elders, will form a habit of speaking in that manner and will feel nothing unethical about it.

4.Personal Values – Ethical standards change according to the priority accorded to different behaviours being pursued by an individual. A person who believes in the material world will have different ethical standards than the one who prioritizes religious or social norms.

5.Situational Factors – Sometimes, people are made to behave in a particular manner because of the situational factors. An honest man may resort to stealing if he is left with no other choice for meeting his financial requirements in crisis. Though wrong in content, the unethical behaviour has been adopted as warranted by situational factors.

**ETHICAL ISSUES IN PEDIATRICS**

Pediatric nurses receive training in child development, child health care, and paediatric disorders. They work with young children all the way up to teenagers. These nurses have specialised training in assessing a child's physical and mental health. Pediatric nurses receive training in child development, child health care, and paediatric disorders. The nurse works with young children all the way up to adolescents. A child's physical and psychological well-being are examined by these nurses who have a specialisation in paediatrics. The ethical issues paediatric nurses face can be quite challenging at time, as they must often professionally solve conflicts involving a family’s personal values. lets discuss some of these which are most of the time a medical professionals faces.

1. REFUSE IMMUNIZATION

Despite facts refuting myths and supporting vaccination, a significant number of parents refuse to vaccinate their children.

1. REFUSE SEEK CARE

On behalf of their children, parents have the responsibility and authority to make medical decisions. This includes the freedom to reject or stop medical interventions, even ones that might be necessary for survival. The child's best interests, however, should be taken into consideration while making parental decisions.

1. GENETIC THERAPY

Gene therapy entails altering the body's basic set of instructions, which creates a number of distinctive ethical issues..

1. WITHHOLD THERAPY VS. WITHDRAWAL OF TREATMENT

Withholding or withdrawing from treatment can be interpreted as giving up. But when doctors, patients, and family members work well together, it can be incredibly gratifying and empowering.

1. INFORMED CONSENT

The most important goal of this is that the patient has an opportunity to be an informed participant in her clinical decision.

The ethical issues paediatric nurses face can be quite challenging at time, as they must often professionally solve conflicts involving a family’s personal values.

1. COPING SKILLS

If a child is recently diagnosed with a serious condition, it can be quite overwhelming for both the child and family members. A paediatric nurse has the responsibility of helping both the parents and child learn to cope with a serious illness.

1. RESTRANING A CHILD

There are certain procedures that require paediatric nurses to restrain a child. In some situations its absolutely necessary in order to protect their safety. for Example. If a child is in need of stitches but refuse to hold still, the child would need to be retrained for the procedure.

1. REFUSING TREATMENT

The client ultimately has the right to refuse treatment for their child, as children are minors. Therefore, it can be quite challenging for a nurse to have to pull a child from life support or not give a child certain treatment that may help them recover, when the nurse feels that its ethically right to do so.

1. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Despite a paediatric nurses spiritual or religious belief, she must comply with the family ‘s beliefs, not allowing her own feelings to personally get in the way.

1. ACCEPTING REALITY

Losing a child can be the most difficult thing a family will ever go through. In some cases, parents refuse to accept this, and want to perform more treatment. However, a paediatric nurse must help family members understand when there is nothing else that can be done in order to save the child.

**ISSUES IN PEDIATRIC NURSING**

Professional registered nurses who specialise in caring for children and babies are known as paediatric nurses. A paediatric nurse must uphold ethics and always act in the client's best interests because the small children and new-borns are ill, some of whom are terminally ill and dying. Professional registered nurses who specialise in caring for children and babies are known as paediatric nurses. A paediatric nurse must uphold ethics and always act in the client's best interests because the small children and new-borns are ill, some of whom are terminally ill and dying.

Lets discuss some of the issues in below.

1. THE HEALTH ISSUES

* A problem for the nurse is that she is frequently placed in hazardous situations while working with children. Because of his workplace and the close contact he has with patients, paediatric nurses are exposed to health risks such infectious diseases.
* A paediatric nurse may suffer from musculoskeletal issues and other back pain problems as a result of carrying children and babies, as well as the potential of injury from sharp objects like needles and blades.

