

ABSTRACT

Ethics is the science of morality and the values and guidelines governing decisions in medical practice. Medical ethics may be described as a code of behavior accepted voluntarily within the profession as oppose to Statutes and regulation imposed by official legislation. To become a good medical professional, all of house officers should have an adequate knowledge and attitude on medical ethics and proper conduct.

This cross sectional study was done in October 2016 to assess knowledge and attitude on medical ethics among house officers in University of Medicine (2), Yangon. The totals of 216 house officers were interviewed by using face to face interview with semi-structured questionnaires with a response rate of 99.5%. The 145 house officers from NOGH and all 70 house officers from IGH were voluntarily participated in this study.

The most common age was 22 years which represents nearly 60% of the study population and sex ratio was approximately the same. Half of respondents 50.8% have not decided yet to join the government service, only 31.2% wanted to join and 18.6% did not want to join the government service. Almost all of the respondents 212 (98.6%) did not practice GP while 3 (1.4%) practiced GP. The 197 respondents obtained knowledge concerning medical ethics from lecture, ethical book of forensic medicine, 175 respondents acquired this knowledge from seniors doctors, 155 attained from clinical training and the others 72 and 85 obtained from journals, newspapers, television and CME. Majority of the respondents were knowledgeable about the principles of medical ethics and 54% of respondents had high level of knowledge score (>21 marks) where as 46% obtained low level of knowledge score (≤ 20 marks). The knowledge scores were ranged from 14 to 25 with the mean (SD) score of 20.7 (2.5) and median was 21. The knowledge scores were classified to high and low according to 80% of the total given score on knowledge questions. There were no association between socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge on medical ethics. Majority of the house officers 81.4% had positive attitude (score ≥ 40) and 18.6% had negative attitude (score < 40). The attitude scores were ranged from 35 to 50 with the mean (SD) score of 41.53 (2.694) and median was 41. The attitude scores were classified to positive and negative according to 60% of the total given score on

knowledge questions. No associations were found between socio-demographic characteristics and attitude on medical ethics among house officers.

Most of the respondents indicated that medical ethics teaching is not enough in medical school. Therefore, in order to improve knowledge and attitude, to promote better understanding and appreciation of the medical profession and continuing medical ethics education is needed for medical doctors at undergraduate, internships and postgraduate level.

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