



# Thanatology in Curriculum: Status and Challenges

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Destigmatization of death and dying process requires concerted action. The process of removing the negative connotation of death began in mid-20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Keywords:** Thanatology; Death education; Significance; Curriculum

## Introduction

Thanatology, the study of death and dying, has been a part of human culture since ancient times. The concept of death has been a subject of philosophical and religious inquiry. In the Rig-Veda, 1500 BC, the Upanishads, 600 BC [1] and the Bhagavad Gita, 4 BC-65 AD, the concept of death is discussed. The ancient Greeks, Romans, and Chinese also had their own views on death. In the 19th century, the study of death and dying was formalized as a discipline. The term 'Thanatology' was coined by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in 1969. She is known for her book 'On Death and Dying' [2]. The study of death and dying is now an integral part of medical education and is being incorporated into the curriculum of various health care professions. The study of death and dying is not only a part of medical education but also a part of human culture and philosophy. It is a subject that has fascinated humanity for centuries. The study of death and dying is a multidisciplinary field that involves the study of death and dying from a biological, psychological, and social perspective. It is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world. The study of death and dying is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world. The study of death and dying is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world.

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When we think of death and dying, we often think of it as a final event. However, death and dying are processes that occur over time. The study of death and dying is a multidisciplinary field that involves the study of death and dying from a biological, psychological, and social perspective. It is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world. The study of death and dying is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world. The study of death and dying is a subject that is becoming increasingly important in our modern world.

as 150,000. So far, the ongoing Covid pandemic alone caused 500,000 deaths worldwide as on 15



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2. ELNEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium) is a national organization that provides education and training for end-of-life care. It is a part of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).