**Ethical issues described in the movie – “The Truman Show”**

Ethics play an important role in the conduct of a research. In my essay I would like to deal with the ethical issues which were touched upon in the movie – “The Truman Show”. In my reasoning, I will answer the two main questions of my essay: What the research described in the movie about? and What were the key ethical challenges faced by the characters?

First of all, answering the first question about what kind of research was described in the film, I want to note that there are only two types of research, quantitative and qualitative. In “The Truman Show” two separate researches or studies can be distinguished. However, both of them, in my opinion, were conducted through qualitative approach. The first research was performed by the show's creator and executive producer, Christof. His study was to observe life, behavior, and the nature of a person placed in certain conditions and in a special environment, which was designed by the researcher himself. As in one of the episodes of the film Christof said: “We accept the reality of the world with which we are presented, it's as simple as that.” The second study was conducted by the protagonist of the film and, accordingly, the main character of the television show shot by Christof - Truman Burbank. His research began from the moment he began to suspect and guess what was going on around him all these years. Although this research can be called more an investigation, yet it was also built on the observation and construction of various correlations between events and people's actions.

Therefore, I would like to elaborate now on the issues of ethics which were faced by the characters during their research. The major ethic challenges in conducting a research are: issue of informed consent, principle of beneficence, respect for privacy, anonymity and confidentiality. Mostly all these ethical issues were faced by Christof in his research and, frankly to say, he failed to accomplish at least one of them and now I will explain why by briefly examining each challenge.

Issue of informed consent means that “a person knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently, and in a clear and manifest way, gives his consent". (Armiger, 1997, pp. 330-333) In the case of a research performed by Christof, Truman did not give his consent, and even on the contrary did not know that he was part of someone's experiment.

Speaking about the principle of beneficence, it refers to the idea that the experiment or research should bring positive results to society, unattainable by other methods of research; it should not have a random, not necessarily character. Accordingly, Christof’s research did not bring any advantages or benefits to the society; it was just an entertainment for the audience who were watching a TV show.

And finally, researcher failed to respect the private life of the participant of his study. There was no anonymity or confidentiality.

In conclusion, I would like to summarize and say that in fact “The Truman Show” can force every person who is going to conduct any research to think about the ethical components of this process, and possibly to prevent many mistakes committed in this film.

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