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Course

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Date

Argumentative Essay: Is Euthanasia Right?

To some people, life is quite good, whereas life is cruel to others. In modern society, life is good when one is wealthy and healthy. Nonetheless, quality of life is prone to a little suffering.

Diseases, hardships, premature death, bankruptcy, accidents, failures, and heartbreak affect the

quality of life. Terminal diseases are inevitable and cause suffering and pain to the victims.

Although people live for long years with terminal illnesses and disabilities, others may feel that

such individuals are a burden to the progress of society. Terminal illness may cause immense

suffering to patients as well as an increasing financial burden to relatives. Terminally ill patients

may request euthanasia. In the course of their practice, healthcare providers such as nurses are

faced with ethical dilemmas related to euthanasia when caring for suffering patients, elderly patients, and those with terminal illnesses (Luzon 340). Adam et al., define euthanasia as, "the

practice of terminating one's life through painless medical procedures" (2). Euthanasia is a

controversial issue that provokes intense debate about the ethical and legal concerns of such

practices in health care. The controversy exists across the diverse aspects of euthanasia including

legal, human rights, ethical, health, economic, religious, cultural, and social aspects of the present

society. Whereas it is illegal in some countries such as the UK, some societies and states support

euthanasia as a basic human right to die with dignity. People supporting euthanasia approve it as a right to death with dignity, rather than living a life affected by a terminal illness that may cause intense pain and suffering. The paper analyzes the controversy about euthanasia related to the different ethical and legal dimensions of the practice drawing from research studies against and in support of euthanasia.

There are several dimensions for euthanasia. First, euthanasia may be classified as active or passive. Active euthanasia involves the introduction of something such as lethal injection to

cause death, while passive euthanasia involves withholding treatment to cause death after a while.

While in most cases, euthanasia is physician-assisted, it may be voluntary or involuntary.

Involuntary euthanasia, the patient is aware of the decision to terminate their life, whereas

involuntary euthanasia the consent is upon the relatives, guardian, or medical expert (Clyburn &

DeFronzo 2019). People have different attitudes towards the dimensions of euthanasia that provide

arguments for and against its legalization. Euthanasia is a controversial issue as it is illegal in states

such as the UK and legal in some states in the United States. For instance, Ohio State approves

euthanasia as authorized in the jurisdiction of state laws (Luman 2019). In support of euthanasia,

Strinic states, “terminally ill patients may experience extreme pain and suffering as well as increased healthcare costs, and thus it is right to help them die with dignity” (8). Opposers counter the view of the role of euthanasia to alleviate pain and suffering by articulating that palliative care relieves pain and suffering. The opposers argue that euthanasia is a form of suicide that violates the individual right to life.

There are several arguments in support of the legalization of euthanasia. First, euthanasia provides an opportunity to enjoy a death with dignity. Palliative and rehabilitative care for terminal illnesses **contribute to high overall healthcare costs. Many terminally ill patients do not want to be a burden to their families, and thus euthanasia is an option to uphold the right to death with dignity (Hansen, Mahan & Asensio 20). Second, the patient has the consent to decide when to end his life at any time they wish. In support of voluntary euthanasia, Hansen, Mahan, and Asensio argue that everyone has the right to control their life and the freedom to decide when and in which manner to die (10). Control of one's body and life is a private matter which should not be restricted by ethical or legal justification. Considering that the patient is in a position to make clear decisions and is aware of his intent, voluntary euthanasia is morally acceptable.** Considerably, healthcare providers have an ethical obligation to comply with the patient's decisions. Lastly, euthanasia saves people from suffering and pain through sickness and while dying. Most patients are affected by terminal illnesses and conditions that may cause a lot of pain and discomfort which hinders the ability to enjoy life. In such scenarios, the death of the patient through euthanasia is better than keeping them alive (Sawtell-Fearn 3).

On the other side of the argument against euthanasia, is that the practice is ethically wrong. First, the legalization of involuntary euthanasia may contribute to the misuse of the practice attributed to disturbing situations. For instance, physicians may conduct involuntary euthanasia to **reduce bad company and save money. Besides, physicians are prone to errors by making the wrong diagnosis for chronic conditions. In case of errors in diagnosis, patients may be subjected**

to involuntary euthanasia, thus depriving them of their chance to receive appropriate care, treatment, and recovery (Stable 8). Secondly, medical research and advances may discover a possible cure for terminal diseases. Although the cure for chronic illnesses may be distant, quality palliative care plays a significant role in providing support to the patient and controlling disease symptoms and pain (Adams et al. 2). Lastly, from a Christian point of view, euthanasia is a crime as established in the Biblical doctrine. In Christianity, God is the ultimate creator and giver of life. God has the ultimate authority over everything on earth, and he has given the power to humans to take care of their lives and the earth. Being the Creator, He is the only one who has the right to end any one's life at His ordained will. Ending one's life or the life of another person is a violation of God's will and thus a sin. Similar to other religions such as Buddhism, suffering and pain are an integral part of spiritual life (Stange 37). Lastly, in today's declining justice and morality, euthanasia may be endorsed by family members for humanitarian purposes who may take physicians

to end the life of the patient without his consent. Notably, physicians have a role to save and provide care to patients, instead of ending their life. Although it may be tough to fully treat terminally ill patients, there's a chance that they may be cured, and euthanasia is not an option to take care of the suffering patient.

In essence, euthanasia remains a controversial topic among interest groups; some believe that it is a humane way to end pain and suffering, while others view it as a violation of human

rights. **Although euthanasia is legal in most countries, some individuals in these countries may be against the practice depending on their perspective towards the right to life versus the right to death. Moreover, the debate about the legalization of euthanasia continues. I believe voluntary euthanasia should be legalized in certain circumstances. If it is in the will of the patient, euthanasia is an appropriate way to end suffering and pain and relieve the financial burden.** Nonetheless, it is imperative to ensure policies are made to control the misuse of euthanasia, particularly involuntary euthanasia. In some cases, euthanasia is unjustifiable and thus should be avoided.

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