

Selected Ethical Dilemmas of different ages

Dr. Sahar Hassan

Ethical Issues in the Nursing Care of Adolescents

Adolescents

- Most Adolescents make decisions based on their values from concert thinking, peer pressure, exposure to quickly changing world around them
- Adolescents need to be encouraged to make autonomous decisions & express their values & preferences on a continuous basis

Adolescents

- Adolescents differ from children in the degree of autonomy they claim & exercise.
- The focus of adolescents' ethical issues is on rights:
 - ✓ The right to freedom to consent or refuse treatment
 - ✓ The right to confidentiality & privacy of one's record
 - ✓ The right not to be violated or taken advantage as a vulnerable age group

Adolescents

- 3 critical health behaviors have been connected to the leading causes of death & disability among adolescents:
 - ✓ Injury due to violence
 - ✓ Use of alcohol & other drugs
 - ✓ Risky sexual activity

Adolescents

- Adolescents many health care issues include:
- motor vehicle accidents,
- drunken driving,
- homicide,
- suicide,
- eating disorders,
- dietary abuses & use of steroids,
- tobacco and alcohol consumption
- drug abuse

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- The nurse can be caught between the anger & duties of the parents & the defensiveness & vulnerability of the adolescent.
- Each believes that his or her choice is the right one.
- Each expects that the nurse will advocate & actively support his or her position.
- Tries to help the young person identify & analyze her perceptions of her family & that parents are viewed as a +ve light

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- “ Rights without virtues are empty; virtues without rights are blind”
- In order for adolescents to have rights , they must demonstrate the capacity to live up to corresponding responsibilities.
- Example: Driving a car calls for an adolescence's ability to drive safely. It may call for the adolescence to pay for parts or all of the cost of driving.

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- Nurse has to reinforce positive social values.
- The nurse supports values that help an individual adolescent become responsible, upstanding member of society.

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- Practice ethical nursing competencies in nurse-adolescent R.S. including:
 - ✓ Integrity, communication & concern
- Adolescent need more of a nurturing R.S. with nurses including:
 - ✓ Trustworthiness
 - ✓ Genuineness
 - ✓ Compassion
 - ✓ Honesty
 - ✓ Spirituality

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- ✓ Trustworthiness: means nurses are dependable due to responsibility they take
- ✓ Genuineness: how credible or real the nurses is
- ✓ Compassion: the nurse to have an understanding of adolescent's suffering & a desire to take action to alleviate suffering
- ✓ Honesty: being forthright, truthful & not deceptive

The Nurse's role in adolescent care

- For example: a school nurse takes immediate measures to stop aggressive behavior & act by attempting to establish a trust R.S. with an adolescent who continuously being bullied or teased.
- Notifying the school counselor or the principal & talking with adolescent's parents are also important considerations

In summary: Nurse's role as:

- Health educator
- Patient advocate
- Agent of reality
- Therapist
- Of course, the nurse is not alone!