

## **Legal and Ethical Aspects- Dr. Hemanthkumar R.G**

### **A. Short Answer Questions (5) with Answers**

1. What is the main legal framework governing drug abuse in India?

Answer:

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 is the primary legal framework governing drug abuse in India. It regulates production, possession, sale, transport, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, except for permitted medical or scientific purposes.

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2. State the ethical dilemma involved in reporting a colleague suspected of drug abuse.

Answer:

The ethical dilemma lies between maintaining confidentiality toward a colleague and ensuring patient safety. When a colleague's drug use endangers patients, ethical responsibility shifts toward reporting through appropriate channels.

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3. Why is drug abuse by doctors considered an ethical issue?

Answer:

Drug abuse impairs judgment, decision-making, and professional conduct. It compromises patient autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice, thereby violating the ethical obligations of the medical profession.

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4. Mention any two professional consequences of drug abuse in doctors.

Answer:

Drug abuse in doctors can lead to loss of employment, suspension or cancellation of medical registration, loss of professional credibility, legal action, and social stigma.

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5. Why is inclusion of drug abusers in research ethically sensitive?

Answer:

Drug abusers may have impaired decision-making capacity or be vulnerable to coercion. Ethical concerns include validity of informed consent and risk of exploitation, requiring strict scrutiny by ethics committees.