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INFSCI 0410 Human Centered Systems Lab

#1 Review the Milgrim experiment and list the three elements of the Belmont Report and explain how they were violated.

Belmont Report Guideline #1 – 30 pts

Respect for Persons - Respect for persons incorporates two ethical convictions: first, that individuals should be treated as autonomous agents, and second, that persons with diminished autonomy are entitled to protection.

The individuals were not made aware of the risks to themselves prior to being a volunteer. Since they were made to believe they were causing physical harm to someone else, this in turn could cause them psychological harm. Most involved had visible stress and three individuals even had seizures.

Belmont Report Guideline # 2 – 30 pts

Beneficence - Persons are treated in an ethical manner not only by respecting their decisions and protecting them from harm, but also by making efforts to secure their well-being. The term "beneficence" is often understood to cover acts of kindness or charity that go beyond strict obligation. In this document, beneficence is understood in a stronger sense, as an obligation. Two general rules have been formulated as complementary expressions of beneficent actions in this sense: (1) do not harm and (2) maximize possible benefits and minimize possible harms.

During the experiment, the beneficence element of the Belmont Report was violated by the people running the study. This was done when the "teachers" asked to stop shocking the "learners" and the supervisor running the experiment claimed it was required to keep shocking the other person. The teachers' decisions were not respected and thus they were not protected from psychological harm in the experiment.

Belmont Report Guideline # 3 – 30 pts

Justice - ensuring reasonable, non-exploitative, and well-considered procedures are administered

fairly – the fair distribution of costs and benefits to potential research participants – and equally.

- Participants weren't being completely informed about intents and risks that came with the experiment. They were falsely manipulated into thinking that they were being equally treated (i.e. shocked vs. shocker).

#2 How would you restructure the Milgrim Experiment today in order to meet the guidelines of the Belmont Report? – 10 pts

Make it so that the volunteers have a complete understanding of how the experiment will be conducted and its overall purpose/goal. Also, you could change the punishment the volunteer thinks they are inflicting so it isn't as dangerous or harmful and doesn't cause as much psychological harm to the volunteer.

#3 How would you design an experiment to test an interface for calling for help while under stress. How would you put people under stress????????? Kinda of Extra Credit – If you answer well it can help if you answer the previous questions poorly.

You could make a red/yellow/green light where the volunteer updates their status periodically throughout the experiment. If they continue pressing green, then that means they are good to keep going. If they press yellow, it means they are beginning to become stressed and are heading in the direction of being done participating in the experiment. If they press red, then that means they have become overly stressed and are now ready to be done with the experiment.