

Improving Medical Ethics of Military Medical Staffs According to Ho Chi Minh's Thought

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Abstract: *According to Ho Chi Minh's thought, medical ethics of military medical staffs is not only reflected in the love of patients, honesty, solidarity with colleagues, but also the spirit of enthusiasm for the profession, always actively improving knowledge to improve professional capacity and comprehensive knowledge to better meet the care and protection of the health of the army and people. Thoroughly contemplating his thoughts is very important for improving medical ethics of military medical staffs in the Vietnam People's Army today.*

Keywords: Medical ethics and medical ethics education

1. Introduction

Military medical staffs are military staffs who take medicine as the purpose and means to serve the health of the army and to cure injuries and sick soldiers. The process of professional activities of military medical staffs inherited many Ho Chi Minh ideological heritage in which there is his thoughts on ethics. The Vietnam Military Medical Sector considers this a guideline for its development.

2. The Basic Thoughts of Ho Chi Minh about Medical Ethics

Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on medical ethics are concentrated in the following two basic contents:

1. According to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnamese physicians must "wholeheartedly love and care for patients"

From the early years after the independence of the country, in the letter to the Military Medical Conference, in March 1948, Ho Chi Minh pointed out: The physician not only had the duty to cure diseases but also had to support their patient's spirit. When meeting some agitated soldiers, the physicians should take humanity and the love to calm them down. They have the phrase "The doctor as gentle mother" which means "a physician must be a gentle mother at the same time"¹. The ethical quality of the physician was confirmed by Ho Chi Minh in the letter to the Conference of National Health Officials, June 1953. Here, "Prevention is also necessary as a cure, to fulfill that task, medical staff need to love their patients like their siblings, dedicated to serve the people". Also in this letter, he emphasized "The doctor as gentle mother"². At the Conference of Health Officers on February 27th, 1955, Ho Chi Minh sent a letter "giving some ideas" for the participants to discuss. In this letter, the ethics issue is again continued to be emphasized: The patient entrusts their destiny to you. The Government entrusted you to cure diseases and keep the health of the people. It is a glorious task. Therefore, you all need to love

and care for sick people like your siblings, and consider their pain as your pain, your suffer. "The doctor as gentle mother"³ was once again recalled and emphasized by Ho Chi Minh.

2. According to Ho Chi Minh, the health sector in general, physicians in particular must "honest and united"

The relationship between physicians is one of the basic relationships of the mission of taking care of health for the entire people and treating people to save their lives. This is reflected in the fact that, in the collective of physicians, every success or failure in professional activity is a common problem of one or more organizations. Each physician must learn and know how to use their intelligences, talents and acts to in a timely, accurate and the most effective way to cure patients. Ho Chi Minh considers honesty an ethical issue which has significance and special importance in the medical sector. At the letter to the Conference of Health Officers, February 1955, Uncle Ho emphasized: First of all, it must be truly united. Solidarity is our strength. Solidarity overcomes all difficulties and gains many achievements. "Solidarity between old and new officials. Solidarity among all people in the health sector, from ministers, vice ministers, doctors and pharmacists to the helpers. Because work and position are different, but everyone is an essential part of the health sector, in serving the people"⁴.

Solidarity in the health sector is an indispensable requirement to create strength, overcome difficulties and complete professional tasks. In fact, the effectiveness of the health sector in the protection and care of people's health is in the combination of disease prevention and treatment, traditional medicine and modern medicine, medicine and pharmacy, internal medicine and surgery, subclinical and clinical, etc. A bit of disunity, lack of cooperation in healing can also lead to inconceivable consequences. Therefore, for medical ethics, Ho Chi Minh considers honesty a very important issue. His thought is not only a continuation of the traditional ethical values of the nation, but also a guide for the development of Vietnam's modern health sector.

¹ Hồ Chí Minh: *Toàn tập (All about Ho Chi Minh)*, Vol.5, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2004, pg.395.

² Hồ Chí Minh: *Toàn tập (All about Ho Chi Minh)*, Vol.7, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2004, pg.88.

³ As (2), pg.476.

⁴ As (2), pg.476.

