



Review on Euthanasia- An Ethical Issue with Special Reference to Philosophy

Rumana Afrose ¹, Dr. Anita Kumari Gupta ²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Mansarovar Global University, Sehore, M.P., India.

²Research Guide, Department of Philosophy, Mansarovar Global University, Sehore, M.P., India.

ABSTRACT:

Euthanasia can be regarded as right and acceptable in few cases, however there is a grave danger to as slippery slope. Considering the argument on the quality of life and individual autonomy euthanasia seems to be right. Even from the ethical point of view the application of euthanasia is right because it upholds individual dignity and autonomy. In this article, Review on Euthanasia- an Ethical issue with special reference to Philosophy has been highlighted.

Keywords: Euthanasia, Ethical, Philosophy

INTRODUCTION:

The majority of the writing on and about euthanasia is a subset of the extensive body of literature on bioethics. The general issue of euthanasia is revealed in Applied Ethics: A Non-Consequentialist Approach. In his writings, David S. Oderberg discusses various forms of euthanasia as well as the idea of personal autonomy. He made an effort to demonstrate whether applying euthanasia to a patient who is brain dead is ethical or unethical, which is one of the key ideas in euthanasia [1]. Social Issues and Applied Ethics The book Moral Questions of Birth, Society, and Death makes an effort to show how moral ideas might be used in social settings. What constitutes a moral issue and to what extent is euthanasia a societal issue, as demonstrated by Tony Fitzpatrick in his work? Social Issues and Applied Ethics The term "social humanism" was primarily addressed in relation to the moral questions of birth, society, and death. This book applies theories and methodologies from a moral philosophy perspective in order to address current ethical challenges linked to the disciplinary field (social policy) that examines the interactions of social problems, justice, and well-being. It addresses the social and ethical issues that surround human life. The bioethical problem is explained in Bioethics: An Introduction to the History, Methods, and Practice by Nancy S. Jecker, Albert R. Jonson, and Robert A. Pearlman. It exclusively analyses human life from a philosophical and ethical standpoint. [2] It relates to medical issues and discusses how bioethics is applied to human life, including what a bioethical issue is and how it affects people. The term "bioethics" refers to the moral principles governing biotechnology and lab-related matters. Saleesha A. Stanely attempts to present the topic of bioethics in its entirety in this work. She also discusses the fundamental legal and regulatory requirements in the field of bioethics and sheds light on the most pressing problems currently affecting students of contemporary biological sciences, including biomedical. The

clever discussion of the moral dilemmas surrounding the use of both plants and animals highlights themes from the fields of science, medicine, social policy, and religion [3].

REVIEW ON EUTHANASIA- AN ETHICAL ISSUE WITH FOCUS ON PHILOSOPHY:

Bioethics for Scientists tackles moral questions relating to biotechnology, medicine, and biology, as well as those connected to agriculture and human life. In their book *Bioethics for Scientists*, John Bryant, Linda Baggott La Velle, and John Searle made an effort to illustrate ethical dilemmas in bioethics as well as the steps that a bioethical researcher should take and the standards and guidelines that should be adhered to. The book *Bioethics: An Introduction to Bioscience* explores the concept of bioethics as well as its philosophical underpinnings and historical significance. The first chapter of the book by Ben Mepham discusses historical and philosophical definitions as well as how biology and scientific knowledge are learned and applied nowadays. [4] Along with the obligations of bioscientists on the scientific basis of altruism, this book also explores how bioscience and biotechnologies might be unethically abused. He explores several ethical views, such as utilitarianism, deontology, virtue theory, and religion. It tries to understand how an ethical theory can be used to address a bioscience-related problem. In his article, "Euthanasia: Opposing Viewpoints Digest," James D. Torr addresses euthanasia from a moral and legal standpoint. He makes an effort to highlight both the drawbacks and advantages of patients and the patient-physician interaction. His writing focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of legalising voluntary euthanasia as well as the moral conundrums that face the medical profession. However, most of his work focuses on physician and patient issues in America. [5]

Ethics and the Law: From Conflict to Compromise on Euthanasia?

It explores the legal and moral implications of euthanasia. With the primary goal of evaluating the morality of euthanasia from a legal perspective, Richard Huxtable attempts to shed light on ethical dilemmas from a legal perspective in this study. The second edition of *Euthanasia: A Reference Handbook* shows ways to help individuals apply euthanasia, particularly in the United States. The goal of Jennifer FecioMcDougall and Martha Gorman is to demonstrate how euthanasia has benefited individuals throughout history. They also discuss the contemporary environment and how it relates to people. The book does a good job of gathering important facts about euthanasia. The book *Euthanasia: Death With Dignity and the Law* by Hazel Biggs aims to examine the practise from a legal standpoint. Patient autonomy, doctor's responsibility, and the patient's living will are all mentioned in this book. In his 2002 book, *Euthanasia, Ethics and Public Policy: An Argument Against Legalization*, John Keown discusses case studies while writing about the implications of physician-assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia, ethical debates surrounding autonomy, legal hypocrisy, and slippery slope arguments. Keown wants to show how legalising euthanasia will result in poor public policy.

