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## **ETHICAL VIEW OF EUTHANASIA: A GLIMPSE**

**Rumana Afrose**

Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy,  
Mansarovar Global University, Sehore, M.P.

### **ABSTRACT**

Ethics deals with the judgement of human actions. It depends upon the situations of the individual. In ethical judgements, conclusion depends upon the individual's action. This action, sometimes favor the biological life, personality and humanity. Ethics judge's human actions, especially from the patient's point of view in respect of euthanasia. If it is right then what is the situation or in which way euthanasia is right and wrong. In this article, ethical view of Euthanasia has been highlighted.

**Keywords:** Ethical, Euthanasia, Judgements.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Human life circle is endured with the dualities of birth and death. Mostly, birth is considered as a joyous moment and death as an unhappy event in the wheel of human existence. However, there are situations of sufferings in life, where birth is not a joyous moment and death is considered to be the happiest moment of an individual. The *pre-facto* of birth and the *post-facto* of death are often considered as mysterious, what is life before birth and after death? These issues have been discussed enormously by both religious and non-religious discourses and they have their own faith and opinions about their views. For instance, a person who is suffering with incurable diseases, brain dead and PVS, the debate between life and death of these individuals is judiciously attempted from an ethical perspective. By and large, euthanasia is not a suicide appeal about how one has to die or how one can be allowed to die? But it is about how and under what circumstances an individual prefers not to live.



## INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Modern society regards individual freedom as a supreme value, which must be safeguarded. However, one has to keep in mind that it is not an absolute value because individuals do not exist in isolation but as an integral part of the society. Hence, it is of pivotal importance to view individual freedom from the background of society in which he is situated. Individual freedom means, man has the right to express, the right to speech and right to live rules and regulations of that particular society. [1] The definition of freedom is we don't want to suffer from domination by others, or powerlessness, lack of opportunity, lack of capability, ignorance. We don't want to suffer pains, disease, misery, failure, disdain, pity, dependency, disrespect, depression and melancholy. Kant's view of freedom is that, all life is a part of nature. So, we are also part of nature both – internally and externally. Individual freedom is internal but not external, it is feeling free not from the outside world but I am my inner world. [2]

## ETHICAL VIEWS ON VALUE OF LIFE

Here an attempt is made to present euthanasia as unethical from the perspective of the concept of the value of life. Value of life is based on the metaphysical notion of the sanctity of life. Life is a phenomenon that is either familiar or mysterious. Life is the most valuable possessions; each person's life is precious. Even though we are suffering, it is better than not being dead because life is precious. It is pointed out that, human life has an absolute value. [3] The *raison d'être* behind killing is termed as an immoral action. Human life has the intrinsic value on the earth. So, this life deserves respect. Life is sacred from both metaphysical and ethical point of views. The ethical argument that supports life is sanctity of life and the metaphysical argument is vitalism. Life is 'sacred' from both metaphysical and ethical perspectives. [4] The main objective including Hippocratic Oath is to uphold the professional code of ethics in medical profession to preserve the life. It is physical or material and non-physical or spiritual. The sanctity of life reflects on the ethics in life. It reveals that everyone prefers life. In the field of medicine, the life of the human being has to be safeguarded through the treatment.



The religious or non- religious perspectives of euthanasia reflect on the importance of life. From the religious point of view: life is a precious gift from the god. At the same time the Darwinian theory of evolution says that the life of human being is the pinnacle in the process of evolution. Hence life is both precious and sacred. [5]

## CONCLUSION

It is evident from the discussions held that an analysis of normative ethical theories fails to provide a clear and evident solution in the application of euthanasia. It lacks consistency in the decision making because we are yet to arrive at an agreement in the concept of good. In furthering the complication, we have the power interests from two powerful professions; legal and medical which make the debate on euthanasia all the more complicated. The collision between legal and medical have the ultimate power to make life and death decisions and make euthanasia all the more debatable. The medical profession supports the ban on euthanasia because it is against their medical ethics (Hippocratic Oath) and they wanted their profession to be considered as healers and not the killers. More importantly they want the power to choose when the patient's treatment needs to be terminated and they do not want to be regulated by the court's decision when the life of the patient needs to be terminated. On the other hand, the legal profession is intensely interested in euthanasia because it would effectively transfer a great deal of power from the medical profession to the legal profession.

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