

OP.006 The ethical profile of nurses and physicians with volunteering experience

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Background: In the global world where we face situations of great social and human fragility, each citizen, as a member of a community, must take part in activities of the civil society, contributing for the common good of the society in which it is integrated.

As the need for health care seems to induce the implementation of humanitarian actions of some nurses and physicians that go beyond their professional sphere, the responsibility and the concern to another is channelled into *pro bono* work based on their vocational formation.

This action is reflected on the individual response, thinking of the good to neighbour, giving a part of himself to *other*, putting at their disposal their knowledge, their skills, their time and his *being*.

Aim: Reflect on the motivations and experiences of the nurses and physicians with volunteering practice in the context of their profession, the perception on the impact of their acting on the *other*, as well as the values, ethical and bioethical principles that sustain their intervention and, that as a whole, allow us to define their ethical profile.

Philosophical perspective: Humanitarian aid has two faces: on the one hand, the fragilized people that need aid and to who is owed respect for the dignity, autonomy, integrity, vulnerability, for the human rights and fundamental freedoms; on the other hand, the health professionals, the agents with the skills to provide effective and sympathetic aid in the face of the identified needs, reflecting on each situation and the proper mode of action. This is where the ethical and bioethical perspective are integrated, being a global and applied ethic.

When someone acts on behalf of another and with a gratuitous performance in its professional area it is because, besides the competence and the capacity for their realization, are attentive to the fragilities of the other and know how to act in this game of *power-to know do*.

The involvement of the citizen in the activities of the civil society in closeness to the other, in an active as responsible way, contributes to the achievement of common projects within the community where one is inserted. Volunteering, as the expression of the free exercise of active and sympathetic citizenship, arises from personal initiative and decision, covering as well the professional context of nurses and physicians as well. Human, ethical, moral and social formation constitutes the essential elements to their acting as health professionals and as volunteers.

Implications: Raise awareness to the importance of the exercise of citizenship, to the values and social responsibilities, in view of an ethical acting of the professionals in the face of the needs in health care.

Conclusions: In the today's society, where we are seeing the declining of some values that ought to be universal, we value the ethical attitude of nurses and physicians that perform volunteering activities, in the respect for dignity, integrity and human vulnerability with solidarity, solicitude, altruism, gratuity and humility.

Keywords: volunteering; health care; ethical profile.