



International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation.

Awareness of Bioethical Practice among Practicing Physiotherapists in Jalgaon

Vaishnavi Deshmukh ^{1*}, Dr Chitra Mridha ², Dr Jaywant Nagulkar ³

¹ BPTTh Intern, Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

² Associate Professor, Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

³ Principal, Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

* Corresponding Author: **Vaishnavi Deshmukh**

Article Info

ISSN (Online): 2582-7138

Impact Factor (RSIF): 8.04

Volume: 07

Issue: 02

March-April 2026

Received: 24-01-2026

Accepted: 26-02-2026

Published: 28-03-2026

Page No: 436-440

Abstract

Aim: To see prevalence of awareness of bioethical practice among practising physiotherapist in Jalgaon.

Background: The study of moral, legal, and social dilemmas that emerge in biomedicine and biomedical research is known as bioethics, The purpose of this study is to see prevalence of awareness of bioethics among physiotherapists in light of the rise in medical negligence cases, complaints against healthcare workers, and public dissatisfaction with healthcare professionals. Specifically, we aim to assist physiotherapists in better understanding the ethical issues that arise in clinical practice. The study involves a survey to determine the level of ethical knowledge among physical therapists, who are expected to possess thorough knowledge, professionalism, good skills, and polite behaviour in order to earn positive patient reports because their work involves direct patient interaction.

Methodology: To conduct this observational study, subjects will be taken according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Prior to starting the study, the procedure must be explained and consent form will be taken from the subjects, survey-based investigation was carried out with the aid of a self-made, validated questionnaire.

Results: Among 84 Physiotherapist (experience more than 6months) were collected for the study and analyzed. The results show that more than 54% physiotherapist are aware about Bioethics.

Conclusion: Practicing physiotherapists have a basic understanding of bioethics, formal education on bioethics and institutional assistance are needed to improve ethical decision making. Deeper understanding of the real-life experiences of physiotherapists in the face of ethical dilemmas may be possible with additional qualitative study, The data was showed that 46% working physiotherapist are average aware about bioethics and 37% are good aware about bioethics.

Keywords: Bioethics, Physiotherapist

1. Introduction

Medical ethics is concerned with issues related to health care; research ethics is concerned with issues related to research conduct; environmental ethics is concerned with issues related to the interaction between human activity and the environment; and public health ethics is concerned with ethical issues related to public health. These areas of bioethics are all included in bioethics. In addition to conducting research on moral, legal, and social challenges that arise in biomedicine and biomedical research, bioethicists often teach, run seminars, assist in the creation of institutional policies, and sit on ethics committees, and offer guidance and advice on moral matters. Academic institutions, medical facilities, government organizations, for-profit businesses, and foundations employ bioethicists ^[1].

The Value of Bioethics in Medical Practice:- Medical ethics and the study of the balance between duties, harm, and benefits are included in bioethics. It's directly affect on medical workers as well as patients. In addition to offering guidance to medical practitioners regarding clinical decision-making and technological breakthroughs, bioethics has been essential in recent years in shaping legislative and regulatory changes. Patients' rights and responsibilities as human beings are enhanced by bioethics. Its importance is replicated in many fields, including as medicine, research, and society at large. [2]

In bioethics, there are four fundamental ideas

1. Autonomy: the ability to make one's own decisions and be respected for it.
2. Beneficence: To accord individuals with respect.
3. Non-maleficence: Avoid causing harm to others.
4. Justice: To handle individuals equitably [3]

The four ethical rules cover following

1. Veracity – telling truth, respecting autonomy and informed consent.
2. Privacy – it's the right of person to remain private and not to disclose information.
3. Confidentiality – this is sharing private information on a 'need to know basis' only.
4. Fidelity – is maintaining the duty to care for all no matter who they are or what they may have done [1]

