

Fortnightly Digest by



Digest 22

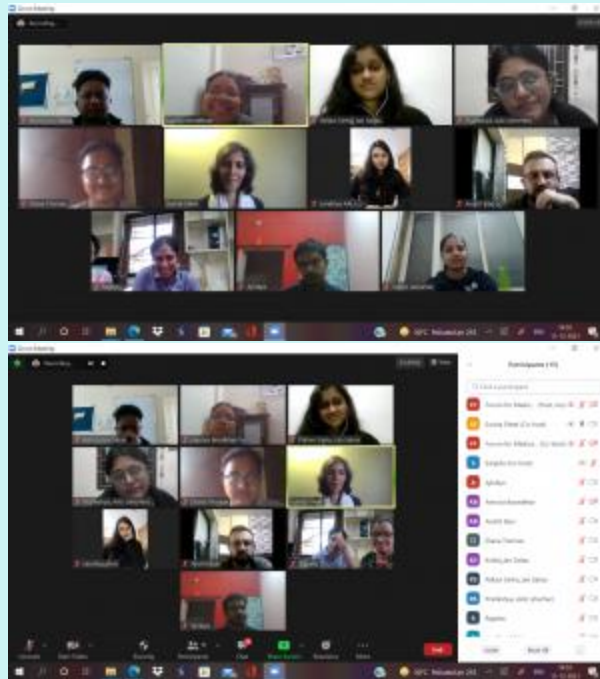
Warm greetings!

We are pleased to bring you this fortnightly digest from the Health, Ethics and Law Institute (HEaL Institute) and the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* (IJME).

Newsletter Spotlight 1 FMES-HEaL Institute' Research Ethics Capacity Building Initiative

You may recollect we mentioned that FMES-HEaL Institute has resumed conducting short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics after a disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After having done a [three-day research ethics institute](#) with [ARMMAN](#) with focus on ethics of mHealth during November, 2021, we concluded yet another two-day research ethics training titled [Research Ethics Matters in the arena of Programmatic Interventions Research](#) to respond to Gender Based Violence' during this fortnight. It was part of the capacity building initiative in the area of violence against women being steered by [CEHAT](#) with its three collaborating partners. We were privileged to engage with course participants working on the ground in Maharashtra ([Stree Mukti Sanghatana](#)), Madhya Pradesh ([Jan Sahas](#)), and Uttar Pradesh ([Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives](#)) on the issue of violence against women.

We covered eight thematics under three key units, namely, foundations of research ethics, ethics of intervention research towards evidence-based advocacy and program, and Navigating through conflicting interfaces of law and ethics spread over two days – December 09 and 10, 2021. [Dr Amar Jesani](#), [Dr Anant Bhan](#), [Prof Dr Lakshmi Lingam](#), [Dr Mala Ramanathan](#), and [Dr Sunita Sheel Bandewar](#) comprised the faculty.



Please write to us on fmesmumbai@gmail.com and admin@fmesinstitute.org with your enquiries for customized short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics. For over two decades, we have been organizing training program in bioethics sub-fields, amongst others, research ethics in social science research in health; public health ethics; clinical ethics, research ethics in public health research; implementation science and ethics, research ethics in mental health interventions; research ethics and digital technology-based health interventions; ethics of program monitoring and evaluations; and research ethics in research involving adolescents and children.

Newsletter Spotlight 2 December 18, 2021: Commemorating International Migrants Day



Since the year 2000, every year December 18 is observed as an International Migrants Day globally. On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations took into account the increasing number of migrants in the world to establish December 18th as this celebration Day. It was on this day (18 December) in 1990, the General Assembly had

adopted the **International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** ([resolution 45/158](#)).

The reasons for migration are wide ranging. Over past four decades, globalisation and neoliberal policies have played a particularly significant role as drivers of both internal and international migration. The contexts which underpin our human vulnerability today are excessive urbanisation, deforestation, climate change and forced migration. Mass migrations as a result of conflicts creates large refugee populations across the world and creates challenges to the provision of decent living and healthcare. Humanitarian crises we experience around the globe which leads to displacement of thousands of people, separated families, and torn apart public health infrastructure, severely curtails all health services. Migrant workers face unique health problems and it is important for the health system to prepare itself to face these. There is also extensive internal migration within national boundaries and provincial boundaries. One of the main reasons for internal migration in India are poverty and indebtedness.

