

National Priorities in Bioethics and Ethics in Science and Technology

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Abstract

Background: Complexity and extensiveness of issues discussed in bioethics do not allow governments to deal with them simultaneously and to an equal extent. Therefore, it is necessary to take such measures, so that more important and urgent issues of bioethics are not left untouched. In order to answer the question of priority of bioethical problems, we need to answer a basic question: how and on the basis of which criteria can we distinguish more significant issues of bioethics from the less important ones?

Methods: This descriptive-analytical study was performed based on convenience sampling according to the conditions governing the research. Totally, 121 people answered the questionnaires sent. The data collection tool was a researcher-made questionnaire and Essential National Health Research (ENHR) strategy was used to prepare the questionnaire. After data collection, they were entered into SPSS statistical software version 20 and analyzed using ANOVA.

Results: The evaluation of the mean scores of criteria for setting the priorities showed that according to the respondents, the general criterion of "environmental sciences and technologies" with Mean±SD of 72.55±18.00 was the most important criterion and "end-of-life issues" with Mean±SD of 53.40±22.06 had the lowest priority in the research.

Conclusion: It is impossible to provide a "complete", "final", "general" and "permanent" list of priorities for bioethical issues in a country. The findings of this research just provided a partial sample and a temporary list among the list of priorities of bioethical issues in the context of Iran which were available during the time the study was conducted.

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