

Revolutionizing Nursing Ethics: The Transformative Power of Islamic Legal Maxims

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Dear Editor,

The incorporation of Islamic legal maxims, also known as Qawaid al-Fiqhiyyah, into nursing practices has the capacity to greatly improve ethical standards by establishing a strong framework in line with Islamic principles. Our latest study explores the process of integrating these principles into daily nursing practice, emphasizing the advantages and challenges of applying them.

The practice of nursing within the Islamic tradition has been notably shaped by individuals like Rufayda. They played vital roles intended to injured soldiers during many wars such as the Battle of the Trench (Khandak War) (1,2). These early instances underscore the significance of preventing harm and ensuring the well-being of patients, fundamental principles of nursing that continue to be pertinent today.

The study highlights the importance of Islamic legal maxims, specifically "harm must be eliminated" (al-darar yuzal), in supporting patient autonomy, maintaining justice, and improving beneficence (3,10). This idea is especially relevant in the field of nursing, where the main objective is to avoid injury and guarantee the welfare of patients. By embracing this principle, nursing practitioners can adopt a patient care strategy that is both culturally sensitive and ethically motivated, thus strengthening their role as advocates for compassion and integrity.

The research technique employed an extensive examination of literature and specific instances to uncover the advantages of incorporating Islamic legal maxims into the field of nursing. The analysis involved examining the application of these principles to nursing practices and

recognizing potential challenges in their implementation while offering practical strategies to overcome them (4,5).

The study made a significant discovery: The principle of "harm must be eliminated" (al-darar yuzal) is in complete accordance with healthcare ethics, highlighting the significance of preventing and eradicating harm (3). This idea is fundamental to Islamic ethics and plays a critical role in driving nursing practices to emphasise the safety and well-being of patients.

Another significant maxim is "repelling harm takes precedence over bringing benefits" (al-darar yuzal wa'l-mashru' yuqaddam). This principle underscores the importance of prioritising harm prevention over potential benefits, which is critical in healthcare where patient safety is paramount (3).

Incorporating Islamic legal maxims into nursing practices strengthens the ethical framework and fosters culturally sensitive care. This approach is crucial in heterogeneous cultures such as Malaysia, where comprehending and honouring cultural and religious beliefs is vital for providing efficient patient care (6).

Nursing practitioners can strengthen their dedication to ethical and compassionate care by adopting Islamic legal maxims, thus guaranteeing that patients receive treatment with dignity and respect. This integration additionally serves to cater to the distinct requirements of Muslim patients, offering a structure for ethical decision-making that is in harmony with their values and beliefs (7,8,9).

Ultimately, incorporating Islamic legal maxims into nursing practice provides a significant structure for improving ethical and culturally

sensitive care. It upholds the values of fairness, doing good, and avoiding harm, guaranteeing that patients receive care that is morally sound and culturally considerate. We strongly encourage healthcare organisations to adopt these principles into their nursing practices in order to enhance patient care and maintain the utmost levels of ethical behaviour.

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