I remember the day that my friend and colleague asked me to meet the secretary of our hospital’s ethical review committee (ERC) at KDLB Campus in Keamari, within six months of joining the institute. I was nominated by the (late) chairman to be the next secretary and started my journey towards bioethics and the 'baggage' that comes with it.

My transition from being a of the hospital's ERC to doing a postgraduate diploma in bioethics and then becoming the chairperson of the committee has been quite an experience. We were three candidates from this institute who did their Postgraduate Diploma in Biomedical Ethics (PGD) in 2016 from the Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC) and we already had three other colleagues who were PGD graduates working at Ziauddin University Hospital before us.

The ERC was well established in our university since 2008 but bioethics activities had been taking place in its Keamari Campus as early as 2007. Still, very few people knew about this committee or the bioethics activities. What our seniors had started in promoting and teaching bioethics, the three of us took a step forward. Amongst us we taught and introduced bioethics to the postgraduates in our respective campuses while one colleague being a basic sciences teacher took up 3rd year undergraduate students. But that is not the only arena where we started nudging people in this direction. The university supported us and with the help of the department of education, bioethics has been inculcated in the undergraduate curriculum, something that bioethics pioneers in Pakistan have been advocating and working toward.

Suddenly, we had quite a few 'non-believers' take notice of the importance of what we have been doing. It is a sad and a very common situation that the resistance has always come from people in the position of seniority, the 'old school' who did not miss a single chance of making digs about 'some people need to learn about ethics, others don’t'. We saw a reluctant change in this group, particularly when they attended some of our sessions and realized that there was no 'preaching' in bioethics, we simply spoke about dilemmas that we all often face in our practice. This attitude has markedly changed, not just in the classrooms but also in the faculty lounge, in the surgeon’s room, in the administration and in many of the associated committees of the hospital as well as the University.

As a clinician, having a positive impact on the stakeholders of healthcare has meant huge progress at a very important level. But, and I think my colleagues who have played a pivotal role in promoting bioethics will agree, what we find most satisfying is seeing the change in our undergraduates and postgraduates. They will be the torch bearers and will hopefully take bioethics much further than any of us have done so far.

*Aruna Dawani, Qudsia Hassan, Fasiha Sohail,*

Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture, SIUT, Pakistan