

of skill-building in ethics such as identifying ethical issues and violations, and focusing on remedies and ethical case resolutions. Currently, this is not being done. At the postgraduate level, ethical deliberations, end-of-life decisions, ethical conflicts resolution and clinical ethics consultation are not touched upon.

To bridge this gap, the Centre for Ethics was established by Yenepoya University, in Mangalore, Karnataka. The first programme launched by the Centre was the Postgraduate Diploma in Bioethics and Medical Ethics, a year-long course with six contact programmes, supplemented by projects, online assignments and group discussions, culminating in a summative written exam. The course exposes the student to the basics of ethics, morality, theology and philosophy and their inter-relatedness in healthcare, technology and research involving human subjects. The main objective is to train enough people in the basics of healthcare and research ethics issues so as to do justice to their positions on institutional ethics committees or as members of clinical research teams.

In 2011, the Centre signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of History, Philosophy and Ethics in Medicine at the Johannes Gutenberg Medical University, Mainz, Germany, and another with the Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA. These collaborations promote staff and student exchange and take up joint research ventures in the field of trans-cultural clinical ethics. The six-month certificate course in clinical ethics consultation conducted by our centre utilises the services of the faculty members of both these universities. Two one-week long intensive contact programmes in each trimester are supplemented with online assignments and group discussions. This is designed to train participants in the basics of ethics, its applications in healthcare and how to conduct a clinical ethics consultation. The objective is to bring into India the concept of clinical ethics consultation that will have an impact on the ethics of healthcare practices in our country.

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Through a nurse's eyes

I sincerely appreciate the editorial "Life and Death after Aruna Shanbaug" written by Dr Roop Gursahani in the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME)* dated April-Jun 2011. The editorial is very well written and articulated and the author has very aptly discussed every part of the judgment delivered by Justices Markandey Katju and Gyan Sudha Misra of the Supreme Court of India. I would like to add that had the euthanasia plea been granted it would have led not only to intense resentment among all the doctors and nurses of KEM hospital, but would have opened a new avenue for unscrupulous people in our society, who for the sake of property and money, could go to the extent of getting their parents and relatives killed by bribing and conspiring with unethical, and greedy doctors. Hence, there are strong chances of euthanasia being prone to misuse. Moreover, there may be a cure in future for a medical state perceived as incurable today. I strongly oppose the plea by Ms. Pinki Virani. One must understand that in all these years, the nurses caring for her have not tired, but in fact, feel greatly privileged to care for her. Why, then, should the views of a third party, who has not even cared her for a single day, be considered? Hence, there is no point in worrying unnecessarily about Aruna, writing a book on her life story, or even paying visits to her, as all these things cannot be a substitute for the high quality, holistic nursing care being rendered to her by our fellow nurses working ceaselessly day and night. I must agree with Dr Sanjay Oak, Dean, KEM Hospital, when he said, in his testimony, "I must put on record that in the world history of medicine there would not be another single case where such a person is cared and nurtured in bed for 33 long years and has not developed a single bed sore. This speaks volumes of the excellence of nursing care that KEM nursing staff has given to her" (1). Once again I salute the spirit of all the nurses of KEM Hospital, Mumbai.

Reference

1. Ibnlive.com. Full text: Supreme Court's judgment on Aruna Shanbaug euthanasia petition. *IBN Live* [Internet]. 2011 May 18 [cited 2011 Dec 13]. Available from: <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/full-text-supreme-courts-judgment-on-aruna-ramachandra-euthanasia-petition/145201-53.html>

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