Physiotherapy and bioethics both focus on the patient's autonomy. The influence that healthcare has on opportunities makes it unique. Physiotherapy, in particular, helps patients become more independent and autonomous. Its goal is to build, preserve, and recover 7 movement and functional capacity, as we have seen. The patient is liberated and given the chance to do something that matters to her when the patient's welfare is the primary goal. Additionally, the patient meets with the physiotherapist for a course of treatment that typically entails 10 or more sessions—many more than the typical number of visits to a medical practitioner—and occasionally involves touching (performing assisted exercises). Successful rehabilitation requires a high level of communication between the patient and the physiotherapist since the physiotherapist must constantly assess the patient. [3]

Physiotherapy presents an intriguing aspect in which the patient is rarely a passive recipient of care. McCarthy says that throughout physical therapy, the patient is actively involved. This implies that the therapist and the patient share a great deal of accountability for the treatment's success or failure, which is unusual for other healthcare professionals. [4]

Since physiotherapy is a young field of study, it will always be pushing the envelope and making sure that its methods are supported by data. The following is stated in the vision

statement of the American Physical Therapy Association: "Research advances the science of physical therapy and furthers the evidence-based practice of the physical therapist." Calls for evidence based practice indicate that research is becoming more and more important in the healthcare industry. Evidence- based practice refers to clinical decision-making that takes into account data from three sources: clinical competence, patient values, and the best available research evidence. The improvement of quality of life is the main goal of physiotherapy. [2]

Physiotherapists who are more knowledgeable about the ethical challenges associated with clinical practice as well as bioethicists who tackle physiotherapy-related topics are needed. A poll is being performed to find out how knowledgeable physical therapists are about ethics. Since physical therapists work in an area where patients are directly treated, it is crucial for them to have a solid understanding of ethics. They are also required to be professional, have good skills, and behave politely in order to earn the trust of their patients. [8]

Method and Materials

The following study was An Observational type of study. The sampling population was collected by Purposive6 sampling method. The minimum sample size of the research was 84. The study was conducted in Jalgaon. The duration of study was 6 months.

The sample size was calculated by the following formula. Formula:

$$n = z12 \rho q d2$$

The Criteria of selection of participants was done based on Inclusion Criteria which included the participants Voluntary willing to participate, All qualified physiotherapy practitioners in Jalgaon, Both Undergraduate and Postgraduate. Physiotherapy student and other medical professionals were excluded.

Procedure: Ethical clearance was taken from the ethical committee of Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy, Jalgaon prior to the commencement of the study. A cross – sectional study was administered and subjects were screened on the basis of inclusion – exclusion criteria. Participants was briefed about the study and informed consent was taken. Then the participants were provided with the online Questionnaire. The data were collected and analysed.

Results

A total of 84 subjects were enrolled in the study. Data was collected on standardized self-made questionnaire and entered in MS Excel. Data was analyzed and results were obtained.

- Among the participants, there were 56% females and 28% males

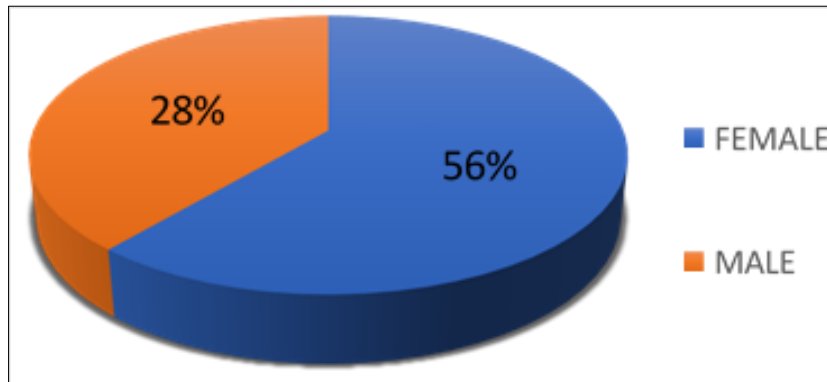


Fig 1:

• The data represents the qualification of individual in a certain group, highlighting the distribution across three educational levels: BPTTh, MPTh and PHD. A total of 17 individuals, accounting for 20.24% of the group, hold a

Bachelor of physiotherapy degree. A significantly larger portion 66 individuals (78.57%), have obtained a Master of physiotherapy degree, indicating that the majority have pursued postgraduate education.

