Pathways of Medical Students’ Humanities Cultivation in Hui Nationality Area in China

Juan GAO, Xiao-Ping MA and Huan-Min GAOa,*

Department of Neurology, People’s Hospital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Northwest University for Nationalities, Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China

agaohuanmin@126.com
*Corresponding author

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Abstract. As one of the world’s three major religions, Islam has many taboos, such as animal taboos, which have certain influences on the medical practice in Ningxia Hui ethnic region of China. In order to service better in this region, this study was to train medical students’ communicative skills and abilities on humanities in ethnic area. Retrieval results showed 775 single drugs or prescriptions possible taboos in China Pharmacopoeia. 372 items contained parts of pig; 167 items with dog; 31 with donkey; 39 with donkey; 109 with cat; 20 with crab, and 37 with snake. Also Islamic custom taboos were studied. As the results, the medical students of Northwest University for Nationalities were familiar with Hui nationality taboos, avoided taboos to improve the communicative skills on humanities in Hui nationality areas in the northwest China, finally established a medical practical path feathered Hui in the ethnic areas in China.

Introduction

Hui nationality is a special ethnic minority in the Northwest China [1-4]. Those people who believe in Islam have many taboos, such as animal taboo which have great influence on medical practices in this ethnic regions [5,6]. In the Hui Muslim region of China, it is offensive to mention any word like pig or pork in front of Hui Muslim. In fact, in the mind of Hui Muslim including many medical students in this ethnic region, such word as “pig” or “pork” is regarded as the dirtiest things according to their beliefs. If the Hui Muslim Connotation of humanistic concern was not understood thoroughly, it would be very difficult to care the Hui Muslim patients, let alone meet their requirements in the course of their medical services. Therefore it is urgent to improve the quality of medical care through establishing a Hui Muslim medical humanistic cultivation pathways in the ethnic region. However, little literature has been found in this field of the present study. Therefore, the present study was to establish the pathways for the medical students on humanities in the ethnic areas in the northwest China.

Christianity, Buddhism and Islam are the world’s three major religions. In the ancient China Islam was called Tajir doctrine, Tajir Islam, Arabic sect, Qingzhen (halal) sect, HuiHui sect, Hui sect. By the end of 2009, among the total global population of 6.8 billion, there were 1.57 billion Muslims, accounting for 23% of the whole world population, distributed in 204 countries and regions [4]. The Hui nationality in China is an ethnic region that has close relations with Islam. The feelings of the Hui people including many young medical students are influenced by Islam in varying degrees. Muslims are the names of those who believe in the Islam faithfully. There are ten minorities in China believe in Islam, they are Hui, Uygur, Kazakhs, Uzbek, Tatar, Sarah, Baoan, Dongxiang, Kirgiz and Tajik respectively [2,3,4].

The taboo customs of the Hui nationality[2,4] are mainly three categories: In terms of the diet, it is forbidden to eat pigs, dogs, donkeys, mules, horses, cats and all the ferocious beasts, naturally dead animals, the livestock that has been slaughtered by non-Muslims. It is forbidden to smoke and drink alcohols; In terms of faith; it is prohibited to worship idols; In terms of social behavior, it is forbidden to practice usury and gamble. In addition, in terms of costumes, it is forbidden to wear foreign religious costumes [5,6]; in terms of sexual life, it is prohibited to use right hand to deal
with the dirty things, and prohibited to have sexual intercourse with woman who is in her menstrual or puerpera period. In terms of marriage, it is forbidden for a man to marry a woman who has close consanguinity, affinity; it is forbidden for a man to marry woman who belongs to another sect. In terms of funeral, no crying is allowed; it is forbidden to hold a funeral ceremony at time of sunrise, sunset and noon; In business, it is forbidden to exploit with huge profit; it is prohibited to adulterate the fake or shoddy products in the commodity; in terms of interpersonal skills, it is forbidden to make false testimony.

**Status of Humanity Education in the Ethnic Areas**

Tian and colleagues [7] investigated the satisfaction status of humanity education: the students’ satisfaction to teachers’ humanity quality, effects of course and library resources were low. They also pointed out the situation of humanity quality: 80.2% the medical students thought it was necessary to strengthen the medical students’ humanity education; 18.1% the medical students remembered the medical student oath, and there existed significant differences between different medical specialties; 11.9% the medical students could clear connotation of the humanistic concept, and there were significant differences between various grades; rural students’ humanity quality was statistically lower than the urban ones.

**The Particularity of the Humanities Cultivation of Minority Medical Students**

The average quality of medical students in the northwest area is significantly lower than that in the developed coastal areas of China. The majority of medical students are a minority in Northwest University Nationalities School of Medicine. Most medical students from outlying and poverty-stricken areas of rural and pastoral areas have poor basic education condition. Compared with the Han Chinese medical students, the mandarin Chinese expression ability is low.

Many medical students with heavy academic burden, only pay attention to professional knowledge, regard humanities knowledge as something merely for examination, neglecting medical ethics of medical philosophy[8, 9].

Poor reading condition for the minority students such as lacking of the minority languages books or newspapers, affected the improvement of humanistic quality education.

The religious influence on the medical students in ethnic areas is greater. Many young students from Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang minority nationality areas believe in Islam. Since they grew up in the strong religious atmosphere, the religious influence on these medical students is deeper. In essence, religion is opposite to the scientific spirit.

Lack of social responsibility. Medical students’ future works are closely related to people’s life, so they must have a higher sense of mission and social responsibility. But the reality bitterly has shown that part of the self-centered medical students rarely participate in social practical activities organized by the medical college, lacking of the basic humanities accomplishment.

