

## **Abstract**

### **Investigating the perception of clinical and basic science faculty members of Ardabil dental school about concept of the ethical principle of autonomy in education**

**Introduction:** Independence and autonomy is a basic principle of professional medical and dental ethics; However, its concept in medical literature, ethics, as well as its practical implementation, still creates continuous challenges in the practice and education of medicine and dentistry; Therefore, this study was conducted with the aim of investigating the understanding of the clinical and basic science professors of the Faculty of Dentistry about the concept of the ethical principle of autonomy in education.

**Materials and methods:** In this qualitative research, with the content analysis approach, after obtaining the satisfaction of the participants, a semi-structured in-depth conversational interview was used to collect information. In order to select the participants, the purposeful sampling method was used, in total, an interview was conducted with 9 members of the clinical and basic science faculty of Ardabil University of Medical Sciences, and the sampling was done until data saturation was reached. In order to analyze the data, the qualitative content analysis approach was carried out using the method of Elo and Kyngäs (2008) in three stages: open coding, creating categories and abstracting. Before starting open coding, the transcribed interview was read several times until a general understanding of the interviews was obtained. To analyze the data, MAXQDA software version 2018 was used.

**Results:** In this study, 654 codes were identified by open coding, and by removing common and synonymous codes, 266 final codes were examined. In connection with the concept of the ethical principle of autonomy, 108 codes were formed, which were formed after merging 4 general categories (constructive and useful, self-oriented learning, professional ethics, and class order) and 9 subcategories. In connection with the concept of the challenges of applying the ethical principle of autonomy in education, 158 codes were formed after merging 7 general categories (factors related to the patient, educational rules and policies, class management, student characteristics, teacher characteristics, educational content and resources and facilities Educational) and 36 sub-classes were formed.

**Conclusion:** Ardabil Faculty of Dentistry faced many challenges to apply the ethical principle of autonomy in education, which must be solved by the university officials and managers.

**Keywords:** Autonomy, Ethics, Challenge.