

Design of Bioethical cases spanning over general and professional education

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Abstract

“Bioethics” is a study of how to face and handle difficulties and dilemma in “life-related issues”, which is featured in its multidisciplinary learning including population, behaviors and life sciences. Bioethics education may be more successful if there are qualified trigger cases to integrate these three aspects of learning.

In China Medical University of Taiwan, a revised curriculum with three-leveled ethical course was proposed to approach gradational learning objectives of bioethics and to meet the need for general and professional education. The diverse aims in each level imply the need for multiplicity in case scenarios representing a wide spectrum of ethical issues. For example cases of animal right, GM food, gene privacy, human experiments etc. were designed to achieve the first level aim to cultivate an attitude to respect life, consider risk vs. benefit and understand better in diversity. For the second level, truths telling about terminal cancer, patient’s self determination right, doctor’s rights and duties, the report of medical malpractice are cases designed to accomplish aim of cultivate the ability of moral reasoning and to realize values in medical profession. While a narrative of patient and family’s story and several clinical real cases were designed with a major task to enforce students to bring ethical consideration in their clinical learning. In general, those cases have been designed alone with their path as a move from general to professional.

To create effective cases for bioethics learning, the case scenarios should not only lead students to a particular area of study to achieve those diverse learning objects, but also contain cues to stimulate discussion and promote students seeking information from various learning resources. In general, those cases consist of ethical enquiries is commonly derived from dilemmas occurring in everyday life, and then evolved into more specific issues relevant to the context in professional practice.

Key words: Bioethics 、 case design 、 general education 、 professional education