

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS ABOUT HEALTH CARE ETHICS  
AMONG STUDENTS UNDER HEALTHCARE UNIVERSITIES**Shreya Adhikari<sup>1\*</sup>, Ananya Sharma<sup>2</sup> and Srabani Bhattacharya<sup>3</sup><sup>1,2</sup>Medical Students, Rajiv Gandhi Medical College & CSM Hospital, Maharashtra, India.<sup>3</sup>Professor & Head Departmental Physiology, Rajiv Gandhi Medical College & CSM Hospital, Maharashtra, India.**\*Corresponding Author: Shreya Adhikari**

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**ABSTRACT**

This cross sectional study was conducted among male & female students under healthcare universities in India. Among the students 59% were female & 41% were male. The students were from MBBS, Dental & Ayurvedic courses. About 74% of the students knew about healthcare ethics. 99% of the students agreed about the importance of the conduct of the doctors. 96% of the participants answered yes regarding medical ethics to be apart of medical curriculum in India.

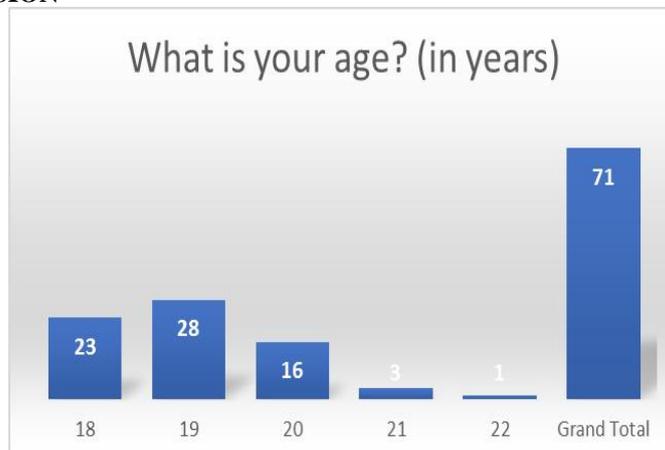
**KEYWORDS:** Awareness, Medical Ethics, Students of healthcare universities.**INTRODUCTION**

Teaching bioethics is a wide ranging and enduring endeavour to facilitate postgraduate and undergraduate students to become more fully connect to their own ethical principles.<sup>[1]</sup> Medical ethics is a branch ethics and a branch of philosophy that guides all human endeavours.<sup>[2]</sup> Ethics is a set of philosophical beliefs and practices concerned with the distinction between right & wrong.<sup>[3]</sup> Ethics is an inherent and inseparable part of clinical medicine as the physician has an ethical obligation to benefit the patient, to avoid or minimise harm, and to respect the values and preferences of the

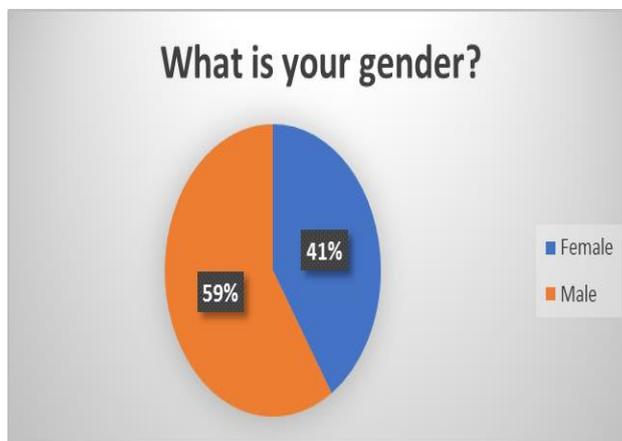
patient.<sup>[4]</sup> Medical ethics is chiefly concerned with values and judgement that are moral as it applies to medicine.<sup>[5]</sup>

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

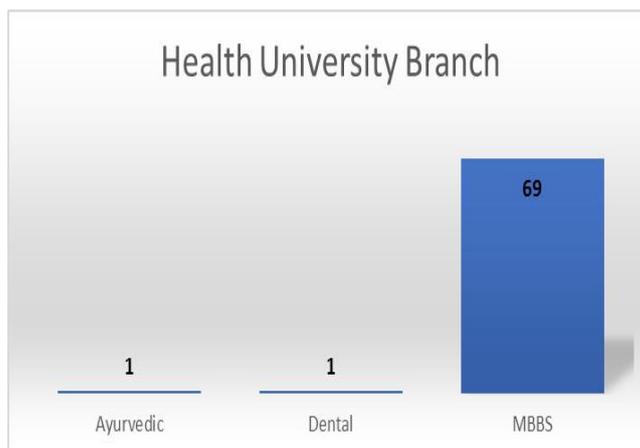
The cross sectional interview based study was conducted among students under healthcare universities in India with a pre-tested and pre-validated questionnaire administered via Google forms to the adult participants of either gender. Informed consent was taken on the Google forms. The data was calculated as per the questionnaire and response.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

