Who flew over the cuckoo’s nest?

“For there is nothing heavier than a compassion. Not even one’s own pain weighs so heavy as the pain one feels with someone, for someone: a pain intensified by the imagination and prolonged by a hundred echoes.”

Milan Kundera, The unbearable lightness of Being

Man is an animal with primary instincts of survival; consequently his ingenuity has developed first and his soul afterwards. The progress of science is far ahead of man’s natural tendencies. Nothing that you do in science is grunted to result in benefits for mankind. Any discovery is morally neutral and it can be turned either to constructive ends or destructive ends. That’s not the fault of science. In place of ruthless self assertion it demands self restrain; requires that the individual shall not merely respect, but shall help his fellows. We are at that point in time when a hundred year old age is ratting in its death bed and another is struggling to be born.

This video clip is presenting two different perspective one is concrete and other is abstract. The concrete theme apparently depicts the life threatening condition of a person striving for life. simultaneously throwing light on the callous, ruthless and merciless attitude of society which instead of being trying to help the near missing are trapped in the fantasy of adventure and capturing these events with the help of modern technology just for the sake of fun on the cost of human life. As well as the abstract message I perceived from this video is arising certain questions, did the evolution of man from animal to social animal is reversing? Or the time has reached where we are being abused by machines violating the basic human rights and humanity.

In its broader sense this video is presenting the terrible picture of health care delivery system which is progressing day by day with the help of modern technology and gadgets on one hand and losing its essence of empathy, morality, and fundamental concepts of professionalism on other hand. Professionalism is an adherence to a set of values comprising both a formally agreed upon code of conducts and informal expectations of colleagues, clients and society. According to Confucius, medicine is a human art, it should not be understood only as a mean to cure but as a moral commitment to preventing all avoidable sufferings. A practice based on love and respect for other that was the soul of Hippocrates oath should be ruled by the principle of not harming and doing well, respecting patients without discrimination. More than a practice based on laws, Confucius and his followers understood medicine as a practice based on the cultivation of virtue, which, in turn, is nurtured by feelings such as piety, shame and respect. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. Society is something that precedes the individual. Anyone who either cannot lead
the common life or is so self-sufficient as not to need to, and therefore does not partake of society, is either a beast or a God.

The homeostasis that existed between medicine as a profession and society for centuries appears to have changed significantly in the last few decades due to rapid changes in society, the process of healthcare delivery and socio-political scenario. In today’s rapidly changing world medical profession is not resistant to critical discussions in conversational exchange among patients or public members, whether it is due to recent media flash about a dramatic presentation of a factual medical horror story or their own personal experiences. Over recent years the medical profession itself has come under significant scrutiny by various public bodies, healthcare managers and governments. This has lead to increase pressure on medical educators, medical boards and professional regulatory bodies to develop consensus on professionalism and standardized ways of delivering and measuring it with reasonable validity and reliability in a way that is clear, complete and concise in fitting with societal expectations and recent changes across the globe in delivery of healthcare system. But it leaves with a few thoughts; why now? ; And how? ; in the very complex 21st century medicine, which seems to be entangled deeply in ever changing economic climate, technology, politics, law, ethics, and societal values no more caterpillar attitude is acceptable.

These restrictions have also generated fears that the restructuring of Medical education will lead to the loss of traditional physician values. Medical professionals are, in fact, confused about what is expected of them in this new continuously evolving health system. This confusion is challenging the medical community to redefine traditional beliefs about physician responsibility for patients. Such as some doctors have view that they don’t have the time to be empathic, the skill has proved to be a time saver rather than a time sink. Because a lack of empathy and poor communication drive many malpractice cases, large malpractice. Empathy training is naturally self-rewarding. It gives doctors the love back. Some of the course is explicitly prescriptive: Make eye contact with the patient, not the computer. Don’t stand over a hospitalized patient, pull up a chair. Don’t conduct a monologue in off-putting medicals. Pay attention to tone of voice, which can be more important than what is said. When delivering bad news, schedule the patient for the end of the day and do not allow interruptions. Find out what the patient is most concerned about and figure out how best to address. That are simple parameters which differentiate a professionals from occupational. Though we have become experimental creatures of our own devising, it’s important to bear in mind that if we as medical practitioner cannot meet the changing demands at that time we will not pay alone its consequences, but the six or seven of our 100,000 generations. All attempts to adopt our ethical code to our situation in the technological age have failed As soon as the question of will or decision or reason or choice arise, human science is at a loss.
Written by:
Naveeda Iqbal, Asma Khalid, Asma Abid, Sumera Jabeen
Students of MS.c. Nursing
University of Health Sciences Lahore