



Professional Ethics

Chapter-1

ETHICS

What is Ethics?

- ✓ Ethics is derived from the Greek word ethos, meaning custom or character.
- ✓ Ethics:- a branch of philosophy dealing with standards of conduct and moral judgment.
- ✓ It is a method of inquiry that assists people to understand the morality of human behavior.
- ✓ It is a way of looking at or investigating certain issues about human behavior.

Ethics...

- ✓ Ethics is the science/principles/ that allow us to make decisions about what is right or wrong.
- ✓ Ethics also known as Morality.
- ✓ No system of enforcement for ethical guidelines
- ✓ For example, telling the truth necessary but sometimes individuals lies
- ✓ There is no rule for not to lie but what it

Ethics is not ...

- Ethics is not the same as feelings
- Ethics is not religion
- Ethics is not following the law

Ethics is ...

- Moral Principles
 - › What is good and bad
 - › What is right and wrong
- Based on value system
- Ethical norms are not universal – depends on the sub culture of the society

Ethics...

- ✓ Ethics refers to standards of behavior that tell us how human beings ought to act in the many situations in which they find themselves
- ✓ as friends, parents, children, citizens, businesspeople, teachers, professionals, and so on.

Cont'd...

- ✓ Midwives must recognize responsibility to patients first and foremost, as well as to society, to other health professionals, and to self.
- ✓ These are not laws, **but standards of conduct** which define the essentials of honorable behavior for the midwives.

Cont'd...

- ✓ Legal system is particularly ill-prepared to resolve sensitive ethical issues.
 - ✓ For example, religious issues.
- ✓ No laws specially deal with the issues at hand in many ethical conflicts.
- ✓ So that it is impossible to refer laws/principles to resolve ethical

Cont'd...

- ✓ In other types of conflict general legal principles and laws associated with the specific problem can be referred.
- ✓ Ethics delineates/explains the highest moral standards of acceptable behavior.
- ✓ Law describes the minimum standards of acceptable behavior.

Comparison of morals and ethics

Morals

- Principles and rules of right conduct.
- Private, and personal.
- Commitment to principles and values is usually defended in daily life.
- Pertain to an individual's character.
- Are fundamental standards of right and wrong that an individual learns and internalizes.

Ethics

- Formal responding process used to determine right conduct
- Professionally and publicly stated
- Inquiry or study of principles and values
- Process of questioning, and perhaps changing, one's morals
- Speaks to relationships between human beings`

Types of Ethics

1. Descriptive Ethics:

- It is the description of the Values and beliefs of various cultural, religious or social groups about health and illness.
 - Different societies have different moral standards
 - People tend to make decisions which bring pleasure or avoid pain.

2. Normative Ethics:

- a study of human activities in a broad sense that attempt to identify human actions that are right or wrong and good or bad, qualities and beliefs of various cultural, religious or social groups about health and illness
 - This action **is** wrong in this society, but it **is right** in another.

3. Analytical Ethics:

- analyzes the meaning of moral terms.
- It seeks the reasons why these action or attitudes are either wrong or right.
 - › Morality is relative
 - › Morality is simply a system for helping humans stay happy and alive.

Ethical theories

- Ethical theories may be compared to lenses that help us to **view an ethical problem**.
- Different theories can be useful because they allow us to bring different perspectives in to our ethical discussions.

Look the following question and discuss over it.

- What would you do if you found some money lying in upstairs of department or college office

What would you do ?

- A. Leave it alone
- B. Pick it up and spend it
- C. Pick it up and give it to the charity
- D. Pick it up and hand it in
 - 1. if amount of money is 100ETB
 - 2. If amount of money is 2000ETB
 - 3. If amount of money is 100,000ETB

There are four ethical theories:

1. Deontology
2. Teleology
3. Intuitionism
4. The ethics of caring

1. Deontology (Duty or rule-Based theory)

- System of ethical decision making that is based on moral rules and unchanging principles.
- Based on the ethical absoluteness of **principles regardless** of the consequence of the decisions

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Deontology...

- The rightness or wrongness of an action depends on the **nature of the act** rather than its consequences.
- Acting rightly when you act according to duties and rights.
- The theory denotes that duties and rights are the correct measuring rods for evaluating action.
- E.g. informed consent, respecting patient...

Examples of Deontology

- “Humans should always be treated as ends and never as means”.
- “Human life has value”.
- “ One is always to tell the truth”.
- “Above all in the health care system do no harm”.
- “The human person has a right to self determination”.

Advantages

- Believe that duties and obligations, rather than mere actions, bring about the best ends.
- Judgment based on principles is the same in a variety of similar situations.
- Similar to legal system (but not enforceable under law like legal Right & duties).