Over the past years, there have been many typical examples in medical ethics training according to the moral example of Uncle Ho of military medical staffs. They are really "physicians", "gentle mothers" make us admire, leaving very good feelings in the hearts of the soldiers and the people. However, there are still some military medical staffs who are not actively cultivating and practicing medical ethics so they have violated the quality of professional ethics at different levels such as: inelegant in communicating with patients; low responsibility in care, examination and treatment for patients; waste of equipment, medical supplies, etc.

3. The Basic Solutions to Improve Medical Ethics for Medical Personnel Today in According to the Ho Chi Minh Thought

Stemming from the above situation, in order to improve medical ethics for military medical staffs today according to the medical ethical ideology of Ho Chi Minh, requires leaders and commanders of grassroots units to perform well the following basic solutions:

Firstly, improve the quality of education and self-education, and organize practical activities well, to ensure the consistency between raising awareness and ethical behavior for military medical staffs. Because morality in general and medical ethics in particular cannot form and develop by itself, it must be built step by step voluntarily through the process of practical operation of the whole society and in every human being. Therefore, education and self-education, at the same time well organized practical activities are the most important solutions to ensure the consistency between raising awareness and ethical behavior for medical staff today. Accordingly, in order to improve medical ethics of military medical officers, it requires military medical units to innovate, improve the quality of synchronous education both in terms of content, forms and methods of education and improve the quality of educational work of the leaders and commanders of units. In particular, content innovation is a key step, directly related to the quality and effectiveness of medical ethics education for military medical staffs. Innovating the content of medical ethics education must come from the perspective of the Party's perspective, the practical situation of the country, the army, the military medical and medical units, ensuring the inheritance, selection and development, the time to keep abreast of educational objects. Educational content must be comprehensive in terms of politics and ideology; ethical traditions of the nation and the industry; the ethical standards required by military personnel. In order to improve medical ethics of military medical staffs, the reform of educational content is an important factor, but must be associated with innovation in educational forms and methods. However, the form and method of education must be consistent with the content and always aim to stimulate the creative thinking capacity, and the self-awareness and initiative of the educational object. The form of medical ethics education needs to be conducted as diverse as: thematic activities; concentrated education and training; organize learning through books, television, etc. Along with innovating the form of medical education, it is necessary to use comprehensively and synchronously educational

methods. However, we also should focus on effectively implementing persuasive methods and setting a good example about medical ethic. These are the two basic methods of education that affect the moral consciousness of military medical staffs, in order to form good attitudes and feelings, wills, beliefs and ethical behaviors. In addition, it is necessary to improve the educational capacity and level as well as promote an exemplary role in medical ethics, the lifestyle of leaders and commanders of military units. From the practice of medical ethics education in military medical units, we can see that whether education is comprehensive and promoted, it only outlines the direction to promote the process of improving medical ethics for military medical staffs in the units. Their medical ethics is maintained and raised up to how much depends on the process of self-education, self-training of themselves. Therefore, along with the process of educating and fostering medical ethics, the promotion of self-education and self-training activities to improve ethics is an important step in the system of ethical education solutions for military medical staffs. In order to strengthen self-education and self-fostering to improve the quality of medical ethics of military medical staffs, it is necessary to promote the synergy of organizations and forces, especially of leaders and each military medical officer. Self-education only has results when it is associated with high self-awareness and active efforts in practical activities of military medical officers. Education and self-education of medical ethics for military medical officers is not only pure solutions to reasoning, but also must respect education and self-education of ethics for them in practical activities such as: treatment activities, health care for soldiers and people, etc. Because, practice is always a standard, a measure to assess the level of awareness, standard values of medical staffs. Therefore, grasping the practical viewpoint in education and self-education of medical ethics is an important factor to improve the quality of education and self-education of ethics. The organization of practical activities must ensure democracy, science and consistency in the educational content. Strengthen training, challenging their bravery and intelligence in accordance with the characteristics, functions and tasks assigned. Only on the basis of closely combining the process of education and training with self-education and training for military medical personnel in the medical ethics environment of the units, the methods of education and self-education can be really effective.

