

EURASIAN EXPERIMENT JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH (EEJSAR)	ISSN: 2992-4146
©EEJSAR Publications	Volume 5 Issue 3 2024

The Role of Bioethics in Medical Arts: Navigating Moral Dilemmas

Bizimana Rukundo T.

Faculty of Biological Sciences Kampala International University Uganda

ABSTRACT

Bioethics plays an important part in the medical arts by addressing moral quandaries in healthcare. Bioethics, which has its roots in ancient philosophy and has evolved greatly throughout the twentieth century, provides a framework for analysing difficult healthcare concerns. This study investigates important bioethical ideas such as deontology, consequentialism, and legalism and applies them to real-world medical scenarios such as life-saving medicines, reproductive ethics, and patient rights. It also looks at contemporary issues including the ethics of genetic engineering and medical tourism. The discussion emphasises the significance of ethical decision-making and forecasts future trends that will transform bioethics in an increasingly globalised, technologically driven world.

Keywords: Bioethics, Medical ethics, Deontology, Consequentialism, Legalism, Moral dilemmas, Patient rights.

INTRODUCTION

The practice of medicine is built on an ethical foundation that understands healthcare as a service whose aim is to decrease the mortality and morbidity of individuals. Ethical behavior and decision-making lie at the heart of the art of medicine. As a touchstone, philosophy enriches medicine and plays a cardinal role. In the field of health, professionals face moral dilemmas. The discussions are traced back to ancient civilizations. In these societies, foci of discussion included the ethics and philosophy of medicine, as well as the role and rights of the patients and physicians. Such evidence leads to the primordial roots of bioethics [1, 2]. The term 'bioethics' is not as old as the practice of the medical arts. It developed in a more fledgling essence much later in the 20th century. Bioethics is a recent addition, added to combat horrendous medical practices, such as those caused by experiments on concentration camp prisoners, as well as by other regimes. Bioethics has at its core the value of preventing patients and others from being violated. Its voice arose in the 1960s and 1970s with such notable events as the disclosure of unethical studies, the issues concerning human resources in the formulation of laws allowing reproductive choices, the case involving withdrawing life-sustaining machinery, and the birth of the world's first 'test-tube' baby. These pivotal events led to the development of the discipline of bioethics. It is as old as human civilization and its influence on, and role in, the medical arts and healing. Bioethics is perhaps, philosophically and objectively, the same as natural law. The purpose of bioethics is to protect and guarantee the rights of patients [3, 4].

Key Principles and Theories in Bioethics

Bioethics refers to the application of ethical principles and theories to issues of life and healthcare. It guides healthcare practitioners and non-practitioners through everyday moral dilemmas and complex decision-making processes. Ethics plays a role in the medical arts, as fundamental principles and theories help to analyze difficult moral cases. The four basic principles and related theories below will help guide our ethical arguments [5, 6].

Deontology: Deontology focuses on duty. It implies being truthful and following the rules and professional code of conduct and is also an impartial reasoning with legal obligations, moral reasoning, and ethical obligations. When formulating different protocols, the application of this method helps people adhere to their duties committed to various philosophies of the healthcare institution [7, 8].

Consequentialism: Consequentialism emphasizes morality as the outcome. Healthcare ethics entails questioning the right thing to do for the individual and society. It includes a cost-benefit analysis of the

loss of resources in monetary terms and the value of individual human life and subsequent outcomes. The value of rationing human resources is tested against moral and ethical reasoning in this ethical decision [9, 10].

Legalism: The collision between morality and legality is ever-growing in healthcare. The risk of legal action is every healthcare practitioner's concern. There are sometimes differing opinions and authoritarianism is a challenge if you are standing strong in service of its worth, humanity, and faith in the things that you are doing that are "the right thing." At times, for liability and personal lawsuits, the ethical distinct lines are muddled for personal gains. The difference between the law and acts of moral deceit in a medical setting is well argued and distorted. The care that represents the values of individuals and healthcare organizations is called for with moral discernment [11, 12].

