“Bioethics goes to school”
CBEC Seminar, September 19, 2015

In September 2015, the Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture will host a daylong seminar, “Bioethics goes to school,” highlighting the connections between ethics and education at the school and college level. Envisioned as an event that can draw together a diverse audience from among educationists, students, parents and the general public, the seminar is planned to be an interesting and novel mix of talks, dramatic interpretations of ethical issues by school and college students, poetry recitation and music.

The seminar will begin with a talk by acclaimed historian and writer, Dr. Mubarak Ali, who has written a number of books and articles on Indo-Pakistan history. In his talk, Dr. Ali will provide a historical overview of ethics education in Muslim civilizations. He will be followed by psychiatrist, Dr. Ayesha Mian, who will discuss contemporary ethical challenges in educational institutions, including discrimination against children and adolescents with disabilities.

In the next segment of the seminar the use of drama to highlight ethical issues will be the focus of a talk by dramaturgy scholar, Dr. Framji Minwalla. This will be followed by school and college students who will act in brief ethics skits that they have written and produced. Participating students are from two Karachi-based schools, Haque Academy and The Learning Tree, and from the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), a college-level institution with campuses in many cities of Pakistan. Students from Haque Academy and The Learning Tree will present skits on the ethical concerns related to chimeras and social media, respectively, while the SZABIST students are putting together a slightly longer skit on gender issues. In addition to the original and fresh perspectives that students will bring to ethics through drama, this segment will also include a debate by SZABIST students on contemporary ethical concerns.

In the afternoon, the audience will be treated to a conversation between poet and educationist, Dr. Fatema Hassan, and historian, Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra, on ethics in education, and poetry as a medium for teaching ethical values. The seminar will wind up with a musical performance.