

THE ROLE OF A MUSLIM MEDICAL IMAGING PRACTITIONER (Radiographer)

Zainul Ibrahim bin Zainuddin
Assistant Professor
Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences
International Islamic University Malaysia

*World Radiography Day
7th November 2013
Fakulti Sains Kesihatan 7
UiTM, Puncak Alam.*

Introduction

- History of Medical Imaging
- The nature of the Medical Imaging literature.
- Implications of these literature.
- Implications on the curriculum.
- Implications on the role of Radiographer.

Questions:

- Who is the Muslim / Muslimah?
- Who is a Medical Imaging Practitioner / Radiographer?
- Who is A Muslim / Muslimah Medical Imaging practitioner?
- Question: What is expected of a Muslim / Muslimah Medical Imaging Practitioner?

The purpose of the presentation

- To examine the general features of the roles of a Medical Imaging Practitioner.
- To present a conceptual description of the roles of a Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner.
- To propose an applicable Code of Practice for a Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner.

**** For the purpose of this presentation, Medical Imaging Practitioner refers to the Radiographer, Radiologic Technologists or similar professions.*

The Roles of a Medical imaging Practitioner.

- Examining documents outlining the roles.
- Universally accepted **principles** and **objectives** in healthcare (including Medical Imaging)
- Outlines the general roles, responsibilities and conduct of the Medical Imaging practitioners.

A Common feature in the documents:

- No religious references.
- Total segregation / secularisation.
- Implications on the Muslim practitioner:

Something needs to be done!

- Time to contemplate and self –examination (Muhasabah)
 - as individuals or
 - collectively as a group
- Identify what needs to be done to change the situation

Roles of a Medical Imaging Practitioner

- - patient and patient care
- technologies
- procedures
- images
- quality
- economic considerations
- safety issues
- customer satisfaction
- education
- professionalism / Professional ethics
- research

Where do Islam fits in those scheme
of things?

The role of Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner – A conceptual presentation

- The Radiographer needs to self examine his / her role in terms of:
 - his Muslim Self
 - a Radiographer
 - a Professional / expert
 - his / her peers
 - his / her students
 - his family
 - his role to the community and the nation.

Contemporary Obligations

1. To subscribe to the Islamic Worldview in all aspects of the profession.
2. Acknowledge the intellect given to us.
3. Calling others back into the folds of the religion.
4. Systemisation of Values
5. Agent of change – promoting Islamic values in the profession

1. Worldview

- “Worldview” is derived from the German word “Weltanschauung”.
- The American Heritage Dictionary describes it as *“the overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world”* and *“a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.”*

SECULAR WORLDVIEW

- Definition: separation of daily matters from any religious perspectives.
- Characteristics of the worldview.
 - right to be free from religious rulings.
 - no imposition of the government upon the people pertaining to matters of belief.
 - all human activities and decisions are unbiased by religious influence.

Islamic Worldview

Based on several fundamental principles:

- Tawhid : The Oneness of Allah
- Vicegerency
- Justice
- The religion (*diin / Aqeedah*) that serves to guide Man towards what is good and what should be avoided.

Concept of Vicegerency

- A Muslim needs to accept the fact that Allah has assigned him as a Vicegerent on earth.
- He is responsible to utilise all available resources as well as the knowledge gained from scientific endeavours to benefit self and Mankind.
- These activities need to be guided by the values, ethics and theological standards as encompassed in Islam (Yasmeen Mahnaz Faruqi 2007).

Applications of the Vicegerency

- - enjoining good and forbidding bad
- - not to do destruction on earth
- - use of the intellect.
- - preserving religion, life, wealth, progeny and intellect (Maqasid Al-Shari'ah)
- - protecting human rights and justice

How do we fit in this?

- Chapter 3 The family of Imran سورة آل عمران - Aal-e-Imran: Verse 104

Let there arise out of you a **band of people** inviting to all that is good, enjoining **what is right, and forbidding what is wrong**: They are the ones to attain felicity.

- Chapter 3 The family of Imran Aal-e-Imran:
Verse 110
- **Ye are the best of peoples**, evolved for mankind, **enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong**, and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book had faith, it were **best** for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors.

Islamic worldview: what it should be.

- To reject the current practices?
- Use of the Intellect.

2. 'Aql (The Allah given intellect) - Challenges and use of the given intellect - COURT

- Intellect (Aql') - A given distinction given to Mankind and not to other creatures.
- Use the intellect in relation to Medical Imaging:
 - Contemplate on things that were
 - Observe things that they are
 - Understand the reasons why
 - Reason what they should be
 - Think how to do it

A moment of contemplation:

What is the meaning of “Ijazah”?

