

# **Why ethics and bioethics are important?**

Significance

# Why Ethics?

- Important to any profession
- Improve relationships with clients, patients & co-workers
- Helps assure that things are fair & people are treated with dignity

# Why ethics for organisations?

- A basis for values & visions
- To motivate employees
- Demanded by customers
- For good relationships to stakeholders
- Avoid various exposures & risks
- Part of governance
- Sustainability

# Why code of Ethics for professions?

- ✓ to distinguish desirable from the undesirable behaviours,
- ✓ to regulate relationships with co-workers and clients,
- ✓ and to guide the public in understanding professional conduct."

# Nursing Ethics

- ✓ "a system of principles governing the conduct of a nurse, her relationship to the patient and his family, her associates and society at large."

# Ethics in Nursing

- A particular code of behaviours, characters, conducts and relationship unique only to the nursing personnel.
- Standards of right & wrong that are professionally mandated by nurses
- They do not provide specific solutions; they serve as a guide for moral and ethical conduct

# Ethics in Nursing

- The potential for doing good or harm depends partly on factual knowledge and partly on values
- Ex. Educating the patient to continue taking medication and to follow a prescribed diet. (doing good).
- Ex. Avoiding and deny the nursing needs of a difficult patient as AIDS.

# Why Ethics in nursing?

- Nursing education is affected by multicultural, multiethnic population & patients who have different ways of responding to illness, treatment, & care providers.
- This raises ethical issues of who is “right” & who has the “right to decide.”
- This is particularly relevant for freedom of choice and end-of life issues



# Why Ethics in nursing?

- One difficult issue, particularly for students & novices,
- ✓ is the ethical necessity to differentiate personal beliefs, values, & preferences from professional practice responsibilities
- Many ethical dilemmas require students, nurses, & other providers to accept the values of others & the concept of “a gray continuum of values” instead of the black-and-white interpretations based on one’s own beliefs

# Why Ethics in nursing?

- Controversial issues relate to the right of individual choice regarding:
  - ✓ abortion,
  - ✓ organ transplant,
  - ✓ stem-cell research,
  - ✓ preference in sexual partners,
  - ✓ the patient's right to die a dignified death
  - ✓ The emerging of alternative health remedies outside traditional medicine, i.e. herbs & acupuncture
- **Dishonesty** among nursing students, nurses, & other professionals is increasingly alarming & threatens patient safety

# Summary

- Ethics important, & varied
- Includes social responsibility, & governance
- Needs terminology & philosophy
- Very relevant to society