

**Title:**

Teaching Bioethics to the MBBS students.

**Objectives:**

- i) To identify ethical aspects related to medical practice and research.
- ii) To identify the likely problems associated with not following ethical medical practice and research.
- iii) To make decisions under the given circumstances based on acceptable moral concepts and traditional practice.
- iv) To provide rational justification for ethical decisions
- v) To apply the ethical principles of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights.

**The Context:**

In the last few years, there were increased cases of medical negligence allegations. It was observed that doctor's conduct is one of the reasons for this increased cases. The present doctors are losing the respect and dignity from the society compared to the earlier practitioners. Hence, it is essential to teach the budding doctors about the ethical issues involved with various situations involved with patient interactions, and the behavioural attitude and method of communication in these situations.

Challenges: Lack of syllabus in the medical UG and PG curriculum on addressing these ethical issues before implementation of new curriculum on MBBS in 2018.

**The Practice:**

Medical Council of India in its proposed curriculum for Medical UG & PG studies (Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 2012) gave a lot of emphasis on "Professional development including ethics". With the inception of South India Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at Father Muller Medical College in 2012, Bioethics syllabus was designed under UNESCO Bioethics Chair for medical UG students.

*Limitations:*

- Lack of trained teachers to teach on bioethics.
- Implementation of the bioethics syllabus in the existing medical UG curriculum.

**Evidence of Success:**

The students expressed that topics discussed during Bio-ethics classes created awareness about various ethical issues related to the practice of medicine. They felt that this knowledge will be of great help during their clinical postings when they deal with the patients.

A short term success would be evaluation of students on the subject 'bioethics' and a long term success would be reduced litigations on the medical practitioners.

**Problems encountered and resources required:**

- Sensitization of the University and faculty members about the importance of teaching bioethics to medical students.
- Motivating the teachers to attend the training programs and involve them in bioethics teaching along with their regular works.
- Time schedule and shortage of faculty for evaluation.

The students are not serious about attending the bioethics classes and during assessment since it is not a part of University curriculum. Fortunately, Bioethics has been included in the MBBS curriculum introduced in 2018.