The Significance of the Hidden Curriculum in Medical Ethics

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ABSTRACT

This commentary discusses the paper by Annaswamy Nalini, “The Significance of the Hidden Curriculum in Medical Ethics: Literature Review with Focus on Students’ Experiences”. The ethical dilemmas encountered by students may be because of early induction of students into medicine. The rigours and demands of professional education also deny our adolescents the chance to grow. It is this fledgling state when the students need the guidance from near peers and role models the most. Ethical feedback and experiential methods under Medical Humanities have been suggested as a coping mechanism to reveal and address the “hidden” emotional ethical dilemmas.

Keywords: Annaswamy Nalini, Ethics Education, Hidden Curriculum, Medical Humanities, Students, Students’ Experiences

The divorce between medicine and arts begins early in a student’s life, right from school. The studious, ‘brainy’ bookworms are segregated from their more creative, intuitive and imaginative classmates. The rigorous, rote-memory-based examination system throughout their medical education erases any creativity that they have, as they concentrate on memorising endless facts and answering non-analytical questions. When they graduate and enter the real world of clinical medicine, they are uncomfortable before the real people who come to seek their help. They forget that medicine is not just mastering facts and figures; it is an art in itself – the art of observing, recording, reflecting, and integrating the events around us. (Pauranik, 2012)

The above perspective by a resident doctor strengthens the author’s plea of giving more attention to medical students’ dilemmas for a foundation of ethics education. I agree with author that some educators wrongly believe that students have already developed the core values when they enter the school and which cannot be changed. Students are initiated into the medical education too early in life, when they should be exploring a basic grounding in the humanities. At 18, the rigours and demands of professional education deny our adolescents the chance to grow, and realize the fact that sometimes it is important to heal the mind and heart more than the body.

It has been argued by students that in their quest of passing an exam, patients are
Internet Use and Health Decision Making by Breast Cancer Patients in Malaysia
www.igi-global.com/chapter/internet-use-health-decision-making/40680?camid=4v1a