Abstract

The human being is a finite being, and the old age stage of life is the one in which man is facing more directly with this truth. In an increasingly aging society, both the issues of autonomy and dependency of the elderly become important and timely, debated today, worldwide, raising new ethical paradigms to man, especially on the ends and means of social protection to cope with old age and dependency, as well as issues relating to social solidarity and the way the elderly are treated and lives this last and final phase of life. The aging, current and comprehensive phenomenon, without parallel rings, the social fabric and structure of its fundamental cell, the family, presenting challenges, unprecedented.

The institutionalization of the elderly is now a reality. The ethical issues that arise with the institutionalization of elderly people deserve all the attention, so that, at this late stage of life, everyone has the opportunity to be happy and respected. The object of study was concerned with the ethical and juridical issues related to the institutionalization of the elderly, through the perception that older people have of their local / state of institutionalization in the Retirement Home of Santa Casa de Misericordia, and that they ensure respect for ethical principles and values that guide.

This study was based on a survey, using a sample of 20 elderly patients, in order to provide some explanations on the subject under study. Regarding the analysis of this survey, the results were satisfactory, at various levels: the work of professionals, the institution relationships, individuality and privacy; of-care, food, comfort, leisure.

Increasingly elderly population, in partnership with the family, seeks a social response like a Retirement Home as an alternative to the vulnerabilities and limitations as illness, addiction, isolation, which may arise at the stage of old age. Based on the study, and ethical issues in relation to the institutionalization of the elderly, we can conclude the ethical principles - vulnerability, beneficence, nonmaleficence, autonomy and justice - are being upheld and respected.