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**EXAMINING OBSERVATION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS PRINCIPLES BY  
SHIRAZ NAMAZI HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS**

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**ABSTRACT**

**INTRODUCTION**

Shiraz Namazi Hospital is one of medical poles in treatment and training respect that in organ transplantation aspect is one of the most important centers in Iran and Middle East. Organ transplantation is one of the most complex surgeries and includes various issues in medical ethics domain. Maladaptation between transplantation donor and receiver, receivers special conditions, brain death, patients' prioritization and many other issues are in this scope. The main objective of the present study was examining observation of professional ethics principles by Shiraz Namazi Hospital physicians as one of poles of organ transplantation in Iran.

The statistical population of the present study included Shiraz Namazi hospital medical cadre. Based on the obtained statistics, the number of Namazi Hospital physicians is 450 persons. Regarding that the statistical population is 450 persons, according to Cochran relation, the sample number was determined 208. The tool used in the present study was

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a scholar made questionnaire whose items were extracted through interview and from existing texts and finally the questionnaire validity and reliability was studied. After examining descriptive statistics, the research hypotheses were examined using single sample inferential statistical method.

The study findings showed that the average of familiarity with professional ethics principles indicator was equal to 3.662 and regarding the significant difference from the average of familiarity level criterion with professional ethics principle was in desirable level ( p-value= 0.000, t=7.512). also, the status of professional ethics training to medical cadre was in a desirable level ( p-value= 0.000, t= 11.444) and the indicator of ethical principles status in physicians of Shiraz Namazi hospital relations with each other was in a desirable level ( p-value= 0.009, t= 4.341).

The present study findings in this part were not unexpected regarding experienced cadre of Shiraz Namazi hospital. On the other hand, it should be noticed that this awareness doesn't mean suitable performance of physicians in this field and awareness of service receivers about their rights could be warranty of implementing the profession principles. The findings of the performed interviews with organ transplantation ward showed that the most important topic in organ transplantation issue is the matter of prioritizing the transplantation receiver patients.

**Keywords: professional ethic, physicians' professional ethics, Shiraz Namazi hospital**

## INTRODUCTION

In today world, which is daily along with a change in scientific and medical backgrounds, the observance of professional ethics especially in the medical world seems necessary more than before (Macchiarini & Kondratieva, 2010). One of these issues is organ transplantation. Organ transplantation is one of the most complicated surgeries and includes various issues in the medical ethics scope. Maladaptation between transplantation donors and receivers,

special conditions of receivers, brain death, patients prioritizing and many other issues stand in this domain. The issue of organ transplantation in moral ethics includes tens or hundreds issues and regarding the necessity of being bound to Islam and observing its transcendental values in medical affairs, addressing moral aspects of the discussed issue is a necessary and useful matter (Campbell et.al, 2001). In the subject of professional ethics, as its name indicates,

we are talking about a series of ought and ought not which are addressing professionals of each field and are in relation to their professional responsibilities (Ansari et al, 2013). Namazi Hospital is one of dominant hospitals in the scope of organ transplantation especially liver transplantation in the country. Presence of physicians like Dr. Malekhosseini who is one of honors of organ transplantation in Iran and the world, has added this hospital reputability, so that in this field, besides patients from across the country, some clients from other countries have also referred to this hospital for receiving transplantation services. The main issue in the present research is that how much is the rate of observing professional ethics principles by physicians of Namazi hospital.

#### **Theoretical fundamentals:**

Professional ethics is a series of human conduct standards and principles which determine people and groups behavior. In fact, professional ethics is a rational contemplation process whose aim is realizing this issue that in the organization what values when should be retained and broadcasted (Gibbons & Jeschke, 2016). In another definition, professional ethics is a series of accepted ethical actions and reactions which are

assigned on behalf of professional organizations and societies to provide the most favorable possible social relations for its members in implementing professional duties (Borhani et al, 2009). The aim of professional ethics is the individual ethical responsibility in respect of profession. Physician as a natural person has some ethical responsibilities. His ethical responsibilities are risen from the profession he has undertaken, so that if he have accepted another job, his ethical responsibilities would change (Faramarz Gharamaleki, 1385).