The notion of death in human existence, including suicide, brain death, euthanasia, and the right to die, is the subject of the book *Ethical Issues in Death and Dying*. Tom L. Beauchamp's book, *Ethical Issues in Death and Dying* Seymour

wants to provide some light on the moral dilemmas surrounding death. From an ethical and legal standpoint, Craig Paterson's book *Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: A Natural Law Ethics Approach*²¹ explains these practises. In his book, euthanasia is viewed from a naturalistic perspective. By asserting that assisted suicide and euthanasia are socially acceptable and can be vigorously justified, the author drives the final nail in the coffin. The importance of human life, natural law, ethics, and the rationale for assisted suicide and euthanasia are all explored in *Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: A Natural Law Ethics Approach*. He discusses several forms of euthanasia, including voluntary, involuntary, and non-voluntary, in his work. His book examines the legislation of assisted suicide and euthanasia as well as the advancements on this specific problem, particularly in the nations of the Netherlands, Switzerland, Oregon, Belgium, Luxembourg, Montana, and Washington. *The Ethics of Life and Death in Healthcare* A brief introduction to the ethical issues facing the healthcare profession Helen Watt wants to clarify the moral significance of human life and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights through her book. It addresses topics pertaining to life and death and is beneficial to anyone studying philosophy, medicine, law, and ethics. In order to highlight the differences between Kantian and Gewirth's perspectives on human dignity, *Human Dignity in Bioethics and Bio-law* explains human dignity from a variety of perspectives. The concept of dignity must be expanded to encompass bioethics and medical ethics, as well as individual perspectives on euthanasia and abortion.

Medical Ethics Today: The BMA Handbook of Ethics and Law, second edition, talks about how important ethics are in the medical field. Informed consent and patient-physician relationships are this book's key discussion points. The Importance of Life The value of the patient's life is described in *An Introduction to Medical Ethics*. It implies that the patient's life is crucial from a medical standpoint. The historical perspective on medicine is mentioned in *Medical Ethics in the Ancient World*. It also discusses the philosophical viewpoint and the significance of the medical profession. From a medical standpoint, euthanasia is examined from a standpoint in *The Ethics of Terminal Care: Orchestrating the End of Life*. However, it analyses the problems within the societal context of the United States. The value of life from a medical standpoint is mentioned in the *Handbook of Bioethics: Taking Stocks of the Field from a Philosophical Perspective* [6]. It primarily focuses on the interaction between the doctor and patient as well as the doctor's responsibility to the patient. The second edition of the *World Medical Association Medical Ethics Manual* is primarily concerned with the value of ethics in the medical field. The rights of the patient and the doctor-patient relationship through the medical profession are also mentioned. In the book, *Good Medical Practice Professionalism, Ethics and Law*, the significance of ethics in the medical profession is discussed.

The principles of ownership and autonomy are indicated by issues in medical law and ethics. Derk Morgan discusses his thoughts on property ownership as well as Leccan's definition of it. He talks about the categorical imperative and autonomy as they relate to Kant. Stan van Hooft wrote a book titled *Life, Death, and Subjectivity: Moral Sources in Bioethics* that analyses many forms of life in terms of their philosophical and scientific components. Here, the vital force or vital fluid is used to illustrate the significance of life. In his book *Confrontations with the*

Reaper: A Philosophical Study of the Nature and Value of Life, Fred Feldman goes into detail about the metaphysical worth of life. Raanan Gillon's book, Philosophical Medical Ethics, examines debates around the medical profession's ethical standards. The Hippocratic Oath's significance as well as medical regulations are covered in great detail. It emphasises the doctor's responsibility and the benefits to the patient. Other ideas covered in the book include the obligations of doctors to their patients, stating the truth, and consent. The physician's responsibility and the patient's autonomy are discussed in the medical ethics book Death and Compassion: A Virtue-Based Approach to Euthanasia by Liezl L. Van Zyl. Bioethics: Classical Ideas and Modern Concerns by In their discussion of the autonomy of the patient, Kuczewski and Polansky analyse the Hippocratic tradition. Treat Me Right: Essays in Medical Law and Ethics by Ian Kennedy explains the doctor's responsibility through the legal system. It addresses issues such as what doctors' responsibilities are and how they should interact with patients. to mention a few. The medical viewpoints on euthanasia are shown in bioethics readings and cases. In their collaborative work, Brody and Engelhardt Jr. explore religious perspectives and euthanasia-related issues from both a medical professional's and an individual's point of view. The other ideas covered in this book include autonomy and the sanctity of life [7].

The goal of Bioethics: Problems and Prospects is to define the boundaries of the bioethical area. In his essay, Samuel Gorovitz discusses the limitations of the medical field in addition to bioethical issues. Jonathan Brockopp's book Islam and Bioethics: Beyond Abortion and Euthanasia explores religious perspectives on euthanasia and abortion, particularly from an Islamic perspective. An insightful piece on ethical theories and bioethical topics like euthanasia, autonomy, the right to die, and organ transplantation may be found in Lawrence Koehler's The Executive's Corner: Bioethics. Can euthanasia be legalised in a safe way? Brian Pollard addresses the issue of whether or not voluntary euthanasia may be permitted. Many nations, including the Netherlands, Oregon, New York, and Luxembourg, authorise voluntary euthanasia. Pollard explores the various arguments for and against euthanasia legalisation. He claims that it is inappropriate because it would only lead to worse problems than the ones it was intended to solve.

