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Course

Date

Against Doctor Assisted Suicide

Over the years various developments that are aimed at enhancing end of life care have been implemented. Indeed, one of the topic that has been commonly debated entails the issue of whether doctors should assist those who want to commit suicide or not. This paper focuses on the topic of doctors and assisted suicide and specifically expounds on the reason why doctor assisted suicide should not be legalized.

Assisted suicide just as the name suggests entails suicide that is carried out with the help of another person. In that view, physician assisted suicide that is also referred to as doctor assisted suicide can be explained to be a suicide that involves a doctor knowledgeably and deliberately offering a person with the knowledge or means to undertake suicide. Thus, some of the ways through which a doctor can become involved in assisted suicide involves, advising a person on the type of medicine to use in order for the suicide to take place, prescribing or even in some cases supplying the drugs to be used by a person so that the person can use them for suicide (Jeffrey, 8).

As already pointed out, over the years, the topic of doctor assisted suicide has been a highly debated topic since there are two opposing schools of thought regarding

the topic. On one hand, there are those who are in support of doctor assisted suicide while on the other hand, there are those who strongly oppose doctor assisted suicide.

One of the reasons why doctor assisted suicide should not be practiced can be explained to be due to the fact that by not making the practice legal, the weak as well as those who are considered to be marginalized in the society gets to be protected. Indeed, if doctor assisted suicide was to be allowed in the entire US, there are no doubt that the elderly as well as other individuals who are not in a position to make informed decision on whether to undergo assisted suicide will become vulnerable as there is a chance that family members would decide in favor of assisted suicide as they would be of the opinion that suicide would be the best option for these people. On the other hand, Mayo and Gunderson (16) have discussed that even in countries where the doctor assisted suicide is allowed such as Netherlands, studies have found that those who are considered to be elderly and marginalized are not offered protection as doctors have administered lethal injections even without any request.

Another reason why doctor assisted suicide should not be practiced is due to the fact that the practice changes the culture in which medicine is practiced. Indeed, the fact that the practice allows the tools of healing to be applied in killing can be said to be a clear indicator of how the practice corrupts the profession. In that view, the extent to which the patients can fully trust the doctors is questionable since patients who are aware that the doctors that they expect to help them address health issues can also help them commit suicide results to the patients not having full confidence with the doctors (Battin, Rhodes, Silvers, 173).

The other reason why doctor assisted suicide should not be practiced can be explained to be due to the fact that the practice infringes human dignity and negates equality before the law. Indeed, each human being has inherent self-esteem and infinite worth. Thus, in order for the legal system in place to be considered to be articulate and just, it is vital that the legal systems respects that dignity for every individuals and specifically by ensuring that every life is protected. However, when a certain group is considered to be legally eligible to die, that implies that the commitment to the concept of equality is violated. Thus, irrespective of whether one is a doctor or not, there should be no natural rights afforded to anyone to take the life of someone else (Jeffrey, 18).

In conclusions, it can be explained that rather than embracing doctor assisted suicide, there is a need to ensure that suffering is responded to with true sympathy and cohesion. Majority of the people who end up seeking doctor assisted suicide can be explained to be people who suffer from either depression or other mental illness and in that view, rather than helping these people to take their lives away, they should be provided ideal medical car as well as human presence that they need so that they rule out the option of taking their lives away. In addition to that, physicians need to assist their patients by ensuring that they die honorably from natural causes rather than assisted death. The doctors are always expected to provide care and not to kill. Thus, for them to be able to argue that a patient's life is not valuable and intentionally accelerate the end of a patient's life is not their duty.

Works Cited

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