#### **Medical ethics territory in organ transplantation**

Though, the first clinical organ transplantation had been accomplished in 1954, but technology and knowledge progress in this field has been salient in the last decade. Organ and tissues transplantation is so mixed with deep ethical subjects that in most countries of the world, it has attracted the attention of religious scientists , philosophers and moralists, jurists , physicians and authorities of medical affairs and even public (Adler, 2014). Shortage of transplanted organ and acceptable ethical ways of supplying required organs is among the most important subjects in this domain. The issues of transplantation from corpse,

transplantation from alive donor, financial and physical relation between donor and receiver of transplanted organ, new approaches like transplantation from animals and therapeutic assimilation have created many challenges (Neamati and Mohseni, 1389).

Conventional or legal problems of transplantation from corpse in some countries, speculative trade in selecting non-relative alive donors and death of many patients waiting for transplantation are issues which have made searching for acceptable strategies in various societies necessary. In this regard, some countries by creating the system of supposable consent, have paved the way for organ removal from corpse without getting previous consent. But, in most countries of the world, the system of informed consent exist (Dehghani & Kermanshahi, 1391). In this context, various issues are considered, among which we can point to the following cases:

- How much is the rate of the individual liberty against his organs and their donation to others
- Ethical issues relating to transplantation from alive individual and corpse
- Ethical issues relating to brain death (as one of resources of supplying transplanted tissue) – getting consent from donor

- Way of selecting receiver individual and their prioritizing
- Material and virtual rights of donor and supplying his health
- Shortage of transplanted organ and tissues and ways of solving this problem
- Financial relation of donor and receiver and legal ways of controlling it (Tefagh et al, 2005)

In point of view of ethics philosophical schools in the school of normative ethics, we face with two views of utilitarianist and deontologist that in fact in utilitarianist, the principle is in attention to the obtained action and profit (and not merely joy) and followers of this school consider that act ethical which has the greatest benefit for people (Gheramaleki, 1385).

In deontologist school, the principle is on performing the duty and that act is ethical which is essentially acceptable. Regarding multiplicity of advocates and opponents of each ethical school and their justifying reasons, no one could be absolutely rejected or accepted (Ferankna, 1376).

The way of selecting transplantation receiver individual, is among important ethical issues in transplantation subject that unfortunately applying non-ethical methods is possible. Unfortunately, sometimes existence of financial benefits

and reward for organ donation and its rate is the only factor which specifies the transplantation receiver individual. High possibility of transplantation organ, life length and life quality of transplantation receiver patient and the rate returning to natural life is among important conditions of selecting transplantation receiver individual (Imami Razavi, 1373:104). Identifying emergency patients is very important. Surely, other factors like the rate of effectiveness of the individual for society or the donor tendency to donate the organ to a special person could sometimes influence the aforementioned conditions, but however, giving priority to people with social phase, people with high intelligence level, people possessing high status and wealthy people which is sometimes observed due to shortage of transplanted organs against high demand (Larijani, 1383:47) and also rejection of transplantation volunteers in case of diabetic, old and near death patients and people with mental disorders (YoudhezMoter, 1373:286) is admittedly non-ethical and against social justice (Dickens,1373:297).

Dehghani et al findings (1393) showed that in patients' point of view, nurses desirably observed professional ethics criteria 40% in accepting responsibility,

45% in promoting the quality of caring the patient and 69% in respecting the patient (Dehghani et al, 2014). Sokhanvar (1997) in his study states that the awareness rate and utilizing ethical principles in clinical care and decision making in Shiraz University nurses has not been in desirable level and nurses didn't have the ability to utilize ethical knowledge in real work environment. Also, according to the report of Nasiriani et al (1386), the rate of observing the patient rights has not been in a satisfactory level in nurses' point of view and they had declared that for observing the patient rights and recognizing ethical problems, nurses should have enough awareness about care ethical principles. Ghobadifar and Mosalanejad (1392) have conducted a study under the title of the rate of observing professional ethical codes in treatment cadre of Jahrom Medical Sciences University. This study findings show that general rate of observing ethical codes was in an intermediate level. Bahrani et al (1391) performed a study under the title of examining the rate of Shiraz dentists' awareness about professional ethics principles. This research results showed that the rate of Shiraz dentists' awareness from observing the patient rights charter has been 61%. Trey et al (2013) a study

under the title of transplantation ethic under the study of medical specialists responsibility have examined the problems and ethical standards of this scope and state that the branches of international distribution and man organs contraband for example in China where executed prisoners organs are used have swerved the standards and this causes collapsing of ethical standards (Trey et al, 2013).

