

“Patch Adams” is a movie that is based on a true story, which is about a man who has experienced many things in his life time, from being institutionalized in a psychiatric ward of hospital to being a well-respected doctor that heals and calms many people with humor. There is a plenty of hidden stories that are going parallel with the main story, which also touch many aspects of effective doctor-patient relationship with related to the applicability as well as the use of knowledge on medical ethics in real life.

Hunter Adams that is better known as “Patch”, has lived a sorrowful life after his father died when he was nine. Although he changed his job nothing did fits him properly, and that was the reason which leads him to commit suicide. Then, when he was at the psychiatry ward, Patch Adams learned that he was compelled by helping people and he loved helping people through the healing process. His belief and practice of connecting to patients’ thoughts and emotions were equally as important as knowing what was physically wrong with them.

As this film implies, this vision of him was the thing which kept him exceptionally above all other typical students in all the way through the medical college. The typical framework which has been build up by the society on ‘how a medical student or a professional supposed to be’ is highly questioned through the character of Patch Adams.

In most of the medical educational institutes and virtual medical facilities in now a days, there is a physician-centered environment in which the doctor controls almost all the aspects of doctor patient relationship. This doctor-centered environment begins as soon as the patient enters in to the doctor’s room and doctor will be given the chance to select what to discuss, how to discuss and why to discuss. For an example, doctors ask a lot of ‘yes or no questions’ while not giving enough time to the patient to express their very much emotional information, (an example for this can be found in the movie when all the experienced doctors only refer to patients as their certain illnesses).

In the movie Patch Adams, this man, whether he knew it or not, was a believer of collaborative approach to health care. Humor and laughter was used by Patch to help the patients feel better and relaxed.

The patients trust and open up to Adams, this allowed him to make more accurate diagnoses. Thus improving the patient's situation, attitude, and overall outlook on life all through use of humour is the method that is practically applied by Adams.

The way that Patch Adams interact with his typical colleagues and his response when he feels (or others make him feel) that he is not in the typical framework that he is supposed to be, is impressive as well. Also his arguments regarding medical practice as well as healing procedures are remarkably important . With certain medical issues, even though there are some risky times to deal with, a doctor should not always be the main character in doctor patient relationship, as Adams believes. The proration which the film follows is really important.

In conclusion I may say that this film is a great reflection of current issues in medical communication field, which directly deals with medical ethics. The movie contains many medical related topics, theories and concepts and gives an insight to how our medical education should be changed in near future