GREETINGS FROM INDIA
Ethical Issues in Nursing

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Introduction

- Ethics are the fundamentals in nursing
  - Nursing practice
  - Nursing research
  - Nursing education
What is Ethics?

- Derived from Greek word “Ethos” meaning custom or character.

- A branch of philosophy dealing with standards of conduct and moral judgment.

  - Rules or standards that govern the conduct of the person or the conduct of the members of a profession.

- A professional nursing ethic is a living, dynamic set of standards for nurses' professional moral behavior.
Why is ethics important?

- Ethical principles in nursing act as safety valves for social control to prevent professional misconduct and abuse of the rights of clients.
Morals

- Standards of right and wrong that help people determine the correct or permissible action in a given situation.

- Acts 24:16
  I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.
Personal values vs. professional ethics

Values which each person holds as significant & true for himself or herself.

Involve principles that have universal application and standards of conduct that must be upheld in all situation.
Responsibility

- Refers to characteristic of dependability and reliability.

- Includes a duty to perform actions well and thoughtfully.
Accountability

- The ability to answer for one's own action.
- The nurse balances accountability to the client, the profession, the employer, and society.
Bioethics

- **Ethics of medical research and treatment:** the study of the moral and ethical choices faced in medical research and in the treatment of patients, especially when the application of advanced technology is involved.
Principles

- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Caring
- Justice
- Non-maleficence

Isaiah 56:1
This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness soon be revealed."
Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
Code of Ethics

- Set of ethical principles that are accepted by all members of a profession.
- Provides guideline for safe and compassionate care.
- Nurses' commitment to code of ethics guarantees the public that nurses adhere to the professional practice standards.
Purpose of the code

- To inform both the nurse and society of the minimum standard and conduct.
- Provides regulatory bodies a basis for decision and regarding standard of professional conduct.
- Helps to protect the right of individuals, families, and community and also the rights of the nurse.
Use of code

- Acknowledges the rightful place of individual in the health care delivery system.

- Contribute towards empowerment of individuals to become responsible for their health and well being.

Proverbs 10:9
The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.
Use of code contd…

- Contributes to the quality care.

- Identifies obligations in practice, research and relationships.

- Informs the individuals, families, communities and other professionals about expectations of a nurse.
Code of Ethics-ICN

- Nurses have four fundamental responsibilities:
  - To promote health
  - To prevent illness
  - To restore health
  - To alleviate suffering.
Code of ethics of nurses in India (INC)

- The nurse respects the uniqueness of individual in provision of care.
- Nurse respects the rights of individual as partner in care & help in making informed choices.
- Nurse respects individual’s right to privacy, maintain confidentiality & shares information judiciously.
Code of ethics of nurses in India (INC) contd…

• Nurse maintains competence in order to render quality nursing care.

• The nurse is obliged to practice within the framework of ethical, professional and legal boundaries.
Code of ethics of nurses in India (INC) contd...

- Nurse is obliged to work harmoniously within members of the health team.

- Nurse commits to reciprocate the trust invested in nursing profession by society.
Code of professional conduct for nurses in India.

- Professional responsibility and accountability.
- Nursing practice
- Communication and interpersonal relationships.
- Valuing human being.
- Management
- Professional advancement.
Other codes of ethics for Nurses

- American Nurses Association code for nurses

- Canadian Nurses Association code of ethics for nursing.

- International Council of Nurses code for nurses.
Ethical issues
Common ethical issues and nursing

Do not resuscitate order

- Intervention unlikely to produce any benefit for the client
- Indicates when cardiac arrest occurs during the final phase of dying process, CPR will not be attempted.
- Physician have no obligation to provide, families have no right to demand.
Euthanasia

Euthanasia or mercy killing or Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) is the bringing about of the gentle death of a patient in the case of a painful, chronic and incurable disease.

Ethical and legal questions are raised by the issue of euthanasia

- Active euthanasia
- Passive euthanasia
Organ donation

- Legally competent persons are free to donate their bodies or organs for medical use.
- The national organ transplantation act prohibits selling or purchasing of organs
- Organ donation remains voluntary
- Consent forms are available for this purpose
- A nurse may serve as a witness when a patient gives consent for organ donation
Power of attorney

- Advance care directives can also designate someone the patient trusts to make decisions about medical care if the patient becomes unable to make (or communicate) these decisions. This is called designating “power of attorney for health care”/ health care proxy
Nurses involvement

- Nurse must inform clients about their right to formulate advance directives
- Nurse should establish trust and rapport with client and family members
- Nurse should assists them in making decision
- Document all critical decision and discussion
- Discrimination must also be prevented against clients and family members
Living Will

A living will is a legal document that a person uses to make known his or her wishes regarding life prolonging medical treatments.

