Review of Bioethics Education in Bangladesh

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A survey has been carried out from 1st November to 30th December 2008 in different institutes of Dhaka City to evaluate the current status of bioethics education in science in Bangladesh under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Dhaka. People face dilemma with advancing science and technology along with enormous health and environmental problems. Bioethics may make bridge between science, technology, social, cultural and spiritual values.

There is huge gap in teaching of ethics in undergraduate level. Moreover, demand for health research in this country is constantly increasing and international collaboration is growing rapidly in Bangladesh. Recently each faculty try to establish own ethical review committee. Although there are a few training programmes on research ethics has been conducted but these are still not enough to meet the growing need for research and an ethical review process.

Increasing awareness, sensitivity, research and practice of bioethics in various disciplines of medical science, science and social sciences are required. Ethical problem can not be resolved if not first noticeable. Thus bioethics education / activity is essential in Bangladesh. Governments can create a national bioethics commissions by which they can bridge on issues of both scientific and moral complexity in health, science, environment and social science.

Environmental Pollution

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Protection of environment through enforcement of environmental law in Bangladesh is a real challenge; especially for those who are mandated to do it.

This is really a defining moment for government, whose priority for development is driven by decisions to balance pressure groups and environmental activists, as well as for the officials, who are very often in between two fires because of baffling instructions from the government.

It requires high amount of moral courage for the government official to be ready to take challenge to fight for the environment, even sometimes risking career. Along with that is the temptation in more than one form that comes through tantalizingly.

The businessmen whose industries and plants need to be run in compliance with the obligation they need to fulfill do make commitment only to be broken in the process making the life of the officials all the more difficult and challenging, especially these people have high clouts in the society to buy decision in their favour.