The ‘ijazah’.

- The word Ijazah is commonly used in Malaysia to denote a person who has obtained a degree, whether professional or otherwise.
- An ijazah (Arabic: إِلْجَازَة) (is a certificate used primarily by Sunni Muslims to indicate **that one has been authorized by a higher authority to teach (and associated synonyms)** a certain subject or text of Islamic knowledge.

The hidden message behind ‘ijazah’

Concept of authority / recognition

- An acknowledgement to the graduate
- The recognition to teach others.

The synonyms to “teach”

- demonstrate, show, inform
- explain, instruct, train, tutor, brief, guide,
- transmit, communicate, impart, enlighten,
- imbue, inculcate, initiate, interpret,
nurture
- Direct, indoctrinate

A Challenge to the graduates / professionals in applying knowledge learned

- Chapter 2 The Cow - سورة البقرة - Al-Baqara: Verse 44

Do ye **enjoin right** conduct on the people, and forget (To practise it) yourselves, and yet ye study the Scripture? **Will ye not understand?**

If No, “what is the matter with us?”

- Chapter 37 Those who set the ranks As-Saaffat:
Verse 92
"What is the matter with you that ye speak not (intelligently)?"
- Chapter 37 Those who set the ranks As-Saaffat:
Verse 25
"What is the matter with you that ye help not each other?"

The Religion / *Diin* / *Aqeedah*

- The *Aqeedah* :

- The Pillars of Islam

- The Pillars of Iman

Leading to the understanding about Fiqh.

Self Examination : A Muslim

- Acknowledge one's own level of Islamic knowledge and practice (Islamisation of Self)
 - Different religious backgrounds
 - Steps to address personal spirituality and spiritual needs (Self Islamisation)
- Appreciate the fact that others are looking at us for directions in matters related to Islamic conduct and faith

3. To call others back to the religion.

- Opportunities lost in the Medical Imaging practice;
 - Patient – practitioner interaction is relatively short; depending on the type of examination.
- Use the limited time to promote, remind and reinforce religious obligations using “wisdom”.
 - in the examination room
 - in the wards.

A Sad state of Affairs.....

- In a study conducted by IIUM lecturers:
- 70% of the women warded in the Gynea ward DO NOT perform their prayers while in the ward.
- Question: What can we do as Muslim practitioners.....

Consider this interaction (1)

“Objectification” of the patient.

- Although the word “please” was used, but the patient was merely an object.
- There is nothing that he got from the interaction besides a chest x-ray was done on him.
- The radiographer was just doing his radiography job.

Consider this interaction (2)

Consider this interaction (3)

In the MRI room

- Would you like to listen to recitations of the Qur'an while the examination is being performed?
- Avoid giving him choices like: What would you like to listen?
- Respect his wishes.
- Note: Establish the Rapport / Communication First!

What could be the lessons learnt?

- In the case of chest x-ray.
- In the case of the Mobile Radiography.
-
- In the case of the MRI examination

4. Systematization of values

- Islamic values
- Professional Values
- Relate those values to the teachings of Islam

5. Agents of change

- Consolidating the other obligations.
- Changing the mindset, beliefs, values and practices.
- True characteristics and attributes of a Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner.
 - through systematization of values, morals and practice
- To change the negative perceptions among the yet-to- be Muslims concerning Islam

Conceptualisation of the Code of practice for a Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioner (summarised)

- Adopt and adapt the Islamic Worldview in the profession and professionalism of Medical Imaging.
- Respect the beliefs and values of others, while adhering to one's own beliefs and values.
- Internalise and display the attributes of the true Muslim Human Character.
- Ensure that the Medical Imaging practice is reflective of the vision and mission of the Islamic creed.

Conclusion

- Identify one's own spiritual / religious status
- Internalise and align appropriate values and practice to the Islamic Worldview.
- Adapting the disadvantage into an advantage.
- The BIGGER questions:
 - Can we, as individuals or a group, undertake those efforts?
 - Do we want to do it?
- Code of Practice for Muslim Medical Imaging Practitioners.

Thank You.

zainul@iium.edu.my

- سورة آل عمران - Chapter 3 The family of Imran
Aal-e-Imran: Verse 114
- They believe in Allah and the Last Day; they enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten (in emulation) in (all) good works: **They are in the ranks of the righteous.**