**PHL 1253 Assignment4 (Total Marks 4.00/100.0)**

**Group F**

**Group members :-**

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This is a group assignment. Each group must consist of 4/5 students. Only one group member needs to submit the assignment on behalf of the group. Please refer to the assignment set up in the Moodle page for instruction and the due date.

Your task is to read the case and answer the three questions below:

During recent flooding in Florida, United States of America,a large number of people were forced to abandon their homes. There were food and drinking water shortages. Many people were seen, breaking in and stealing from stores and shops. Facebook was full of comments on the videos of people breaking into stores, saying those people should be charged with stealing and punished, while others argued that they were desperate to survive and should not be punished:

Questions:

**a)What would a Utilitarian say? Explain.**

The ethical issue in the above example is to punish or not. If we go with the utilitarianism theory, which says that an action is morally right if the consequences of that action are more beneficial than harmful to everyone. The immediate stakeholder in this case are the people of Florida, store and shop owners. Other stakeholders are their family, the government, and other people of the country.

The Utilitarian person will not punish the people, if they did this just to survive. Due to flooding, many people were asked to leave their houses, and due to food and water shortages. If they broke into the stores and stole food, water or other essential items, which they would have needed for survival at that time. Here, as more people get benefits than a small number of store owners, they should not get punished.

**b)What would a Deontologist say? Explain.**

As per the Deontologist in which the decision is focused on doing what's right rather than doing what will maximize social welfare. The people who stole food, water and other items from the stores should be punished as per deontologist, As it counter-strikes the principles of this theory.

**c)What would a Virtuous Person say? Explain.**

As per the virtue ethics which focus on integrity of moral actors rather than the act, the people should be punished on some extent. The punishments should be based on the things which they have stolen from the stores. If the items were essential items like food, water and other than the punishment should be liberal. On the other hand, if they stole luxuries items like jewelleries, electronics, etc, then the punishment should be more harsh.

(Hint:identify the ethical issue first and then analyse the ethical issue using the three theories. Your answer needs to say whether these people should face punishment or not based on each theory and why)

Please provide your answers, with the supporting comments under each section a,b,c