*IJME* Manuscript evaluation guidelines:

Title: Integrating ethics into the Physiology curriculum: a scale-up study across medical colleges in Karnataka, South India’  
  
Importance of the paper  
  
           Does it address issues relevant to the fields of medical ethics and bioethics in India and the developing countries? Very much  
  
Is it topical?  
  
           Is the issue discussed from another country's/culture perspective? No  
  
           Will it influence practice or policy? Yes  
  
           Is it too specialized for the journal? No  
  
  
Originality  
  
           Is the information /comment new?

The authors must be congratulated on their systematic approach in building on existing evidence. The authors did a pilot study first and then shared proof-of-concept experience with other medical colleges in the form of a state level workshop. The current manuscript is a step further in the expansion of the program to other medical colleges who volunteered at the workshop.

Conclusions  
           Is the interpretation warranted, unwarranted, well developed?  
  
           Does the article contain loose generalisations?  
  
           Are there any important omissions?  
  
  
This is a timely and very apt study demonstrating how ethics can be integrated in Physiology across medical institutions. The authors deserve applause for bringing into institutions a very important but missing aspect. A word on horizontal integration of ethics among Anatomy and Biochemistry would be useful

Other comments

Key Words: Please use MeSH words so that your study has wider visibility.

Methodology is detailed with proper cross references as well as highlighting non-inclusion of a Govt college as the limitation.

Results: Interference with Physiology teaching: Were the faculty administering this questionnaire from Physiology deptt of same institution? If yes, how did they ensure free informed consent considering the students were vulnerable population directly under their assessment radar.

Subheading ‘Teaching Ethics’ in Results: Just an observation. Students mentioned ‘physiology faculty’ in the open ended question on the best people to teach ethics. This might be because of the fact that they have seen integration of ethics in teaching only in physiology. It would be good idea to involve anatomists and biochemists as well to make the integration horizontal and more meaningful.

Discussion: In the first line, please change the wording ‘integrated ethics course in preclinical setting’ to ‘‘integrated ethics course in physiology setting’ as integration was not performed in other preclinical deptt.

Table 1: This is the much needed table highlighting the ethical issues dealt with in Physiology class. As a first time reader, I had difficulty in understanding as there were no triggers included in this table. In contrast, the reference 7 given in the manuscript very clearly states ‘session’, ‘trigger’ and ‘method’ in the similar table. Considering IJME is not discipline specific, it will be good if the triggers are mentioned along with method or the reference is quoted.

Way forward: Considering the MCI has approved ATCOM and there is a mushrooming of UNESCO Bioethics unit these days, it would be good if the authors submit their valuable findings to MCI as well.

Recommendation  
  
Accept with modifications as suggested above  
  
  
Separate comments for the author:

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Note: Please maintain confidentiality regarding the submissions you review.

Please let us know whether you would like your name to be published along with the article or

would prefer it not be disclosed.