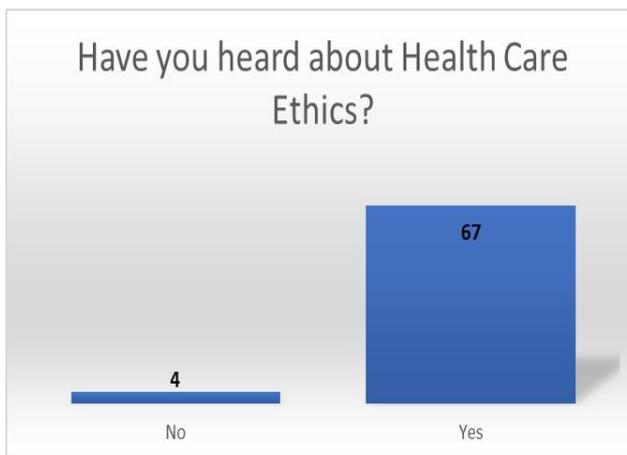
Age Groups	Count of What is your age? (in years)	% Contribution
18	23	32%
19	28	39%
20	16	23%
21	3	4%
22	1	1%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>71</b>	



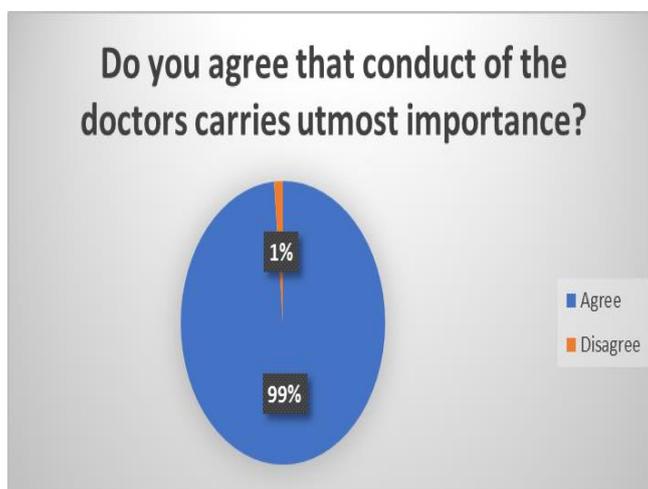
Row labels	Count of What is your gender?	% Contribution
Female	29	41%
Male	42	59%
Grand total	71	



Row labels	Count of Do you agree to participate in the below given survey?	% Contribution
Ayurvedic	1	1%
Dental	1	1%
MBBS	69	97%
Grand total	71	



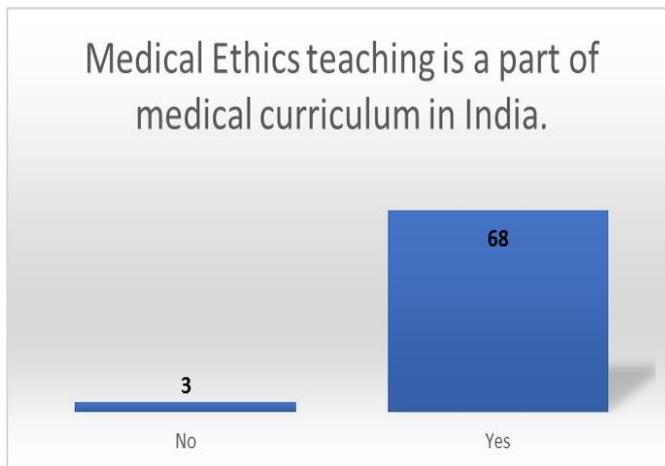
Row labels	Count of Have you heard about Health Care Ethics?	% contribution
No	4	6%
Yes	67	94%
Grand total	71	