Ethical Issues in Medical Practice

In addition to discovering advances made by doctors, honey, and concoctions of fruit sugar and olive oil, urban dwellers also face several rational and irrational fears and anxieties when confronted by their local medical system. The manipulation of the boundary between life and death using drugs, steroidal drugs, and respirators is a topic that arouses considerable ethical concern. In addition, the rightness and wrongness of abortion and the famous experiments being carried out with test-tube human embryos constitute a number of significant issues facing the existing health system. Another topic of medical technology of interest to bioethicists is the right of researchers to experiment on human beings using drugs and surgical techniques that accumulate a variety of disadvantages. An extension of this issue comprises the equity of training in doing and receiving a 'positive' education in the gentle art of genetic counseling. Addressing the above issues does pose some significant obstacles, particularly for the nascent specialty of bioethics. Unlike the law, which has grown, is well-codified, and the justice system is supported by various human behaviors influenced by the legal system, the way people act or respond to moral norms, rules, or values is very hard for us to predict. The business of ethics or meta-ethics is also the subject of numerous debates between ethical theories. However, although ethics is inherently divisive and contested, it can address the difficult and sometimes intractable moral conflicts detailed in the discussion. Another reason bioethics has not taken root in the health sciences of our urban communities is that there is no professional prerequisite at the tertiary level that will automatically produce a person with medical knowledge who subsequently receives ethical training. Given these few points in favor of bioethics, the question still remains whether urban society can re-embrace the study of bioethics in the education, training, and practice of the caring professions. However, despite skepticism from within the caring professions about the utility of a course in bioethics, it is quite clear that decisions about life and death, justice and fairness, and the treatment of the body in illness and health must be approached by doctors saying first, do no harm, and by a society very concerned with integrity within the health sciences [13, 14].

Case Studies and Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare

Case Study 1: Dulce Garcia and the Unaccompanied Minor Dulce Garcia, pediatric nurse practitioner, sighed and walked out to the waiting room to find a teenager sitting alone, crying. When Dulce started to call the name, the teenager ran outside and around the building. One hour later, the young woman was seen by social workers from the Department of Children and Family Services. Her story of how she got into this predicament began in Mexico three years earlier. Critical Analysis: How might an understanding of theories of justice guide in this case? How would the ethical theory of Kant define action in this case? How would the utilitarian guidance for decision-making in this case compare and contrast with religious guidance? When Dulce asked the young woman if she would like to come in and talk, Maria ran. Dulce felt frustrated, personally violated by being lied to, and rejected concerning the time she had spent. The question arises: how should a care team move from moral distress to right action? Dulce felt that committed care weighed on her more than looking to each side for guidance. There has been a privilege in the bioethics literature associated with a "neutral perspective." Can there be a "neutral perspective"? Consider a personnel situation in a retail setting and the concepts of "the customer is always right" and "the company is always right." How might each of these approaches have guided Dulce? How do legal and risk management responsibilities guide the decision? What would a personal, emotional perspective of "let's help her" provide regarding guidance? What role does discourse play in ethical dilemmas? What cultural differences can be identified in this scenario? Will the cultural differences in moral perspective be relevant to the care decision? What legal issues, in this scenario, are defined as care concerns? [15, 16].

Future Trends and Challenges in Bioethics

Over the past 50 years, we have entered a new technological age. Besides the numerous scientific advancements, the birth of artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, the invention of new tools, and the

rapid development of big data have raised new ethical questions. Due to globalization, people live as part of physical, fermenting, and digital world structures. In the age of the internet, personal data is decentralized, and goods and money hold their value in several places. Medical tourism has contributed to this globalization tendency. As a result, medical tourism has become very popular in recent years, and new ethical questions have emerged accordingly in various cultures and societies [17, 18]. Issues such as orphan drugs, equity in access to medical technologies and drugs were discussed at international meetings. Thousands of articles have been published on these topics and have been discussed in different cultural settings and societies with their specific problems. Again, the era of the Anthropocene has brought a new approach in this field, which is referred to as "environmental ethics." Now, in order to understand the changes in biology and medicine, it is absolutely essential to consider ecological issues and the earth as a global system. How to organize solidarity, fair distribution, and environmentally friendly approaches in the new era should be apparent at the interface of society. Given these questions, the transformation and roles of bioethics and related health disciplines to undertake the necessary roles, such as questions of "what is right?" and "what is good?" in the future, will be reconstructed. The change in the vision of bioethics acts as a value that has evolved to protect and strengthen social life forces. All health workers need to be aware of new developments and develop a sense of responsibility and interest so that they can approach them in ethical areas. Nurses and other health professionals should be educated and trained to promote human dignity and the common good. Thus, dealing with ethical issues—about what is right and what is good for people in this age—continues to be important. Given the emphasis to be placed on experience, knowledge, attitude, motivation, raising ethical awareness, and negotiation skills with clinicians will be an important part of ethics at any level of healthcare delivery services. To directly address these challenges, the ethical codes and guidelines in some bioethical decisions must be redesigned in accordance with universal rules, which implies that the developments may also give rise to the impetus for this [19, 20].