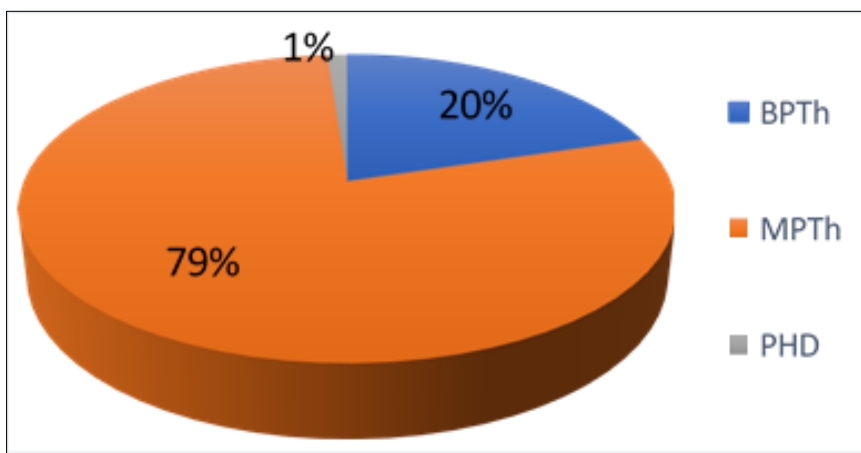


Fig 2:

• The data presents the level of awareness among a group of individuals, majority of respondents (57.4%) demonstrated an average level of awareness, with scores ranging between 8 to 14 .A smaller proportions (44.05%) showed good awareness, scoring between 15 to 20, while only one respondent (1.19%) fell into poor awareness category, scoring between 0 and 7.The mean awareness score was

13.82 with standard deviation of 2.39, suggesting moderate variability in the responses .The minimum score recorded was 7 and the maximum was 18, out of 20. The mean percentage score of awareness was calculated to be 69.10%, indicating a generally fair level of awareness among the participants.

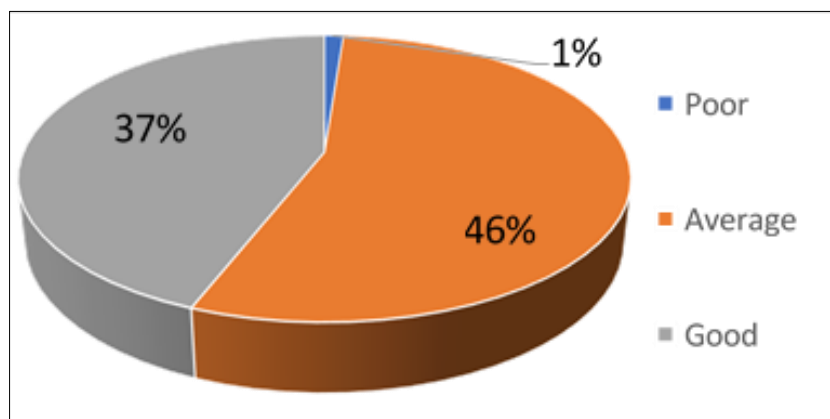


Fig 3:

• Question-wise percentage of right answers by participants

Table 1:

Questions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
% of Most appropriate options selected by the participant	78.57%	92.86%	42.86%	11.90%	96.43%	92.86%	28.57%	34.52%	86.90%	58.33%

