

GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics Unit

Seth G S Medical College & K E M Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, India

World Bioethics Day Celebrations

**Chief Guest: Dr Snehalata Deshmukh
Pediatric Surgeon, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai**

19th October 2016

Venue: Seth G S Medical College building

- The GSMC MUHS UNESCO (GMU) Bioethics Unit celebrated the first World Bioethics Day on 19th October 2016 with fervour and the events were planned for the entire day from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. The programme was attended by more than 250 undergraduate students (MBBS, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and nursing), postgraduate students and the institutional faculty members.

- **Poster Exhibition on 'Human Dignity and Human Rights'**

Poster Exhibition was inaugurated at 10.30 am by Director and Dean, Dr. Avinash Supe and Dr. Lopa Mehta, Professor Emeritus of Anatomy.

A poster competition on the theme 'Human Dignity and Human Rights' was organised by GMU Bioethics Unit as part of celebrations of the World Bioethics Day. The judges for the poster competition were Dr Nirmala Rege, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, Ms. Neha Madhiwala, Social Researcher and Mrs. Vrinda Bhagwat, Retired School Principal. The first 10 winning posters and the posters shortlisted in the first elimination rounds were displayed in the exhibition. The posters were appreciated for the variety of topics covered by participants related to human dignity and rights such as dignity of children, gender equality, right to health care, right to education etc. The art work was good too along with the content. The first 10 winning poster images have been printed in the INARCH bulletin which has been published on this occasion.

- **Interactive Games on Bioethics**

Interactive Games on Bioethics were conceptualized and conducted by Dr. Swarupa Bhagwat and members of Students' Wing. There were two games based on bioethics principles. One was snake and ladder type of game depicting bioethics principles with the following rules- if a bioethics principle is followed, the player would move ahead and with violation he/she would retreat back. The player who reaches final target first would be the winner. The second game was similar to jigsaw puzzle where the players had to join the pieces of pictures showing examples of bioethics principles beneficence, non-maleficence and justice. More than 80 participants including Nursing,

MBBS, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy students and even non-medical staff enjoyed these games and gave positive feedback.

- **Prayer – Lamp lighting – Rangoli**

The programme started with invoking blessings of God through a prayer and traditional lamp lighting at the hands of dignitaries. A beautiful theme based rangoli was drawn by the KEM hospital artist outside the venue. 'Rangoli' has a special significance in Indian culture and presence of rangoli on this occasion added a traditional touch and set the stage for the programme

- **Welcome & Presentation of Annual Report**

Mrs.KarunaNadkarni (member of Bioethics Steering Committee) began the proceedings by welcoming all. She informed everyone about the theme of the first Bioethics Day and that the GMU Unit is specifically focussing on the theme 'Child Dignity and Child Rights' as the theme of the panel discussion.

The **welcome address and the annual report** including details of all the events undertaken by the unit since its inception in August 2015 till date was presented by Secretary of the Bioethics Unit, Dr. Nayana Ingole. She also informed everyone about the GMU Unit web page on the KEM Hospital website and the upcoming activities of the unit.

- **UMALU DEU FULE KOWALI” a bioethics skit**

A skit on child abuse and violation of child rights was presented by Nursing, MBBS, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy students under the guidance of the faculty members. Different situations enacted by participants depicting violation of right to education, undernourishment, female foeticide, child trafficking and sexual abuse through song and dance sequences were enjoyed by the audience. The skit ended with a powerful note that we should allow the buds to blossom i.e. protect dignity and rights of children in every possible way.

- Dr. Santosh Salagre, Head, GMU Bioethics Unit addressed the gathering. He highlighted the importance of incorporating the subject of bioethics in the current curriculum of healthcare education. He narrated the journey of the GMU Unit so far and also apprised the audience of the bulletin of the Unit- INARCH

- **Release of inaugural issue of 'Inarch' – Bulletin of the unit**

Dr. Padmaja Marathe, Head, Bioethics Steering Committee, introduced Chief Guest, Dr Snehalata Deshmukh, Paediatric Surgeon, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai. She requested Dr. Deshmukh to release the bulletin.