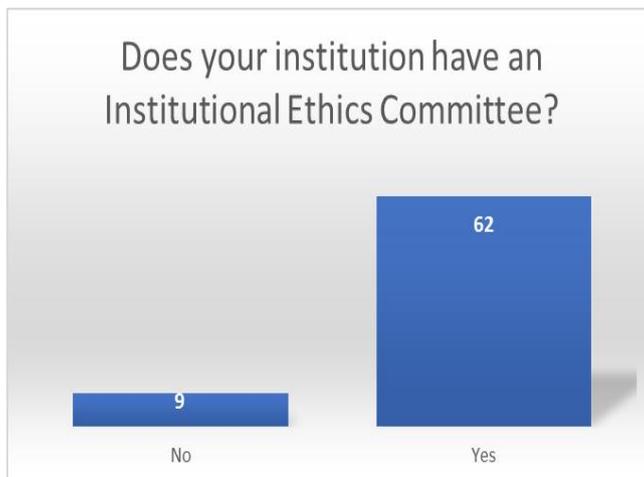
Row labels	Count of Do you agree that conduct of the doctors carries utmost importance?	% contribution
Agree	70	99%
Disagree	1	1%
Grand total	71	



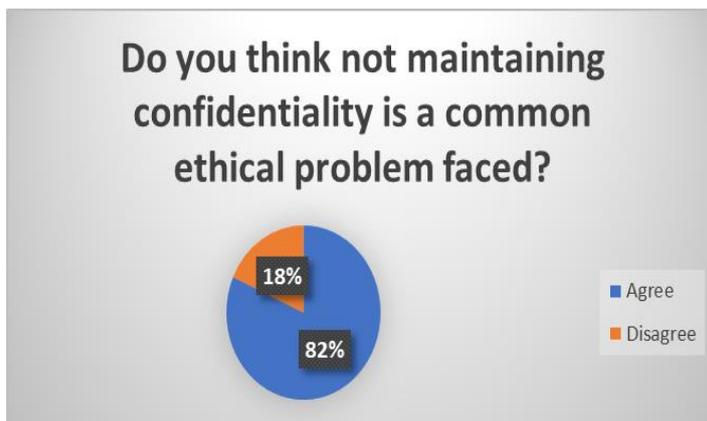
Row labels	Count of Ethical conduct is meant only for the sake of avoiding legal action.	% Contribution
Agree	15	21%
Disagree	56	79%
Grand total	71	



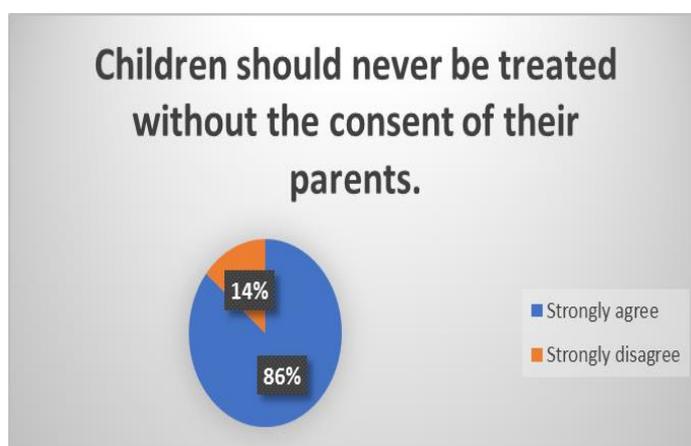
Row labels	Count of Medical Ethics teaching is a part of medical curriculum in India.	% Contribution
No	3	4%
Yes	68	96%
Grand total	71	



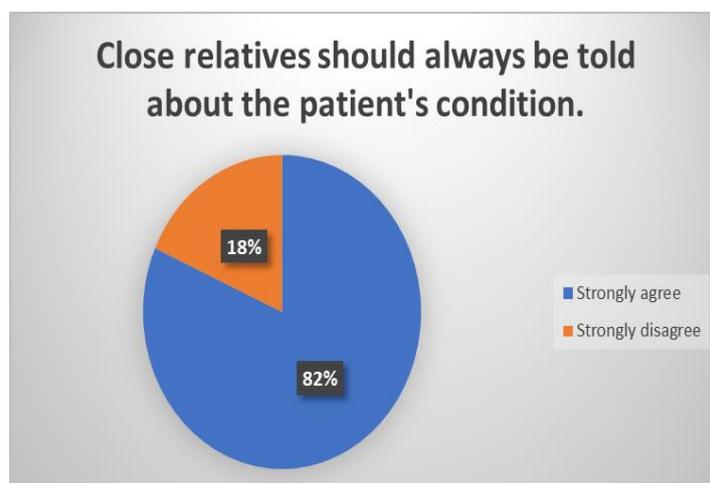
Row labels	Count of Does your institution have an Institutional Ethics Committee?	% Contribution
No	9	13%
Yes	62	87%
Grand total	71	



Row labels	Count of Do you think not maintaining confidentiality is a common ethical problem faced?	% contribution
Agree	58	82%
Disagree	13	18%
Grand total	71	