1. PATIENT ADVOCATE

* The responsibility of a paediatric nurse is to continue to be the patient's champion. if the patient's behaviour alters either during or after treatment.
* A paediatric nurse is in charge of immediately informing the doctor of these changes. The nurse is responsible for alerting a working doctor who can give the patient with the necessary care at that time if the patient's doctor is not available for call or is not working.

1. CONFIDENTIALITY

* A paediatric nurse is required to keep all patient information private and confidential.
* The paediatric nurse is not allowed to discuss the child's condition with anybody other than the patient's parents, any authorised family guardians, or patient friends.
* It is against nursing ethics to violate a patient's privacy. A lawsuit may emerge from the failure of a paediatric nurse to comply with the rules. The paediatric nurse may also face the possibility of losing his job and nursing licence in addition to a lawsuit.

1. PATIENT APPROVAL

* A paediatric nurse has the duty to tell the patient and the child's family of the treatment before administering any treatment, medication, or other types of medical care. The patient or the patient's family must be thoroughly informed of what is happening.
* In some cases, a patients, parents or guardian must sign a consent form, depending on the types of treatment the pediatric nurse is providing. A lawsuit for the healthcare provider and the paediatric nurse may ensue if the patient becomes ill as a result of the nurse's incomplete explanation of the manner of care.

1. PATIENT'S BEST INTEREST

* Pediatric nurses must be able to care for and console patients who are near death. A paediatric nurse may run into legal problems if she disregards the patient's or the client's parents' preferences.
* Some paediatric nurses take matters into their own hands after developing an emotional bond with patients.
* A paediatric nurse is required by law to respect the patient's requests and act in the child's best interests. A paediatric nurse who disobeys directions risks losing her job and her licence.

**ETHICAL DILEMMA**

An ethical dilemma is one in which a person has to choose between various options, both of which are morally correct but in conflict. the nurse must make a choice between two alternatives that are equally unsatisfactory. They both deal with questions of right and wrong. Such dilemmas may occur as a result of differences in cultural or religious beliefs.

**EXAMPLES OF NURSING ETHICAL DILEMMAS**

1. INAPPROPRIATE MEDICATION ORDERS

Giving wrong medication dosages or medication for the wrong illness is unsafe for patients and may lead to death. Nurses can find themselves in an ethical dilemma when they have to challenge a medication order written by a physician.

1. UNRESPONSIVE PHYSICIANS

Nurses often they have to call on physicians in situations beyond their scope of practice such as medical emergencies. The nurse finds herself in an ethical dilemma if the physician does not respond and her patients condition goes from bad to worse.

1. INAPPROPRIATE TASKS

Nurses float from department ton department in the course of their career. When a nurse finds herself in an unfamiliar department and is asked to provide care she is inadequately trained for, she may have to refuse to provide care to avoid making the patient unsafe.

1. LIFE THREATENING PATIENT DECISIONS

Patients sometimes make decisions that are unsafe, such as refusing treatment for a baby, medication or lifesaving procedure. The pediatric nurse finds herself in an ethical dilemma because not giving the needed treatment goes against beneficence and giving it ignores patient autonomy.

**HOW TO CONTROL ETHICAL CONFLICTS**

INSTRUCTIONS ;

* Think about your personal motivations and try to separate them from your choice. If you are debating whether to notify your friend's husband that she is having an affair, your gut reaction might be to stay silent rather than risk losing their friendship. Remove your personal emotions from the situation and concentrate on the effects on the persons concerned.
* Think about your moral compass. You need a strong moral sensibility if you're thinking about ethical matters. Asking yourself what is right will help you determine if the situation can be resolved more easily.

**PEDIATRIC CODE OF ETHICS**

Pediatricians are medical professionals that focus on treating babies and young children. They are valued and dependable community members. The American medical association develop a code of medical ethics that the organization says contains ‘Standards of conduct that define honourable behaviour’ for physicians.