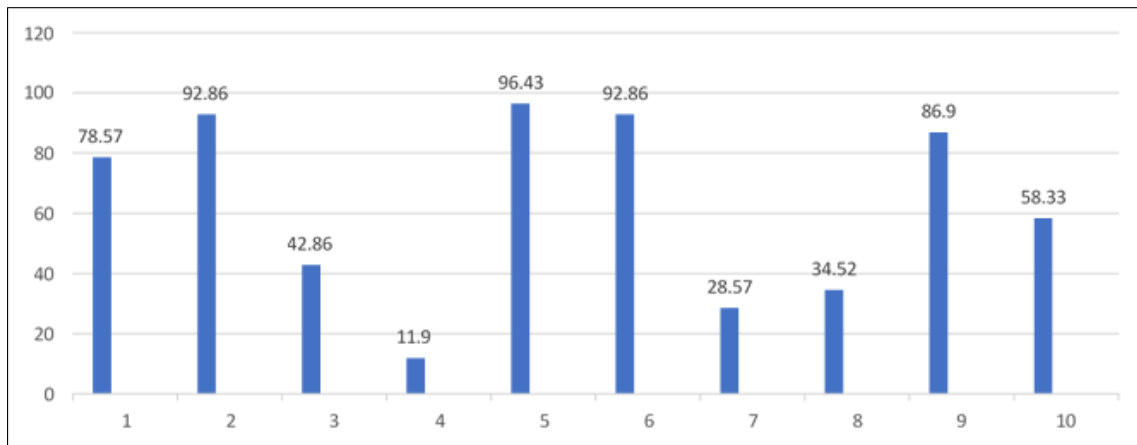


Fig 4:

Table 2:

Questions	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
% of Most appropriate options selected by the participant	61.90%	76.19%	40.48%	54.76%	20.24%	23.81%	14.29%	64.29%	85.71%	85.71%

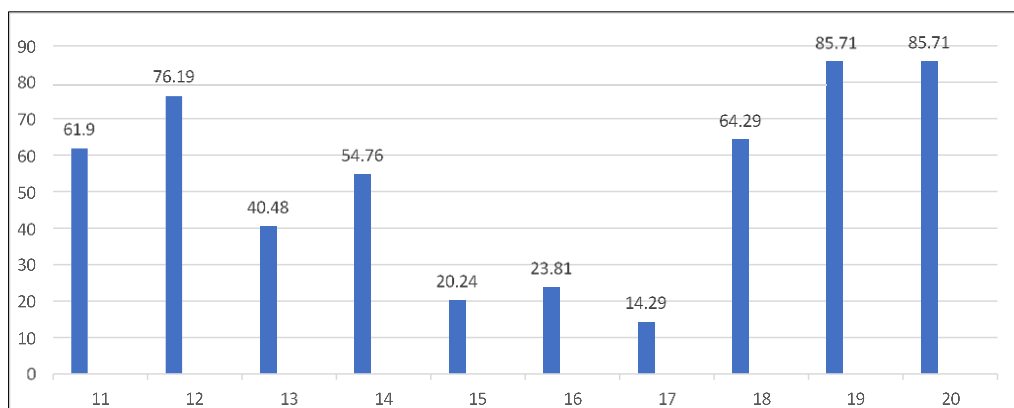


Fig 5:

Discussion

This survey-based study aimed to assess awareness of bioethics among practicing physiotherapist in Jalgaon district. In this survey there were 84 working physiotherapist among which 56% are Male and 28% are Female participants. The participants were given a form which was a self-made questionnaire. This form include 20 questions. The data was obtained with the help questionnaire showed that 46% working physiotherapist are average aware about bioethics and 37% are good aware about bioethics.

The finding of this study provide valuable insights into the level of awareness and understanding of bioethics among practising physiotherapist. The data indicates that while a significant number of physiotherapist are familiar with bioethics and they attend bioethics workshop.

A notable percentage of respondents demonstrated limited knowledge of specific ethical frameworks or formal bioethics education, suggesting that ethical reasoning is often shaped by experience rather than structured learning. This finding aligns with previous studies, which have highlighted the lack

of formal bioethics training within physiotherapy curricula, particularly in developing countries (e.g., Johnstone *et al.*, 2015)

Moreover, the study revealed inconsistencies in how physiotherapists navigate ethical dilemmas such as informed consent, patient confidentiality, and professional boundaries. This may be attributed to variability in institutional support, unclear ethical guidelines, or a lack of continuous professional development on ethical issues.