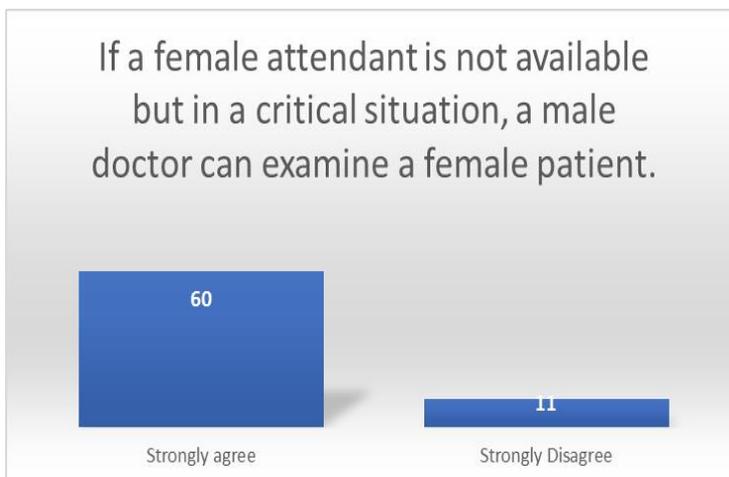
Row labels	Count of Children should never be treated without the consent of their parents.	% Contribution
Strongly agree	61	86%
Strongly disagree	10	14%
Grand total	71	



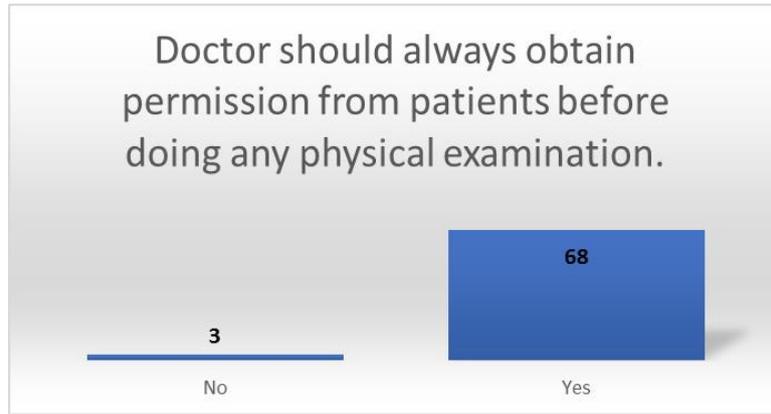
Row labels	Count of Close relatives should always be told about the patient's condition.	% Contribution
Strongly agree	58	82%
Strongly disagree	13	18%
Grand total	71	



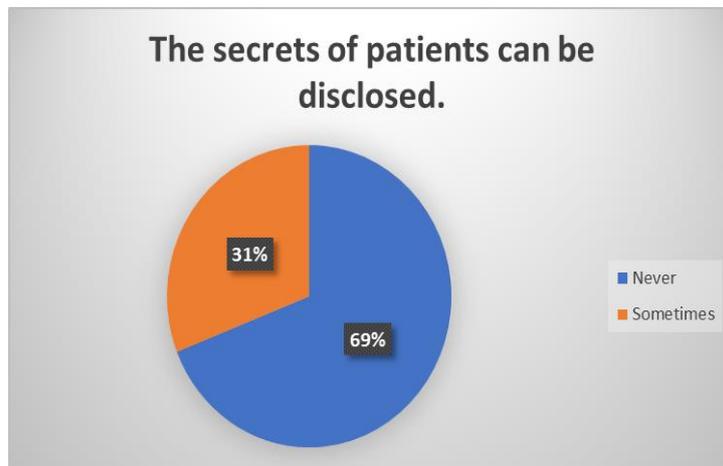
Row labels	Count of Do you think if law allows abortion, doctors must never refuse to do abortion?	% Contribution
No	50	70%
Yes	21	30%
Grand total	71	



