

Date: 22.11.2021

EUTHANASIA

Department of Philosophy

CC-6

Semester-III Honours

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Euthanasia: Easy and Gentle Death



EUTHANASIA

1. Suicide is the act of intentionally taking one's own life.
2. Euthanasia is the practice of intentionally ending somebody's life in order to relieve pain and suffering.

SUICIDE

- ▶ Suicide is the act of intentionally taking one's own life. It is often committed out of despair, due to stress factors such as financial difficulties, unhappiness with life or love.

MERCY KILLING

- ▶ "the painless **killing** of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma"

EUTHANASIA

- ▶ Merriam-Webster defines euthanasia as, “the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy.” Euthanasia is derived from the Greek ‘euthanatos’, from eu (well or good) + thanatos (death), meaning easy death.

Euthanasia can be categorized in different ways

1. **voluntary,**
2. **non-voluntary,**
3. **involuntary.**

Voluntary, non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia can all be further divided into passive or active euthanasia.

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1. Voluntary euthanasia is also referred to as "assisted suicide. Active voluntary euthanasia is when a person asks for drugs or supplement to kill themselves, so that they may not suffer the pain. This is most common in people suffering from chronic illnesses.
2. Passive voluntary euthanasia is when one is on life support and asks to be taken off the life support, so that they may die rather than endure the pain of living. Passive euthanasia is essentially the withholding of common treatments, such as antibiotics, which are necessary for the continuance of life.

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- ▶ Non-voluntary euthanasia (sometimes known as mercy killing) is euthanasia conducted where the explicit consent of the individual concerned is unavailable, such as when the person is in a persistent vegetative state. In cases of non-voluntary euthanasia, the family, spouse, or legal representative takes the decision to take the person off the life support (passive euthanasia) or to give them a lethal injection to end their life (active euthanasia.)

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- ▶ Involuntary euthanasia occurs when euthanasia is performed on a person who is able to provide informed consent, but does not, either because they do not choose to die, or because they were not asked. In most cases, this is considered as murder, as the person did not have a choice or knowledge of the ending of their life.

CONCLUSSION

- ▶ Both suicide and euthanasia are controversial topics. Many religions, such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism, consider suicide and euthanasia as an offense towards God, as they believe that only God has the right and power to give life and take it away. Due to this reasoning, suicide is often regarded as a serious crime.

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