The **bulletin, INARCH was released** at the hands of Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh. Dr Padmaja Samant, Member GMU Bioethics Unit and Editor INARCH, Dr. Santosh Salagre, Dr. Padmaja Marathe and Dr. Nayana Ingole joined in the release ceremony.

- **Felicitations**

Dr. Salagre felicitated the Miss. Ekta Patil, Member, Bioethics Students Wing, for her contribution to annual bulletin in the form of logo. Dr. Swarupa Bhagwat received a special prize on her noteworthy contribution to Bioethics Unit activities and in acknowledgement of her efforts towards World Bioethics Day Celebrations.

- **Keynote address by Chief Guest, Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh**

In the keynote address, Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh stated that value of showing respect to other individuals in Indian culture is also part of Bioethics. Bioethics has many subdivisions that include Environmental Ethics, Animal Ethics, Research Ethics but the role or contribution of Humanity in Bioethics is very important. She praised the activities and the enthusiasm of the GMU Bioethics Unit and the members of Students' Wing.

- **Panel Discussion on 'Child Dignity and Child Rights'**

Mrs. Mariya Jlandani, Treasurer of GMU Bioethics Unit introduced the panellists and the moderator. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Padmaja Samant, Member, Bioethics Steering Committee and Editor of INARCH. Ms. Alpa Vora, Coordinator, UNICEF, Maharashtra, Mrs. Neha Madhiwala, Social Researcher, Visiting Faculty TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Dr. Ashish Deshpande, Consultant Child Psychiatrist., Dr. Rajwanti Vasvani, Professor of Pediatrics, Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital

- The **Panel discussion** brought out following important facets of Child Dignity & Child Rights:
 - The discussion began with an important issue that is need for clinical ethicist and their role in pediatric practice. **Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh** stated that the medical dilemmas in pediatric practice are very common and one has to resolve these by considering ethical perspectives of such situations. Then the discussion focussed on truth telling to young patients & pediatric euthanasia. She also emphasized on inclusion of bioethics units not only in medical colleges but also in all the colleges of each and every field is the need of an hour.
 - While sharing the experiences on cases in pediatric practice, **Dr. Ashish Deshpande** emphasized that every child should be treated in a dignified way. Another important issue discussed was the maintenance of confidentiality of young children vis a vis their parents need to know. Dr. Deshpande stated that 'by telling the young generation about the importance of informing their parents about their specific problems' solves the matter of confidentiality. He made a point that training of parents and medical students on 'Parenting' is vital.
 - Later, the discussion differences between public sector practice and that in teaching institution. **Dr. Rajwanti Vasvani** shared her thoughts and emphasized

on importance of working with a teaching institution considering ethical benefits. She said having critiques all around keeps you alert in a teaching hospital.

- During discussion, **Ms NehaMadhiwala** shared her experience and work at 'SAHAYOG'. She also shared challenges faced by her during handling mentally challenged children specifically girl child. She reiterated the need of involvement and dedication of the entire society in this work.
- **Ms. AlpaVora** shared her experience of working with UNICEF. She also informed audience about the workforce that works to prevent child trafficking and abuse.
- The questions from the audience were addressed by the speakers at the end. The panel discussion was enlightening and informative. Some of the new ideas and strategies which emerged through the discussion to protect child dignity and child rights were having some diploma courses on parenting, public awareness and effective counselling etc. The discussion was highly appreciated by everyone.

- **Award function**

Dr. Kanchan (Member, Bioethics Steering Committee) announced the judges and winners of poster competition who were felicitated by the speakers of the panel discussion. The skit participants, directors, musician were also felicitated.

- Dr. Padmaja Marathe, Head, Bioethics Steering Committee proposed the vote of thanks.
- The program concluded with the rendition of the national anthem.