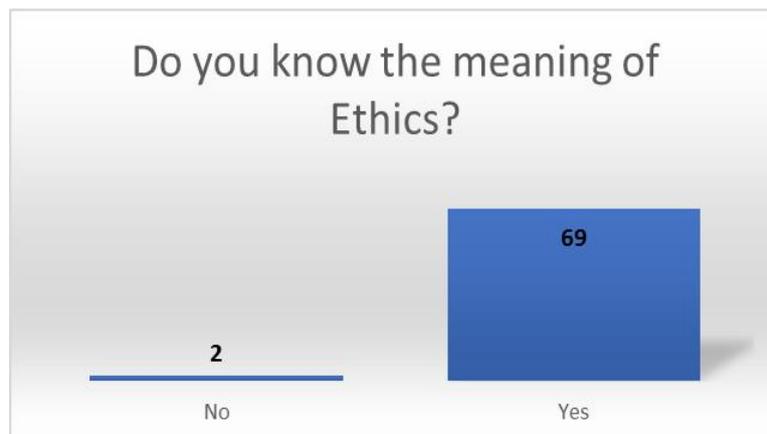
Row labels	Count of If a female attendant is not available but in a critical situation, a male doctor can examine a female patient.	% Contribution
Strongly agree	60	85%
Strongly disagree	11	15%
Grand total	71	



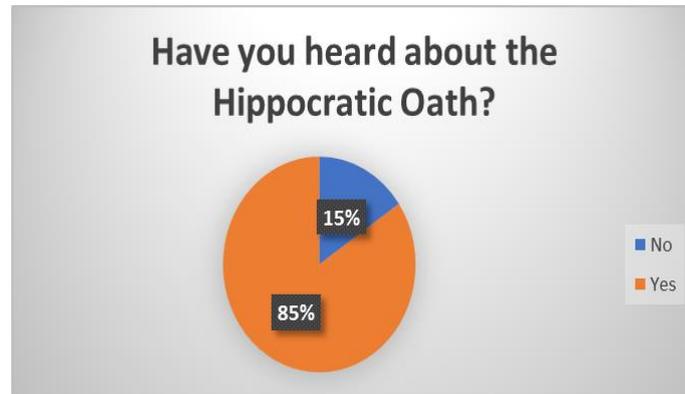
Row labels	Count of Doctor should always obtain permission from patients before doing any physical examination.	% Contribution
No	3	4%
Yes	68	96%
Grand total	71	



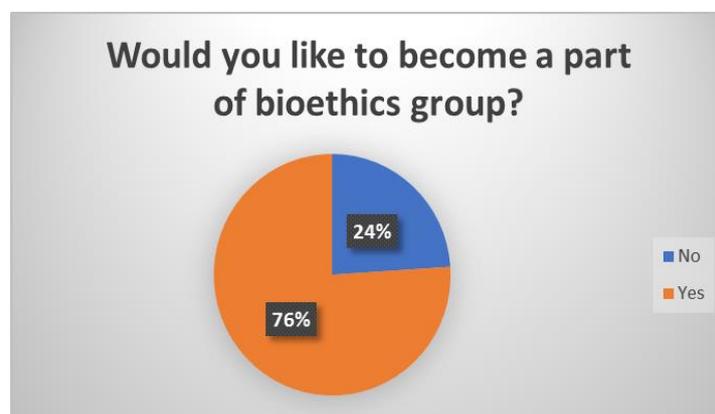
Row labels	Count of The secrets of patients can be disclosed.	% Contribution
Never	49	69%
Sometimes	22	31%
Grand total	71	



Row labels	Count of Do you know the meaning of Ethics?	% contribution
No	2	3%
Yes	69	97%
Grand total	71	



Row labels	Count of Have you heard about the Hippocratic Oath?	% Contribution
No	11	15%
Yes	60	85%
Grand total	71	



Row labels	Count of Would you like to become a part of bioethics group?	% Contribution
No	17	24%
Yes	54	76%
Grand total	71	

In the questionnaire based study, 41% were female participants and 59% were male participants, About 94% of the participants were aware about Healthcare Ethics. 49% of the students agreed that the conduct of the doctors carries utmost importance. 96% agreed that medical ethics teaching should be a part of medical curriculum in India. As per Carmina *et al.*<sup>[6]</sup> medical ethics training needs to be included as part of the core MBBS curriculum. Majority of the participants agreed that not maintaining confidentiality is a common ethical problem. As per W.A. Rogers *et al.*<sup>[7]</sup> patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Medical law is a legal discipline, a

subject restricted area of law, which regulates the relationship between the patients and the medical staff pursuant to legal norms as well as medical activity in general.<sup>[8]</sup>

Research institutions and funding body responded to the increased amount of research and establishment of Research Ethics Committees, which are mainly responsible for protecting people or animals involved in any research.<sup>[9]</sup> The contributions made by Hippocrates are immense in every field of medicine. It forms the basis of majority of the medical oaths being sworn in medical schools across the globe.<sup>[10]</sup>

**CONCLUSION**

Inclusion of ethics in medical curriculum has inducted medical students with respect to ethics to a large extent. Undergraduate medical students should have good knowledge about the concept and various aspects of medical ethics.

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