

Editorial

Medical services without medical ethics: Sailing the ship without compass

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Our lives, both present and future, are shaped by the ever-growing knowledge and power of the life sciences and of healthcare. Medicine is the universal science intended everywhere to sustain or better human health but ethical inquiry is an immense need to us when we are not sure about the direction where we are heading. It is to be noted that on his presidential speech to the American College of Surgeons in Oct 2001 Prof R Scott Jones said, “to function effectively in the health care system.....to navigate in a trillion dollar industry, we need compass: medical ethics”¹.

Unfortunately in our country we are navigating our ship without this compass in the ever expanding ocean of medical industry. That’s why every time we are facing a situation where there is a gap between the caregivers and expectations of the clients. Very often we found news

on patient’s dissatisfaction towards our caregivers in newspapers. Medical education curriculum without any component of morality is producing caregivers without conscience like robots. In this situation our patients are not banking on us and our healthcare market is being taken out by foreign hospitals and healthcare personnel of all categories. It is not only affecting our healthcare industry but also jeopardizing quality of medical education. The overall scenario is not a happy experience for us.

To bring a major change in this bleak reality we have to incorporate moral and ethical input in every level of our undergraduate and post-graduate medical education curriculum. Moreover we have to prepare proper legislation and strictly impose them to guide our physicians.

Reference

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“Every illness has a cure, and when the proper cure is applied to the disease, it ends it, Allāh willing.” [Sahih Muslim]