

# PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

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## BIOGRAPHY

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## ETHICAL DILEMMA IN PSYCHIATRY- FOCUS ON INFORMED CONSENT: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Psychiatric ethics, a very young discipline, needs periodic refinement in order to co-exist with the legal system around. The core of psychiatric ethics revolves around confidentiality, honesty and trust, non-participation in fraud, informed consent, involuntary psychiatric treatment and therapeutic boundary keeping. Ethical dilemma exists in research in genetics, research in children, placebo controlled trials, neurotechnologies and pharmacological treatment of prodromal symptoms. The major issue is about how informed and valid is informed consent in psychiatry? The vexing issues concerned are: How often the client expresses voluntariness? How often the client can employ autonomy? How often the clients understand information? How competent is the client to decide action? How often the 'family centered' opinions override clients autonomy? How often shared decisions sabotage autonomy/competence? How often assessments are done? In India greater value is given for health than on the principle of personal autonomy. The western concept, disregard for the social context, family roles and relationships, personality and lifestyles, is a matter of concern.