

2<sup>nd</sup> session started off with a presentation by Dr. Vijaykumar.

The presentation was on Bias in Bioethics, a futuristic topic, delivered to us by an expert now in practice in USA, dealing with adolescent, adult psychiatry, geriatric medicine and chronic diseases.

Bias in Bioethics is unavoidable as body and mind of both patients and care giver operate on the process of decision making, moreover, as the standard of care change due to rapid technological progress in the matters of health care, legal interpretations also change, hence the change in ethical processes in practice will also have to be redefined. Dr. Vijaykumar, at length explained how the mental and psychological developmental background of both patient and care giver would influence the bioethics, introducing biases, which only a careful analysis would be able to detect and avoid. Bias can't be eliminated, all efforts to reduce the same should be made, learnt and taught.

He further explained how the four basic principles also can be in conflict with each other.

The topic is as yet not much researched and it has practically no background references. Constantly reflecting and remodelling will help.

The second presentation was by Dr. Anand Ramakrishnan, who is president of the British Indian Psychiatric association and member of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Bio-Ethics board.

He gave a detailed picture of how Bioethics is being taught in Medical Schools across UK.

"Credits" are compulsory (in BioEthics) and it is taught and assessed each year and continuous. GMC (akin to MCI in India) made it uniform since 2004. and 2014 GMC guidelines of Good medical practice includes all of Ethical Guidelines, thus making it compulsory for not only students now, it is so for periodic renewal of licenses of practice.

He mentioned that entire information is in public domain and available on GMC website as well as on the websites of the Medical Schools. "what should be done", "end of life issues" Children and adolescents, expected knowledge and skills of care givers, maintaining Trust and confidentiality etc etc are well defined and Laws interpret these principles as outlined, taught and assessed.

Questions from audience were then responded to by both speakers, briefly.