Disadvantages/Limitations

- Not free from imperfection; Questions- What do you do when the basic guiding principles conflict with each other? What is the source of the principles?
- Followers are few, because most people do consider the consequences of their actions in the decision making.

2. Teleology (end based

- Is also called consequentialism, utilitarian or “Telos---goal oriented.
- Define good as happiness.
- Have two principles;
 - ✓ The greatest good for the greatest number.
 - ✓ The end justifies the means.
 - ❖ Rightness and wrongness of acts depends entirely on goodness and badness of their consequence.

Types of Utilitarian Theories

1. Act utilitarianism: suggests that people choose actions that will in any given circumstances increase the over all good

- Criticisms: the difficulty of attaining a full knowledge and certainly of the consequences of our actions.
- It is possible to justify immoral acts using act Utilitarian
- Suppose you could end a regional war by torturing children whose fathers are enemy soldiers, thus revealing the hide outs of the fathers.

Types of Utilitarian Theories...

2. Rule utilitarianism: suggests that people choose rules that when followed consistently will maximize the overall good.

E.g. in-vitro fertilization (IVF)

Followers of Utilitarianism

- ✓ Do not believe in the validity of any system of rules, because the rules can change depending on the circumstances surrounding the decision to be made.
- ✓ An act is then good if it promotes happiness and wrong if it promotes to unhappiness.
- ✓ Although happiness is the happiness of the greatest number of people, the happiness of each person weighs

Advantages of utilitarianism

- Many individuals find it easy to apply to most situations as it is based on their own need of happiness.
- They fit well into society that avoids rules and regulations.

Cont.....

- Followers of this would agree with general prohibition against lying and deceiving because, ultimately the results lead to more happiness than result of lying
- Truth telling is not an absolute requirement for the follower of utilitarianism.

Cont.....

- If telling the truth would produce widespread unhappiness for a great number of people and future generations, then it would be ethically better to **tell a lie** that would yield more happiness

Disadvantages of Utilitarianism...

- Does “happiness” refers to the average, total or for few happiness?
- How does one make decisions when the individual happiness conflicts with the larger groups happiness, as individual happiness is also important.
- What constitutes happiness or the greatest good for the greatest

Disadvantage

- Who determines what is good in the first place? Society, individual or government?
- Where do minority groups fit in the health care? The greatest good for the greatest number principle.
- What happens when the minority group becomes the majority group?

Disadvantage...

- Ends justify the means principle does not allow and is not acceptable to do whatever you want just as long as the final goal or purpose is good.
- In the health care issues that involve individuals lives, quantifying as “good” “harmful”, “beneficial”, is especially

Application of Utilitarianism

- List the possible acts.
- For each act, see how much net good it would do.
- Identify the act that does the most net good.

General Implications of Utilitarianism

- Resources for most good.
- Respect right when and only violating-unhappiness.
- Look at long run (the end), and not just short run (the means).

3. Intuitionism

- The notion that people inherently know what is right or wrong
- determining what is not a matter of rational thought or learning.
- For example, nurses inherently known it is wrong to strike a client, this does not need to be taught or reasoned out.

4. The ethics of caring (case based theory)

- Unlike the preceding theories which are based on the concept of fairness (justice) an ethical caring is based on relationships.
- Persons are understood to have varying degrees of dependence and interdependence on one another
- It stresses courage, generosity, commitment, and responsibility.
- Caring is a force for protecting and enhancing client dignity.

Four ethical elements of care

1. **Attentiveness**.....a recognition of others need in order to respond to them
2. **Responsibility** in order to care take responsibility
3. **Competence** follow with enough adequacy
4. **Responsiveness**....responsiveness of the care receiver to the care to understand

The Application of Ethical Theories

- Essential structure for nurses as a means of resolving particular ethical dilemmas.
- Ethical theories do not provide cookbook solutions for ethical dilemmas, but a framework for decision making to apply in a particular situation.
- Most health professionals like nurses attempt to make ethical decisions through combining these theories as eclectic one.

MIDWIFE

- Defn:

the word derives from Old English mid, "with," and wif, "woman," and thus originally meant "with-woman," that is, the person who is with the woman (mother) at childbirth. The word refers to **midwives** of either gender. In the **early** 1920s, a wealthy woman named Mary Breckinridge became concerned that poor, rural women in her home state of Kentucky didn't have access to good medical care.

Defn....cont..

She traveled to Britain, trained as a **midwife** and founded the Frontier Nursing Service (FNS) in Kentucky. 1765: Dr. William Shippen opened the first formal training for **midwives**. **Midwives'** beliefs that childbirth is normal and inherently within the domain of female competence may have prevented women from seeking formal training, especially from men. Jan 17, 2000

THE END.

GALATOOMAA!!