

Special Correspondence

Pledging Service to Humanity.....

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The decision on replacing Hippocratic Oath mentioned in minutes of NMC is totally Irrational, Retrograde & probably taken to please powers that be.

IMA always opposed replacing MCI by undemocratic NMC and now in last few years the fraternity is experiencing it's ill effects.

Instead of creating such unnecessary controversies or symbolism NMC should concentrate on improving quality of Medical Education, Protecting the dignity of modern Medicine and welfare of young Medicos.

The IMA leaders in NMC will surely oppose it and see to it that this minutes are not converted in notification.

Various Codes of Ethics for Physicians existed since time immemorial and was expressed in all ancient cultures where Medicine was well developed, may it be Indian, Chinese, Egyptian or Greek.

But they were relevant at that particular point of time.

In England, Thomas Percival, a Physician and author, crafted the first modern code of Medical Ethics

in 1794 and wrote an expanded version in 1803, in which he coined the expressions "Medical Ethics" and "Medical Jurisprudence"

In 1815, the Apothecaries Act was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

In 1847, the American Medical Association adopted its first code of Ethics.

In modern era the Declaration of Geneva defines the Broad Outline of Ethics and is updated periodically.

Ethics is a Dynamic entity and even though the basic tenets remain the same, it has to be always updated considering the newer challenges of Medicine.

Hence to revert to a age old code is highly irrelevant in modern era.

All Medical Graduates in India are governed and bound by the Ethics decided by erstwhile MCI & now NMC. They were never administered the Hippocratic Oath. Hence the so called decision to abolish it is mere white wash and symbolic.

Does this quixotic decision of NMC mean that we are now NOT bound by the existing code of Ethics by NMC?

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