Secondly, building a truly clean and healthy ethics environment, fighting against all negative manifestations of ethics in the units. In society, every person is both a subject and a product of the social situation and environment. Therefore, the above work is an important solution to perfect the personality of military medical staffs in general and revolutionary ethics for them in particular. Accordingly, in order to improve the medical ethics of military medical staffs at present, the units must continue to build a clean and healthy medical environment. That environment contains ethical principles, standards, ethical cultural institutions that reflect the peculiarities of military medicine, forming a unified body that directly affects improving medical ethics of military medical staffs. Building medical ethics standards of medical staffs at present must be consistent with the change of the system of social moral values in Vietnam,

creating a consensus on the objectives of the training, the content of education and training; Adjust their thoughts and behaviors; Building medical ethics standards of military medical staffs now need regular attention of the unit leaders and commanders. At the same time, promote the role of all organizations and forces in the units. Good implementation of the above contents is the basis for building and perfecting the medical ethics system of military medical personnel with new quantity and quality, contributing to building a good medical and ethical environment. Besides, it is necessary to build and promote the role of medical and cultural systems in military units because they are an essential condition of the process of medical education for military medical staffs. In order to improve their ethics, along with improving the quality of education, self-education, building and promoting the role of the medical ethics environment, must also fight strongly against negative phenomena on medical ethics. Currently, the negative phenomena on medical ethics are a matter of concern for the whole industry, the fight against negative phenomena is an urgent issue. To fight against negative manifestations of medical ethics in military units, it is necessary to strengthen the leadership of the party organization, management and administration of the commander; supervision of mass organizations; create and promote the role of collective public opinion on violations of medical ethics of military medical staffs, etc.

Thirdly, well fostering and using medical staff, improving their material and spiritual life, motivating them to rise up and cultivate themselves and improve their virtue. This is an important group of solutions that contribute to improving medical ethics for military medical officers. Currently, our country is entering a period of accelerating industrialization and modernization, the Party has always affirmed that cadres are the decisive factor of the success or failure of the revolution. Accordingly, in order to improve the medical ethics of military medical staffs today, it requires the Party committees and commanders in the unit need to train and manage their staffs in an effective way as well as improving their material and spiritual life. In fostering a contingent of military medical personnels, it must ensure comprehensive knowledge, skills and attitudes towards careers. The arrangement of military medical staffs must always ensure continuity and inheritance, right people, right jobs, and true forte; keep stability to deep specialization and rotation, changing the work place according to plan to improve their professional and working capacity. In addition, ensuring their material and spiritual is also an important measure to improve their medical ethics and professional capacity. Materials for their professional activities include many types, such as medicine, machinery, tools, chemicals, rooms and other facilities for the purpose of examination and treatment and prevention of epidemics. In general, medical units are not really synchronized at the moment. Therefore, in addition to asking the superiors to supplement, based on the specific situation of military units, leaders and commanders should actively develop plans, determine how to secure and take advantage of all possible supplies, to get more needed equipment to meet the requirements of professional operations. Besides, it is necessary to regularly improve the efficiency using those equipment. Along with the increased assurance of equipment and facilities for medical units, leaders and unit commanders

need to pay attention to strengthening the barracks, the system of clinics and treatment in the unit ensures green, clean, beautiful, promotes the highest performance in implementing the task of protecting and health care for wounded soldiers and people. Along with ensuring the best for material activities, it needs to meet the needs of cultural and spiritual activities for military medical staffs. Ensuring right and sufficient criteria for enjoying cultural and spiritual life.

4. Conclusion

Thus, following Ho Chi Minh's thought, medical ethics of military medical staffs is not only reflected in the love of patients, honesty, solidarity with colleagues, but also the spirit of enthusiasm for the profession, always positively improve knowledge and professional capacity to better care the health of the army and people. In order to improve the medical ethics of military medical staffs, according to his ideology, the grassroots units in the army need to vigorously innovate the education and self-education of medical ethics; building a professional medical environment; mobilize the synergy of organizations, forces and facilities, create favorable conditions for improving medical ethics and their professional capacity as expected./.

References

- [1] Hồ Chí Minh: *Toàn tập (All about Ho Chi Minh)*, Vol.5, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2004.
- [2] Hồ Chí Minh: *Toàn tập ((All about Ho Chi Minh)*, Vol.7, National Political Publishing House, Ha Noi, 2004.