### 3- MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is applied in respect of objective. The statistical population in the present study includes Shiraz Namazi hospital physicians. Based on the obtained statistics, the number of physicians of Namazi hospital is 450. Based on Cochran relation, the sample number was determined 208. For

collecting data, field method was used. The tool utilized in this study is scholar made questionnaire whose items were extracted through interview and existing texts in this field. For examining the results reliability, Cronbach alpha test was examined. Based on the obtained results all obtained amounts for Cronbach alpha coefficient are larger than 0.7, then reliability of the studied questionnaires was confirmed. After collecting the data, the first step is to calculate the descriptive statistics from used variables. These statistics includes mean, standard deviation and other used information. After examining descriptive statistics, the study hypotheses were studied using single sample T inferential statistics method.

### 4- FINDINGS

Table 1: Demographic features of sample group

		n	%
position	general physician	92	44.71
	specialist	63	30.28
	sub-specialist	36	17.30
	fellowship	13	7.69
gender	female	123	59.13
	male	85	40.86
variable		M	SD
age		48.28	11.87

Table 2: Summary of single sample T-test ( criterion average=3)

indicator	M	t	df	p-value
the rate of familiarity with professional ethical principles	3.662	7.512	207	0.000
professional ethics training	3.722	11.444	207	0.000
the relation of physicians with each other	3.521	4.341	207	0.009
the relations of physicians with patients	3.621	3.632	207	0.000

Based on the results of table (2), the mean of indicator of familiarity with professional ethics principles was equal to 3.662 which shows the rate of familiarity of medical cadre of Shiraz Namazi Hospital organs transplantation with professional ethics principles is in higher than intermediate level ( p-value=0.000, t=7.512). The mean of ethical principles status indicator in Shiraz Namazi Hospital physicians relations with each other was 3.635 which shows that observing ethical principles in Shiraz Namazi Hospital physicians relations with each other is in intermediate level ( p-value=0.009, t=4.341). The mean of ethical principles observation indicator in Shiraz Namazi Hospital physicians with patients was 3.521. So, the rate of ethical principles observation indicator in Shiraz Namazi Hospital physicians with patients was in higher than intermediate level (p-value=0.000, t=3.362).

## CONCLUSION

The present study findings showed that the rate of familiarity with professional ethics, professional ethics training status, ethical principles in relations of physicians with each other and with patients is in higher than intermediate level. The present study findings were consistent with a part of findings of

Dehghani et al (1393), Sokhanvar (1997), Ghobadi and Mosalanejad (1392) and Bohrani et al (1391). Despite that the present study results showed that the familiarity status of Namazi Hospital physicians is higher than intermediate , regarding everyday changes in medical issues and problems relating to them , some measurements should be accomplished for promoting awareness in medical professional ethics field.in this respect, regarding that the criterion was the studied sample professional ethics scores average and some physicians were in lower level in respect of professional ethics, it is necessary that physicians with higher antecedent and higher ranks to be studious in observing professional ethics principles to be suitable samples for others with their behavior.

The present study findings were not unexpected in this part regarding experienced cadre of Shiraz Namazi hospital and the results showed that the status of observing ethical principles by physicians is in a higher than medium level. On the other hand, it should be noticed that this awareness doesn't mean physicians suitable performance in this context and warranty of implementing the profession principles could be awareness of service receivers about their rights that the government could increase

the society people awareness about their rights in this field by administering training policies, in this sense that improvement of the patients awareness could play a considerable role in the field of implementing ethical principles. Also, reduction of working pressure and socio-economic problems of physicians could be one of important factors in the field of increasing professional ethical principles observation which should be considered by the hospital managers. Besides what was mentioned, based on the performed interviews with physicians of Namazi hospital transplantation ward physicians, the most pointed case about professional ethics in organ transplantation was the transplantation receivers prioritizing that regarding maladaptation of donors and receivers and conditions and hardship of transplantation surgeries especially about liver transplantation, the most hint was in this context. After this case, unconventional financial request for changing priorities was the most important mentioned case by physicians of transplantation ward that these two issues observation was among the most important cases in this domain.

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