

Healthcare Managers; Islamic Decision-making

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Decision-making is of paramount importance in personal, social, and organizational life, influencing both personal and organizational affairs. Indeed, all human's life is a chain of decisions made by him (1). In this regard, decision-making in major managements, particularly in health sector where lives of people as well as physical and spiritual health are involved, is of particular importance.

Decisions made by individuals are largely dependent on their beliefs and thoughts, and given the rebellious nature of sensuality, every single person is exposed to the consequences of making wrong decisions. Since the dominance of values and ethical principles can serve as a shield against the sensuality, the dominance will definitely influence decision-making process (2).

Considering the complexities associated with personal tendencies, demands, and goals, individuals' attitudes toward values will always affect their decisions (3).

The value-oriented and ethical approach plays a determining role in forming decisions and regulating their processes in a way that failure to respect ethical values in the decision-making process leads to numerous damages to both the individual and society. In this case, the values which are based on a divine culture can optimize the decision-making system and keep it healthy.

There is a wide spectrum of attitudes toward value and ethical foundations. At one end of this spectrum, there is Platonic Ethics which looks for ideal perfection, adopting a metaphysical approach to ethics. At the other end of the spectrum, one may see Aristotelian Ethics which follows natural behavior of human beings. The attitude of Islamic communities is based on monotheism and God, including God-orientation, life hereafter, attention to the originality of spirit, as well as liberty in performing value-oriented and ethical practices.

Taken together, it can be reasoned that Islamic ethical values can result in making decisions wherein God is seen as the sole criterion, which can bring about drastic positive changes in human communities (4).

Finally, it can be noted that in Islamic decision-making based on values and ethics, a manager in health sector in light of Islamic beliefs and values can not only use his own knowledge and information, but also adopt such values as fair distribution of health services nationwide, accessibility of health and medical services for the general public, attention to ethical and humanitarian principles in delivering health services, highlighting the role of spiritual health besides the consideration of physical health, strengthening a benevolent view rather than solely materialistic and economic views of treating patients (all of which are derived from Islamic thoughts) in his/her own personal or organizational decision-making, and finally, by relying on God and believing in his help, can finish his/her decision-making process with a strong spirit and a calm and confident heart, avoiding spiritual weaknesses, anxiety, and doubt. S/he will also feel the God's satisfaction with his/her practices in every single step of decision-making, which, in

return, provides a basis for intellectual satisfaction and hence exploration of more appropriate solutions in the

course of decision-making process.

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