Public health ethics and food safety

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Public health ethics is a philosophy that protects/maximizes the health benefits of the people/society in any case related with health. Today many different concepts are being discussed in this perspective.

The public health ethics encompasses values and principles that guide community. It fulfills the needs of the "prevention of morbidity and mortality " approach. It separates from biomedical ethics in some points (e.g. biomedical ethics is focused on the individual rather than community; public health ethics gives priority to social benefits and collaborative work). Another issue that needs to be considered in the public health ethics debate is the "precautionary principle", which basically points out that "any condition should be treated as "harmful" unless the harmness is proved".

It seems that problems threatening food safety, which can lead to many people's illness in the world and our country, which could lead to death if measures are not taken, can easily find itself in the philosophy of "public health ethics".

The concept of food safety, is now influenced by many determinants of health. Food safety debate excluding these concepts, also known as the social determinants of health, should be considered as an "incomplete" discussion. In this context, the right to health, climate change, poverty and the challenges it poses, animal health as a basic component of "one health approach", some tactics of the food industry, production systems and many other issues should be discussed together in public health perspective.

In the direction of the results obtained from such assessments made, solutions should be produced in the light of universal approaches. There is a need for strong and sustainable public system so that the solutions produced can be realistic at both the international and national levels. Other components may support the main system when required guided by the science.

In this presentation; it is aimed to discuss the concept of food safety in the perspective of public health ethics, to identify the problems and to propose solutions based on scientific evidence and approaches.

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