We need to use the concept of vulnerability to understand structural injustice in the context of conflicts, and guide humanitarian actors to decide on priorities, without exacerbating existing inequalities. Bioethicists can strongly root for war and conflicts to be recognised as serious public health emergencies and work towards their prevention. We bring you select papers from IJME for you to explore it further in the journal on the issue of migrants and health using the lens of bioethics.

Akinola, A., Indira Krishna, A., Chetlapalli, S. (2016). [Health equity for internal migrant labourers in India: an ethical perspective](#). Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, 11 (4), 232.

John, E., Kapilashrami, A. (2020). [Victims, villains and the rare hero: Analysis of migrant and refugee health portrayals in the Indian print media](#). Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, VI (2), 145.

Karpagam, S. (2018). [Perspectives on global health and the way forward](#). Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, 4 (1 (NS)), 76.

Pitre, A., Bandewar, S., Hulshult, H., Eegalite, N., Dhamorikar, R., Surani, N. (2019). [Bringing solidarity, justice and equity to the centre of the bioethics discourse: Overview of proceedings of the joint 14th World Congress of Bioethics and the 7th National Bioethics Conference, 2018](#). Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, 4 (4 (NS)), 318.

We encourage you to explore the archive of our 29-year-old peer reviewed and indexed journal namely the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics to know more on this theme.

Newsletter Spotlight 3
December 10, 2021: Commemorating International Human Rights Day



Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on December 10. It is on this day in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations. The formal establishment of Human Rights Day occurred at the 317th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on December 4, 1950 (resolution 423(V)).

Ethics and Human Rights matters are closely linked and remain intertwined. All involved in bioethics discourse are much familiar with the history of development of various ethics codes starting from the Nuremburg Code of 1948. These codes, amongst others, raised issues around role of medical professionals in participating and/or steering clinical trials which contravened the very basic principles of medical ethics and foundations of human rights framework. In the contemporary context, globally, a stark example is that of a healthcare professionals' role in the death penalty as a doctor is called upon to examine the person every few minutes after hanging and is expected to give instructions to keep the person hanging until confirmed dead. This amounts to collusion of medical ethics by involving doctors to be part of actual judicial killing by playing the role of assisting the executioner.

Discriminatory practices in the healthcare system are one of the areas where medical ethics and human rights are both compromised. Evidence from around the world including India suggests entrenched nature of such discriminatory practices to the extent that they are institutionalized. There are range of such issues that require deliberations using both lenses of bioethics and human rights. Forced medication, forced feeding is yet another example of a space where medical ethics and human rights collide.

We bring you select papers from this space published in IJME.

Gøtzsche, P., Sørensen, A. (2020). [Systematic violations of patients' rights and safety: Forced medication of a cohort of 30 patients.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, V (4), 312-318.

Jesani, A. (2016). [Willing participants and tolerant profession: Medical ethics and human rights in narco-analysis.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, 5 (3), 130.

Kottai, S. (2021). [LGBTQIA+ rights, mental health systems, and curative violence in India.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics. November 20, 2021

Kumbhar, K. (2020). [The medical profession must urgently act on caste-based discrimination and harassment in their midst.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, VI (1), 49-51.

Enjoy exploring the 29-year-old archive of 'Indian Journal of Medical Ethics', a peer reviewed and indexed journal to know more on these and other allied themes; and of course, themes of your interest.

[Read more](#)

Online First from IJME

Muralidharan J, Pinto A, Hopkins P, Bhugra A, Kurpad S S, Idiculla, J (2022). [Readings from a book by Victoria Sweet: A novel medical ethics learning experience.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, December 15, 2021.

Manecksha, F. (2021). [Life, survival and "care" in times of occupation.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, December 18, 2021

Nandraj, S., Gupta, P. (2021). [Patients' rights in India: betraying the public trust.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, December 13, 2021

Saxena, U., Bose, D., Saha, S., Gogtay, N., Thatte , U. (2021). [An audit of US FDA warning letters issued to sponsors, institutional review boards and investigators over a six-year period.](#) Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, December 10, 2021

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