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Thanatology in Curriculum: Status and Challenges

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Abstract

Thanatology, the scientifc study of death, is in a process of evolution. Daily death toll of humans is estimated as 150,000. So far, the ongoing Covid pandemic alone caused 500,000 deaths worldwide as on 15th October 2021. Destigamatization of death and dying process requires concerted action. The process of removing the negative connotation of death began in mid-20th century, through pioneering work of Herman Feifel. Death education is beneficial to people of all walks of life. It is an important learning aspect for the health care professionals involved in the care of terminally ill for equipping themselves to address the situation in a more effective manner and guide the significant people of the deceased through the process of grieving. This literature review focus on the current status of Thanatology and the challenges of incorporating it in our academic curriculum.

Ke/. **d**: $a = a \bullet eg$; Dea h ed ca i \bullet ; S ig a; C ic

I d c í

a a●●g , he d of Deaha a cie ce i i he oce $\bullet f \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$. H $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$, dea h ha bee a, i e e i g bjec \bullet a f● i e i e ● ia. A e igi● сi h e dic dea h a d a e a h, i h • cie i c ••f. (Rig-Veda, 1500 BC a d U a i had, 600 BC) [1] A cie $\bullet e$ a d hi $\bullet \bullet$ he a \bullet e ha i ed he i \bullet a i $\bullet f$ he \bullet . 'De a Be a M \bullet e' ($\bullet f$ he bea if dea h) c a ed b A ac e \bullet P \bullet ig i \bullet e i i i \bullet d c \bullet age, a i h he a e e of L ci Se eca (4 BC- 65 AD), 'Life ih• hec• age• diei ae'. S•cae, Saac • aea fe, • a i faced dea h • a • • fai i hei idea • ee a • h • f bei g i ed. I he c• e • a ce a i• he e ife dia•ge• E haaiaad heae icee e aebeig acie dic ed, eachig \bullet facie hi \bullet he d \bullet a e a \bullet . eae i e ca •• e dic В he i a e ea i ●f ife.

F• age, bi h had bee a gh, • dea h. e• ic ha bee ig ai ed e • da. e e 'e e'i c• ec ed • he idea •f bei g, he ea he e'a'i c• ec ed • he idea •f • e i e ce, a d• dea h. I ea 21 ce , a e i a ed 100,000 dea h ha e e e da g•ba, d e• agei g[2]. i be bee e ch bigge i he• g•i g a e• f Pa de ic. D i ga d dea h•cc he e e ifee i , a d he ee e i be f• • ed b g ief eac i• i h a a d a a i a ecie [3]. Dea h ed ca i• be e a [4]. I • a face • f dea h ed ca i• a e e a ed b Wa a e a ic a i• • f g•a, c• ide a i• • f c• e a d e eci e, eachi g e h•d, eache c• e e cie a d e a a i• [5].

Whe edica ofe io a, e ecia ho e ho a e aci e i • edi he cae of dig eo e, ca e i he e e o dea ih heiai••eeciead ca aead acei heed h ● gh c • i ● •fe i• a de e• e aciiie, if he a e ●highe ● ibeeeiai ● a a haha ●be с ic i hed i h c ce ed ac i . Medica a d ig ch●● ha e acc a i i ed e ha i ● he he e ●f 'dea h.' Ad a ce i a a ● ●g ceaediceaed deahed cai•i ie iie ad •fe i•a ai i g e e . E e i ce he h a i d ied • de e • ai e dea h h \bullet ghi i i \bullet aiigi, he ece i \bullet f \bullet e aied e \bullet a \bullet dea ih hi eai beca e e ide . U e of ho ice og a a a a e aie ea ●fcaig●fdig e ● i aeiie ●f e ieh ce [10] i e ed hi de a d fo \bullet e ai ed e \bullet a \bullet dea ih he dea had dig. H• ice aed ig i ca •e i dea h ed caio [11]. e o i ib e e cof e dea h ed caio a he e ge ce of Ho ice og a e. Need of he e i a i a d dig e● e e e ade heSae'e ● ibii h●gh i g h● e a d h● ice i a e c● ie .

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2. ELNEC (E d of Life N i g Ed caio Co i), ad i i e ed h o gh a a e hi be ee he A e ica A ocia io of Co ege of N i g (AA8
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