Poor psychological quality. With medical students’ employment pressure increases, some students have some degree of psychological problems, such as depression, anxiety, communication disorders, hostility, indifference, paranoia, and so on. These un-cathartic psychological problems are likely to lead to mental disorders, or may even lead to some kind of aggressive behavior that may harm one’s self or another.

**Pathway of Humanity Cultivation for Medical Students in the Ethnic Minority Areas**

**Basic Principles and Training Goals**

Training qualified medical students, must adhere to the principle of “education, moral education first” [8, 9]. To strengthen the medical professional ethics, professional attitude and values of the basic content of the medical vocation, we must cultivate the students’ humanistic care spirit and dedication spirit to care patients, respect others, respect the ethics of life.
Avoid Prescript Possible Taboo Drugs

It is written in The Koran that “as the people on the earth, you can eat all the lawful and delicious food.” Therefore, it is forbidden to eat the dead animals or blood; it is prohibited to eat the animals that have been slaughtered without the use of Allah recite; it is also banned to eat the ferocious beasts and ferocious birds. In the eyes of Muslims, the pigs are dirty animals that live in dirty environment, therefore it is forbidden to eat pork. In the minds of Hui Muslims, it is an insult if someone mentions pig or pork to them on purpose.

We searched Hui taboo term used as “pig” or “pork”; “dog” or “dogs”; “donkey” or “donkeys” or “E Jiao (donkey skin)”; “cat” or “cats”; “crab” or “crabs”, and “snake” or “snakes” in the pharmaceutical ingredients and in prescriptions in the People's Republic of China Pharmacopoeia 2010 Edition [10].

Retrieval results showed that there were 775 single drugs or prescriptions contain Hui Islamic taboo in the People's Republic of China Pharmacopoeia. 372 items contained word pig or pork; 167 had dog; 31 had donkey; 39 had E Jiao (donkey skin); 109 had cat; 20 had crab, and 37 had snake. Particular attentions should be taken as shown in table 1.

Table 1. Clinically Often Used Medicine with Possible Hui Islamic Taboo.

| Name of Medicines          | Drug composition and source | Substitute | Substitute source | Inform (yes/no) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Regular insulin            | Extracted from the pancreas of the pigs, sheep and cattle. | Mono-component human insulin (also called neutral insulin) | Purified human insulin prepared by genetic engineering. | Yes.          |
| Crebroprotein hydrolyzate for injection (Jie Liao Su) | Lyophilized preparation extracted from the brain tissue of healthy pig. | Deproteinized calf serum injection. | Extracted and refined from deproteinized calf serum. | Yes.          |
| Monosialotetrahexosylganglioside sodium injection | Extracted from the porcine brain. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Zhen Nao Ning Capsule      | Composed by porcine brain powder, Asarum, miltiorrhiza, buffalo horn concentrated powder | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Chymotrypsin for injection | Hydrolase (chymotrypsin to trypsin ratio is 3:2) extracted from porcine pancreas. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Thyroid powder (dry thyroid) | Taken from the thyroid bodies of the pig, cattle, sheep and other animals. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Glycerol                   | Extracted from porcine fat. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Transfer factor            | Extracted from porcine spleen. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Heparin sodium             | Extracted from the porcine colon. | low-molecular-weight heparin | low-molecular-weight heparin | Yes.          |
| Secretion                  | Extracted from porcine duodenum mucosa. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Chondroitin Sulfate        | Extracted from the bovine bone, porcine bone and bone of shark. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Multienzyme Tablets        | Extracted from the donkey and dog tissues. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Chitin                     | Extracted from crab shell. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Intestinal gland somatostatin | Extracted from dog intestinal mucosa. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| E Jiao (Donkey hide gelatin,DHG) | Jelly product of a donkey skin. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Prescriptions that contain DHG | Coptis decoction of DHG DHG Scutellaria soup. | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Alcohol products           | Ethanol | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
| Narcotic                   | Narcotics | NO. | NO. | Yes.          |
NOTES: It is forbidden for the Hui Muslims in China to drink the intoxicating and poisonous plant beverages such as alcohol. All alcohol-related intoxicating items are prohibited; it is prohibited to run a business related to alcohol; it is prohibited to attend a banquet with wine. Sometimes the youth do not care about this taboo. Therefore, the use of drugs containing alcohol shall be informed in advance. Narcotic is prohibited for the Hui peoples. Therefore the use of narcotics shall be informed.

Consideration for Hui Custom Taboos

(1) Islam is a religion that values relationships, emphasizes human values, and values etiquette. Most Muslims have a habit of worship, if the patient is at church, please don’t interrupt.
(2) Prepared the halal microwave and water heater, and had marked halal signs.
(3) Chapel was set aside specifically for Muslim worship in Ningxia People's Hospital.
(4) Islam has taboos, such as taboos against Muslim dress. Therefore, it is important to respect the clothing habits of hospitalized patients without emphasizing the need to wear hospital gown.
(5) Islam is a health-conscious religion that does not dispose of the soup bottles that patients use.
(6) Try to keep the Hui patients in a ward.

Summary

In the light of the particularity of medical students’ humanities quality in the minority areas, this article focused on strengthening the humanities education. Hui people have many taboos, such as animal taboos, which have certain influences on daily medical practice. In order to provide quality services to the Hui nationality, medical students in the ethnic minority areas should be aware that these taboos “patient-oriented” in daily medical practice, fully respect the local custom of Hui nationality.

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