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Signification of Income in a Doctor's Life Theater

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Abstract

Materialism has been invading in every aspect of human life. Materialistic character is believed to be harmful if affecting on professions which fundamentally bring humanity values such as a medical doctor. This research aims to make understandings of the signification of income in a doctor's perspective. Doctor is a humanist profession, and differs from accountant materialistically taught from the beginning. This research employs dramaturgy method in need to data analysis. The result in this research showed that income in a doctor's perspective covers spiritualism income, mercy income, sincerity income, inner-satisfaction income, and materialism income. Humanist income denotes that, for a human being, income is a sufficiently physical-need fulfillment as a gift from God which is mercifully, sincerely gained and distributed to reach the primary goal that is inner satisfaction.

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1. Introduction

A medical doctor is a unique profession if analyzed from the perspective of accounting. This profession is considered to be unboundedly determining the "tariff" which defines that this profession is free to impose the amount of desirable "income" from each patient the doctor serves. Doctor essentially has the dilemma in answering the patients' question about incentive payment (Labig & Zantow, 2007; Pearson & Hyams, 2002) which positively gives

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impacts on the amount of income the doctor obtains. Furthermore, Szech (2011) factually claims a doctor freely determining the tariff in accordance with the “quality” the doctor performs. The patients (illustrated as consumers) do not really understand the “market” situation so that “a bad doctor” may be always existing in the market and getting more “profits” by low quality performance.

Human always demands for money income in fulfilling his needs of life. Modernity development has made materialism increased and has affected human perception on money income. It is said to be harmful if money income becomes the major goal in all aspects of human life. Indoctrination of materialism is very dangerous if possessed in the profession (that should be humanist) such a doctor. Doctor is a profession which is basically established through humanist value¹. In farther development, it is often humanist of a doctor admixed with materialism². Health industry, primarily hospitals, has been influenced by some changes in case of technology and market structure (Sari, 2008). These changes have impacted on the goals of the hospitals, turning giving helps to others in the beginning into orientating profits. Bigelow & Arndt (2007) state that health industry with self-interest and opportunistic value absorbed develops to be materialistic because of the modern economy development. Orientation of the doctors toward income in the health industry environment seems to also be influenced.

This research aims to make understandings of the proper signification of income for the doctors. The profession as a medical doctor is chosen by a reason that this profession has the fundamental value of humanism, differs from the profession of accountant that in the beginning has been brought with the materialism value³. It exposes the signification of income from the doctor’s perspective considered humanist, and consequently results different understandings with the one in accountant’s perspective of modern life nowadays. It uses dramaturgy method to analyze the data. Dramaturgy method is applied to gain data holistically. The data are then analyzed through some analyses of a doctor’s life stages so that the result of the research can be holistically obtained.

2. Dramaturgy Method as the “Stages” in the Research Method

Dramaturgy is an attractive method to analyze individual (in micro-context). Goffman (1956) introduces dramaturgy concept with theatrical performance extracting themes of interaction among human being. Human acts are illustrated through an analogy of drama and theater. Goffman (1956) claims that daily interaction can be comprehensively understood if we consider a person as the actor on the stage. As an actor, a person can play a role and manipulate the instruments of properties, the stage, the clothes, and the symbols to get the best result as desired by the actor. For a doctor, the doctor suits and stethoscope will be the required “the costume” and “property” to bring on the stage when facing the patients as the audience.

Goffman (1956) says that “self” is the result of dramatic interaction between actors and audience. “Self” is a dramatic influence emerging up in the situation performed. Ritzer & Goodman (2004) denote that when interacting, an actor will show a self-feeling acceptable for others. Human behaves like performing on the stage to give convincing impressions to all people (Audifax, 2008). Goffman’s Dramaturgy also focuses on implicit expressions which are more theatrical, contextual, non-verbal, and unintentional. The signification of meaning is to get impressions through the other’s acts like as mimic on faces, gestures, and action quality. This non-verbal impression has a more accuracy than the verbal expression (Basrowi & Sadikin, 2002).

Dramaturgy separates the individual performance into two fields, frontstage and backstage. The front stage is a part of the appearance and manner completed with supporting setting. On the frontstage arena, individual will show the ideal figure (performance as demanded based on social status). A doctor, for example, has a routine in the setting of practical room and its properties. The doctor’s performance is suited with white coat and stethoscope which function as the stimuli to distinguish a doctor from the other staffs. The manners performed by a doctor are high self-confidence, unemotional and calm, and maintain a good relation climate to patients. When being interacted with a restless patient, the doctor will manage impressions on the “frontstage” to convince the patient that “everything is going to be fine”,

¹ Simply summarized from the Doctor’s Oath and The Indonesian Code of Medical Ethics

² Bigelow & Arndt (2007) call it as *self-fulfilling theories* in which social environment greatly influences on and forms behaviors of individual

³ Kamayanti, Triyuwono, Irianto dan Mulawarman (2012) write how accounting education loads of materialism values.

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