

Peer Review

Review of: "Humanity in a World Without Empathy: Medical Professionals and a Holistic View of the Human Being"

Mehrdad Nazarieh¹

1. Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Iran, Islamic Republic of

Here's a review of the article "Humanity in a World Without Empathy: Medical Professionals and a Holistic View of the Human Being" by Kinga Rajfur, based on the criteria provided:

Strengths of the Article

1. Relevance and Timeliness:

The article addresses an increasingly critical issue in modern medicine: the need to restore empathy and adopt a holistic approach to patient care, which is highly relevant in today's secular and culturally diverse societies.

The inclusion of Hanna Chrzanowska as a case study provides a historical perspective, grounding the discussion in practical examples.

2. Clear Argumentation:

The paper clearly identifies the challenges of secularization and cultural diversity in medical practice.

It successfully advocates for integrating humanistic values and narrative medicine into modern healthcare.

3. Holistic Perspective:

The emphasis on treating patients as multidimensional beings—considering their physical, spiritual, and social needs—is commendable.

The call for educational programs to develop cultural competence and interpersonal skills in medical professionals is practical and actionable.

Areas for Improvement

1. Methodological Depth:

The article is primarily a commentary and lacks empirical evidence or data to support its claims. Including case studies, surveys, or statistical analyses would strengthen the argument.

The discussion on narrative medicine could benefit from specific examples or studies demonstrating its effectiveness.

2. Cultural Diversity:

While the article highlights the challenges of transculturality, it does not provide concrete strategies or frameworks for addressing these issues. Adding practical tools or guidelines for medical professionals would enhance the article's utility.

3. Structure and Clarity:

The introduction could more clearly outline the article's objectives and structure, providing readers with a roadmap of the discussion.

Some sections, particularly the discussion on secularization and transculturality, could benefit from further elaboration and clearer transitions.

4. Broader Context:

The article focuses heavily on Hanna Chrzanowska's work and Christian values. While valuable, a broader exploration of other cultural or religious perspectives on holistic care would make the argument more inclusive and globally applicable.

Specific Comments

Introduction:

The phrase "a world where empathy seems to be vanishing" is engaging but could be substantiated with data or references.

Discussion:

The section on narrative medicine is compelling but would benefit from a deeper dive into its methodologies and implementation in various healthcare systems.

The challenges of secularization are well-articulated, but the proposed solutions remain general. Including examples of successful integration of spiritual care in secular settings would strengthen the argument.

Conclusion:

The conclusion effectively summarizes the key points but could be more forward-looking by suggesting specific areas for future research or policy development.

Tone and Professionalism

The article maintains a respectful and professional tone throughout. However, the focus on Christian values might unintentionally alienate readers from non-Christian backgrounds. Balancing this with references to other cultural or spiritual frameworks would enhance inclusivity.

Final Recommendation

The article is a thoughtful and timely commentary on the importance of empathy and holistic care in medicine. However, to maximize its impact, the author should:

Incorporate empirical evidence or case studies.

Provide concrete strategies for addressing transcultural challenges.

Broaden the discussion to include diverse cultural and spiritual perspectives.

Once these improvements are made, the article will be a valuable contribution to the academic discourse on humanistic healthcare.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.