CONCLUSION

Bioethics continues to serve as a cornerstone of ethical decision-making in healthcare, ensuring that medical practices align with moral, legal, and philosophical standards. As medical technology advances and healthcare becomes increasingly globalized, bioethics must evolve to address emerging dilemmas. The integration of bioethics into medical education and practice is essential for protecting patient rights, ensuring fair access to healthcare, and navigating complex issues such as artificial intelligence, genetic manipulation, and medical tourism. Ultimately, bioethics is key to promoting human dignity and ensuring that healthcare providers maintain their commitment to "do no harm" in a rapidly changing world.

REFERENCES

1. Hall MA, Bobinski MA, Orentlicher D, Cohen IG, Bagley N, Sawicki NN. Health Care Law and Ethics:[Connected EBook]. Aspen Publishing; 2024 Feb 19. [HTML]
2. Varkey B. Principles of clinical ethics and their application to practice. *Medical Principles and Practice*. 2021 Jun 4;30(1):17-28.
3. Thobaben J. The History of Medical Ethics. *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*. 2024 Aug 1.
4. Raab EL. The parameters of informed consent. *Trans Am Ophthalmol Soc*. 2004;102:225-30; discussion 230-2. PMID: 15747761; PMCID: PMC1280103.
5. Johnstone MJ. Bioethics: a nursing perspective. *Confederation of Australian Critical Care Nurses journal*. 1990 Dec;3(4):24-30.
6. Barman B, Srivastava TK, Sarma A, Nath CK. Effectiveness of formal training in bioethics of 3rd semester undergraduate medical students in recognizing bioethical issues and principles in patient care. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*. 2020 Jun 1;9(6):2871-6. www.com
7. Tetti MB, Dimoso PJ, Magaria BR. Employees' adherence to the National Code of Ethics and Conduct for Public Service: A Case of Four Selected Local Government Authorities. *Rural Planning Journal*. 2023;25(2):87-101.
8. Martins EC. The Characteristics Of 'Being A Good Professional'In the Intricacies of The Ethics of The Profession and Conduct Professional Ethics (Study with Professionals and University Students in Portugal). *Social Science and Humanities Journal (SSHJ)*. 2024 Jun 26;8(06):4023-36.
9. Venkatapuram S. Public health and ethics. In *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Public Health* 2022 Oct 7 (pp. 70-84). Routledge.

10. Tiell RH, Malka SC, editors. *Amplifying Management Research for the Common Good: Lessons for Curious Individuals and Organizations—Insights From Practitioners in the Field*. IAP; 2024 Mar 1.
11. Feitshans IL, Sabatier P. Global health impacts of nanotechnology law: Advances in safernano regulation. *Materials Today: Proceedings*. 2022 Jan 1;67:985-94.
12. Foley P. Fees reviews of New Zealand general practices—a New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) perspective. *The New Zealand Medical Journal (Online)*. 2007 May 18;120(1254).
13. de Tienda Palop L, Currás BX. The dignity of the dead: Ethical reflections on the archaeology of human remains. In *Ethical approaches to human remains: A global challenge in bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology* 2020 Jan 2 (pp. 19-37). Cham: Springer International Publishing. csic.es
14. Lindemann NF. The ethical permissibility of chatting with the dead: Towards a normative framework for 'Deathbots'. *Publications of the Institute of Cognitive Science*. 2022;1.
15. Friesen P. Transforming bioethics: The need for strong objectivity and standpoints. *The American Journal of Bioethics*. 2021 Feb 1;21(2):58-60.
16. Ambrogi I, Brito L, Dos Santos RL. Epistemic justice and feminist bioethics in global health. *Journal of Medical Ethics*. 2023 May 1;49(5):345-6.
17. Ancy RJ, Shenoy RP, Jodalli PS, Pasha IM. Benefits of medical and dental tourism—a review. *Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences*. 2020;19(3):26-31.
18. Radovic Z, Nola IA. Medical tourism globe-trotting: Features, impacts, and risks. *International journal of healthcare management*. 2020 Dec 15.
19. Yuldasheva D. Consensus and Conflict in Modern Bioethics: Prospects and Challenges. *International Journal of Formal Education*. 2024 Feb 29;3(2):408-14. academiczone.net
20. Kuehlmeier K, Jansky B, Mertz M, Marckmann G. Transformative medical ethics: A framework for changing practice according to normative—ethical requirements. *Bioethics*. 2024 Mar;38(3):241-51.

CITE AS: Bizimana Rukundo T. (2024). The Role of Bioethics in Medical Arts: Navigating Moral Dilemmas. EURASIAN EXPERIMENT JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH, 5(3):15-18.