

TITLE: EUTHANASIA THROUGH THE LENS OF HETERODOXY VS. ETHICOTHEOLOGY

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ABSTRACT: - Euthanasia a measure to relieve from unbearable suffering or a despotic legislation. A booming topic of discussion in developing and developed nations. We often think, Does right to die fall under human rights? What safeguards are necessary to prevent abuse of euthanasia laws? Should euthanasia be legalized in every country?

INTRODUCTION: - Termination of a very sick person's life in order to relief his/her sufferings is the basic concept of euthanasia. In the country's where health sector is more prioritized euthanasia is one of the most commonly performed medical procedure. In underdeveloped or developing countries like south eastern Asia, India, etc. even though medical sector is quite developed but still faces a dilemma while dealing with the cases of euthanasia. Mostly the people of old age have scathing view over this concept however young educated population have a positive notion on this blazing issue.

DEFINITION: -

"A deliberate intervention undertaken with the express intention of ending a life, to relieve intractable sufferings." [HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL ETHICS]

"An act of euthanasia is one in which one person (A) kills another person(B) for the benefit of the second person who actually does benefit from being killed."

[BEAUCHAMP AND DAVIDSON]

"Giving death to a person who freely requests it in order to free himself from sufferings that is irreversible and the person himself considers intolerable."

[ANONYMOUS]

BODY: -

TYPES OF EUTHANASIA

1. **ACTIVE EUTHANASIA:** - It is characterized by a physician or other individual taking a direct action to end a patient's life such as administering a lethal injection.

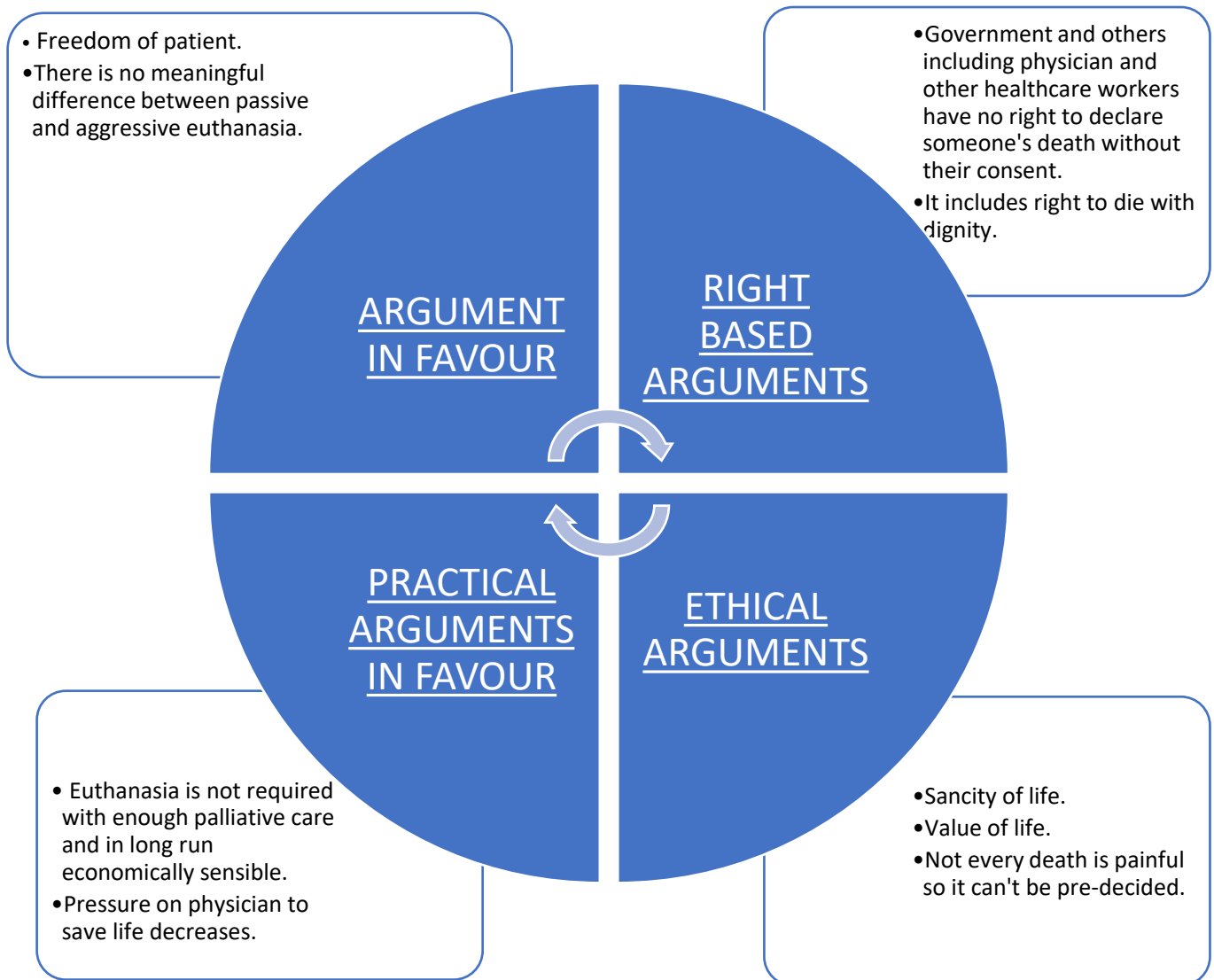
2. PASSIVE EUTHANASIA: - It is when the supportive medical devices are withdrawn and there is permanent cessation of any type of care which is keeping the patient alive.
3. VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA: - Purposeful ending of another person's life at their request in order to relieve them from suffering.
4. INVOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA: - Is it typically regarded as a type of murder, occurs when euthanasia is performed on a person who would be able to provide informed consent but does not either because they do not want to die or they are not in the condition to give permission.
5. ASSISTED SUICIDE: - It is also known as physician assisted suicide, It is a process by which a person with the assistance of medical professional ends their own life. The physician's assistance is usually limited to writing a description for a lethal dose of drugs.

LEGALIZATION OF EUTHANASIA: -

- 2002- First legalization in NETHERLANDS (termination of life on request and assisted suicide)
- 2002- Legalized in BELGIUM (passive euthanasia)
- 2009- Euthanasia was validated in LUXEMBOURG (euthanasia and assisted suicide)
- 2016- It was ratified in CANADA (passive euthanasia)
- 2019- It was warranted in NEW ZEALAND (voluntary and physician assisted euthanasia)
- 2021- It was licensed in SPAIN (voluntary active and physician assisted euthanasia)

IN INDIA- While talking about INDIA, PASSIVE EUTHANASIA (when patient is in vegetative state) was legalized in 2018 under Article 21 after getting inspired by ARUNA SHAUMBAG case in 2011. The Article 21 declares the RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY which was passed by 5 JUDGES BENCH OF SUPREME COURT.

ETHICS OF EUTHANASIA: -



CONCLUSION: - Euthanasia is a serviceable medical procedure but needs to be done with stringent precautions. It is a utilitarian intervention which helps to provide peaceful death to the patient and decreases the financial burden on the patient's family. As every coin has two faces same goes for this concept, it might leads to the freedom from pain for the patient but if used extensively can lead to constraint in the doctor's practice. The countries who have the sensibility to legalize it, must ensure misuse of involuntary and assisted suicide euthanasia should be avoided by mentioning the strict repercussions for the same.

RESOURCES:- <https://www.bbc.co.uk> ; <https://.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> ; <https://en.wikipedia.org>

