



BIOETHICS

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Health care professional should be able to identify ethical issues in medicine, health care and life sciences

Even more important

- You, as physicians, should be able to provide rational justification for ethical decisions



What is ethics?

- You should be able to recognise and distinguish an ethical issue from other issues
- You should be able to reason about ethical issues



The moral point of view

- What is ethics?

- Morality is a unique feature of the life of human beings.
- It is deeply influenced by several cultural factors, such as history, traditions, education, religious beliefs, etc.
- The intellectual analysis of this human dimension in all of its complexity is the goal of the discipline called Ethics

Ethics does not create by itself morality or moral behavior.

The goal of ethics is much more modest:

- to explore the nature of moral experience, its universality and its diversity.
- Ethics and morality are generally taken as synonyms, because they originally had the same meaning: the study of the disposition, character, or attitude of a specific person, group of people or culture and ways of promoting or perfecting it.



The world of ethics

- In its development through history, the discipline called Ethics has known different approaches.
- None of them have obtained, to this moment, a general agreement.

- There are ethical systems ordered around the ideas of law, duty, obligation, virtue, happiness, principles, consequences, etc.
- In an effort to capture the valuable insights of each of these approaches it will be useful to begin by analysing the universal moral experience of human beings.

- Proceeding this way, two concepts emerge as basic:
- one is 'value' and the other is 'duty'

Values can be identified amongst all peoples and societies and they often provide unique identifiers of those cultures.

Values therefore predate the discipline called ethics, being promoted by religions, cultural traditions, history, etc.

Values are the background of many other moral concepts derived from them, like principles, norms, laws, virtues, etc

One of the most important goals of ethics is the intellectual analysis of values and value conflicts, in order to define our duties.

And duties always involve the values at stake in each specific situation, promoting them as much as possible.



Normative Ethics

4 Principles of Bioethics

- *Autonomy*
 - *Beneficence*
 - *Non Maleficence)*
 - *Justice*
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