In his essay How to Argue Against Active Euthanasia, David Boonin analyses the idea of morality from a trajectory that distinguishes between ancient and modern thinkers' perspectives on the morality of euthanasia by employing ethical consequentialism, deontological, and other moral theories. The book Euthanasia and the Right to Die makes an attempt to analyse euthanasia from an ethical standpoint, with a focus on the patient's rights. According to Dr. Sam Vaknin, patients can choose whether or not to live if autonomy and dignity are upheld. His writings place a strong emphasis on euthanasia being legal. Jurriaan De Haan's book The Ethics of Euthanasia: Advocates' Perspective emphasises the legalisation of euthanasia and examines it from an ethical standpoint. Through this paper, he seeks to reconstitute the Dutch discussion about the morality of euthanasia. Should Euthanasia Be Legalized in India? Human Rights? What exactly is constitutional law? What is the definition of criminal law? talks about India's legalisation of euthanasia. Shreyans Kasliwal discusses the advantages and disadvantages of euthanasia-related concerns. He tries to explain what might

happen if assisted suicide were to become legal. [8]

India's focus on euthanasia is mostly on its ethical, legal, and social implications. It addresses the issue of whether or not the medical profession has control over human life and death. In this essay, Dr. A.K. Tharien discusses the ethical implications of science and technology. It affirms that using euthanasia is moral and that God gave us life as a gift. James Rachel's viewpoint on euthanasia and personhood is assessed in Hellsten's article, Towards an Alternative Approach to Personhood in the End of Life Questions. From a socially relevant viewpoint of personhood and an alternative viewpoint of personhood, the author imagines naturalistic and humanistic arguments. George J. Annas's book Toxic Tinkering: Lethal Injection Execution and the Constitution talks about the moral issues that come up when a patient is given a lethal injection.

Are we extending life or extending death when it comes to assisted suicide and euthanasia? through Molly Sullivan attempts to discuss nurses, who, like doctors, have the responsibility of saving the patient's life. The author of this study explains the role nurses play in helping patients fight for their lives. The presentation discusses physician assisted suicide as well as the ethical and legal obligations of nurses. Scientific Engagement What is the distinction between passive and active euthanasia? Bernward Gesang uses Dieter Brinbucher's concept of acting and omitting to define active and passive euthanasia. [9]

In his book Causation, Intention, and Active Euthanasia, Alister Browne discusses active and passive euthanasia using the acting and omitting theories. The application of lethal injection to the patient at the doctors' request is also covered in this study. Also stated was the possibility of the procedure being abused if the same was permitted. Involuntary Suicide in Pre-Modern Society, 1500–1800: Educated Disputations and Common Practices by M. Stolberg examines the medical procedures and instances of active euthanasia that took place during the corresponding centuries. The author's goal is to show how religious belief dominated during the mediaeval era. The church authorities never allowed any type of euthanasia during this time. Passive euthanasia: The Hammerli Affairs: Is It Murder? By Culliton, the topic of patient assisted suicide is covered. In this context, Hammerli is the doctor who killed the patient.

The Morality Forum The book Hydration in Dying Patients by Tobin BM discusses the moral implications of euthanasia and palliative care. From a moral standpoint, the author's opinions on euthanasia and palliative care are discussed. According to him, a doctor needs to understand the distinction between palliative care and assisted suicide. Ethical Concerns in Hospice Care by Randall investigates the moral problems with palliative care. The patient should be aware of their options, the author notes in this passage. The goal of Roger's essay, Euthanasia Law: A Political and Ethical Debate, is to analyse the political and legal views on euthanasia. The author discusses the field of medicine as well as how doctors may be exploited for financial gain, endangering the patients' goodwill. Dr. Michael W's goal is to explore numerous ailments and new discoveries to treat the diseases outlined in his study, Studies on the History of Euthanasia, which outlines the definition and application of euthanasia. Euthanasia's Morals and Ethics Reconsidered: A Potential Garn LeBaron Jr. aims to expose the legalisation of ethics, definitions, and issues with euthanasia in order to highlight the

significance of legalising resistance to it. His argument is that euthanasia and individual rights are debatable. The literature included here does not cover all of the topics raised by euthanasia in the talks. However, it seeks to provide a fundamental overview of euthanasia-related concerns from multiple disciplines, including ethical, medical, and legal perspectives. [10]

CONCLUSION:

However, Sanctity of life and quality of life pose a serious threat in the application of euthanasia as unethical. Hence, there is always a moral and ethical dilemma involved in deciding the rightness and wrongness of euthanasia. An absolute solution to the issues pertaining to the euthanasia is highly impossible however in many cases the situated ness and context of the patient in question will allow us to analyze euthanasia from a larger spectrum.

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