A study conducted by Sant SS and Phalke VD, *et al* (2017) result showed that Physiotherapy professionals in Institution based settings are not thoroughly aware about general concepts in Bioethics (52%) but, they use Bioethics in research as well as in day to day practice. (81% & 94%) Most of the participants agreed to include Bioethics as university level subject in both undergraduate as well as postgraduate curriculum.

A study conducted by Ilyas M, Alam M, Ahmad H, Tariq M, Bibi S, Ali A, *et al.*(2009) result showed that most of the participants were graduate students having relatively better

knowledge of Science and Technology as 90.4% of them were found to be familiar with the term “Bioethics”. It was encouraging to note that students at this level of education had positive opinion about the role of Science and Technology and had accepted its importance in their daily lives. The fact that the students are eager to learn more about bioethical issues was borne out by our data as 96% students were of the opinion that Bioethics should be taught regularly in the classes to improve awareness about bioethics.

Conclusions

From this study, practicing physiotherapists have a basic understanding of bioethics, formal education on bioethics and institutional assistance are needed to improve ethical decision making. Deeper understanding of the real-life experiences of physiotherapists in the face of ethical dilemmas may be possible with additional qualitative study.

The data was showed that 46% working physiotherapist are average aware about bioethics and 37% are good aware about bioethics.

Future Scope:

In future scope, further study can be done via offline mode for example interview method. From this study it appears that working physiotherapist have efficient awareness regarding bioethics. Conducting workshops on bioethics to prevent ethical dilemmas and increase awareness in physiotherapist practitioner. Compare awareness between rural and urban physiotherapist in district. Promote further studies and documentation on ethical issues in Indian physiotherapy context.

Clinical Implication

The study was design to assess the awareness of bioethics among practicing physiotherapist which will effective to improve the quality of treatment, patient care, professional conduct, and healthcare outcomes. Awareness of bioethics reduces the risk of legal issues by ensuring compliance with ethical standards and healthcare laws.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Jaywant Nagulkar Principal of Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy Jalgaon, I am grateful to Dr. Chitra Mridha Professor Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Physiotherapy Jalgaon for her guidance, encouragement and support. The authors are thankful to the subjects and the Physiotherapist for their cooperation to this study.

References

1. World Health Organization. WHO definition of bioethics [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; [cited 2026 Apr 2]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/ethics-and-health>
2. Taj R, Khan A. Importance of bioethics in healthcare. *Pak J Neurol Sci.* 2018;13(1):Article 2.
3. Hussung T. Bioethical issues in health care management [Internet]. Posted 2017 Jun 2. Available from: <https://online.csp.edu/uncategorized/bioethical-issues-in-health-care-management/> (Note: Original link appears to be from College of St. Scholastica blog.)
4. Benatar D. Bioethics and health and human rights: a critical view. *J Med Ethics.* 2006;32(1):17–20. doi: 10.1136/jme.2005.011775
5. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Declarations

of principle and position statements [Internet]. London: World Confederation for Physical Therapy; [cited 2007 Jul 15]. Available from:

6. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Congress 2006—Physiotherapy: an active treatment [report of conference paper by C McCarthy] [Internet]. London: Chartered Society of Physiotherapy; [cited 2007 Jun 25]. Available from: <http://www.wcpt.org/common/docs/WCPTPolicies.pdf>
7. Mohammad M, Ahmad F, Rahman SZ, Gupta V, Salman T. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of bioethics among doctors in a tertiary care government teaching hospital in India. *J Clinic Res Bioeth.* 2011;2:118. doi:10.4172/2155-9627.1000118
8. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Paris: UNESCO; 2005.

How to Cite This Article

Deshmukh V, Mridha C, Nagulkar J. Awareness of Bioethical Practice among Practicing Physiotherapists in Jalgaon. *Int J Multidiscip Res Growth Eval.* 2026;7(2):436–440.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.