1. THE PATIENT CARE

The AMA's principles of medical ethics state that doctors should be committed to providing high-quality medical treatment and watch out for their patients' rights and dignity. They should also advocate universal access to healthcare and be accountable for any patient who is under their care.

1. PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Physicians should preserve patient privacy and confidentiality as well as the rights of their coworkers in the medical field.

1. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

According to the AMA, doctors have a duty to get involved in their society by taking part in initiatives that advance public health.

1. RESEARCH

It is necessary for doctors to continue learning new medical information. They ought to provide patients and other medical professionals with pertinent medical information.

1. THE LAW

In accordance with medical ethical standards, doctors must uphold the law when treating patients, but they must also work to alter it if doing so will benefit the patient.

**The following are the skills required to face such situations, and take actions that ensure peace of mind and a clear conscience:**

**i.** Develop skills to identify problems of a moral nature in professional work. A problem may have many dimensions but recognizing the moral aspects of the problem and relating these to other dimensions of the problem is important. The moral values one has imbibed during childhood, and in school and college has a bearing on this.

**ii.** Develop the ability to critically analyse a moral issue or situation. Where the action to be taken is clear and one does not face any conflict, the situation is simple. However in moral issues, very often, we face conflicts and it may be necessary to look at the pros and cons of the action options to decide correctly what is to be done.

**iii**. Develop sensitivity to genuine difficulties. Some moral issues may call for taking actions, which at first sight may go against some moral principles held by the individual as sacrosanct. In such cases, some flexibility in thinking and taking decisions for the overall good of the people concerned may be called for.

**iv**. Develop ingenuity, creativity, and imagination to find alternative solutions to complex problems. Many problems do create situations that call for out-of-the-ordinary solutions. A true professional will develop creative solutions to such complex problems by a critical analysis of all factors and by imaginative understanding of the alternatives possible.

**v.** Develop consistency in thinking on moral issues. Consistency comes from knowledge and understanding of similar situations and comparison of facts in a given situation with those of others.

**vi**. Develop the ability to express your perception on moral issues clearly to others. This will enable others to appreciate the rationale behind any actions proposed in a given moral issue. An understanding of ethical principles and theories will enable one to make a comprehensive expression of one’s views.

**vii.** Develop moral integrity and credibility. This can be strengthened in your actions in all spheres of life, whether it is professional or personal. Consistency in moral standpoint of the individual in all spheres gives credence to his/her views on moral issues.

**viii.** Develop tolerance and try to understand other people’s views on moral conflicts. Moral issues, very often, are not simple enough to generate an algorithmic solution. People who think rationally may come out with differing perspectives of the problem. One must develop the ability to appreciate differing but rational points of view.

**ix.** Develop the ability to assimilate moral issues and solutions even in cases where you are not directly concerned. A general interest in moral concerns and issues, even in other professions, may be of help in one’s own profession. Keep track of moral issues and solutions and try to form your own opinions in such cases.

**x**. Develop your own moral standards or benchmarks for applying to situations that you may face. Over a period of time, this will help you in creating a yardstick for judging many situations.

**Guidelines for Ethical Behaviour;**

**Though each individual or group has his own sets of ethical values, a few guidelines have been prescribed to be followed:**

1.Obey the Law – Obeying the legal practices prevalent in a country is conforming to the ethical values.

2.Tell the Truth – Disclosing the fair accounting results to the concerned parties and telling the truth is also an ethical behaviour on the part of managers.

3.Respect for People – Management ethics requires managers to show respect towards whomsoever he comes in contact with.

4.The Golden Rule – The golden business principle is “Treat others as you would want to be treated”. This, if followed, will always result in ethical behaviour.

5.Above All, Do No Harm – Even if law does not prohibit the use of chemicals in producing certain products, managers must avoid using them if their use happens to be an environmental pollutant.

6.Practice Participation – Not Paternalism – Managers should not decide on their own as to what is good or bad for the different stakeholders. They must assess their needs, analyse them in the light of business needs, and integrate the two needs by allowing the various stakeholders to participate in the decision-making processes.

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