- This document can speak for a patient who is unable to communicate.
- A living will may indicate specific care or treatment the person does or does not want performed under specific circumstances.
Gweneth D, Bernadette P, Helen B, Gladys McP. examined the meaning and enactment of ethical nursing practice for three groups of nurses (nurses in direct care positions, student nurses, and nurses in advanced practice positions).

Highlighted that humanly involved ethical nursing practice is also simultaneously a personal process and a socially mediated one.
The study findings pointed to types of educative experiences that may help nurses to develop the knowledge and ability to live in and navigate their way through the complex, ambiguous and shifting terrain of ethical nursing practice.

Proverbs 21:3
To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

Ethical Dilemmas
Ethical Dilemmas

- An ethical dilemma occurs when there is a conflict between two or more ethical principles.

- Ethical dilemmas in health care involve issues surrounding professional action a client care decision which may lead to discomfort and conflict among the members of health care team between providers, client and family.
Ethical decision making

- Evolves trying to distinguish right from wrong in situations without clear guidelines

- Model can help identify factors and principles that affect a decision.
Factors affecting Ethical decision making

- Nurses’ perceptions and their roles & responsibilities.
- Moral theories and frameworks.
- Moral principles.
- Professional code of ethics.
- Level of cognitive development of the people involve
- The values, beliefs & attitude of these people.
Processing/Resolving an Ethical Dilemma
Processing/resolving an ethical dilemma

- Similar to nursing process in many ways which requires the deliberate, systemic thinking.

- Differs from nursing process as it requires negotiation of differences, incorporation of conflicting idea, and an effort to respect differences of opinion.
Processing/resolving an ethical dilemma contd..

Step 1

- Is this an ethical dilemma?
- If a review of scientific data does not resolve the question, the question is perplexing and the answer will have profound relevant for several area of human concern, then an ethical dilemma may exist.
Step 2

- Gather all of the information relevant to the case.

- To be sure it is a true dilemma, it will be important to review all pertinent information.
Occasionally an overlooked fact may provide quick resolution.

Client, family, institutional, and social perspectives are important sources of relevant information.
Step 3

• Examine or determine own values on the issues.

• Values clarification provides a foundation for clarity and for confidence during discussions that will be necessary for resolution of a dilemma.
Processing/resolving an ethical dilemma contd..

Step 4

- Verbalize the problem.

- Simple statement of the dilemma may not always be easy, but it is essential for the next step to take place.
Processing/resolving an ethical dilemma contd..

Step 5

• Consider possible courses of action.
• To respect all sides of an issue, it is helpful to list potential action, especially when the list will reflect opinions that conflict.
Step 6

- Negotiate the outcomes.
- Sometimes courses of action that seem unlikely at the beginning of the process take on new possibility as they are put to rational and respectful consideration.

- Negotiation requires a confidence in one’s own point of view and a deep respect for the opinions of others.
Processing/resolving an ethical dilemma contd..

Step 7  Evaluate the action.
Research input

- Katharine V Smith, Nelda S Godfrey examine nurses’ perceptions of what it means to be a good nurse and to do the right thing.
- Participants viewed ethical nursing as a complex endeavor in which a variety of decision-making frameworks are used. Consistent with virtue ethics, high value was placed on both intuitive and analytical personal attributes that nurses bring into nursing by virtue of the persons they are.

Nursing Ethics, Vol. 9, No. 3, 301-312 (2002)
Ethical principles in research contd..

Respect for privacy and confidentiality
- Anonymity
- Confidentiality

Right for free and informed consent

Respect for vulnerable.

Balancing harm and benefit.
Ethics committee

- Ethics committee is formed to process dilemma.

- Committees generally are multidisciplinary & include representatives who are nurses as well as representative from other discipline.
Functions of ethics committee

• Provide education in ethics to diverse population.

• Assist institution in developing & reviewing of policy related to ethical issues.

Zechariah 7:9
This is what the LORD Almighty says: Luke "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another."
Functions of ethics committee

- Ensure policies are implemented properly.
- Serve as recourse persons or consultants for specific ethical dilemmas.
Conclusion

- The nursing profession is being constantly confronted by ethical dilemmas.

- Discussion and resolution of ethical issues requires critical thinking skills.

- Resolutions of ethical issues incorporate not only the nurses personal values, but also the interpretation of the client’s personal values.
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THANK YOU

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Ca'm on

DOMO

Shukriya

Terima Kasih

Xie Xie