**Utilitarianism vs Kantian Ethics**

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**Introduction**

In ethics, there are different theories that have been developed to determine what is morally right or wrong. Two of the most popular theories are utilitarianism and Kantian ethics. The main idea of utilitarianism, developed by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, is that what is right is whatever produces the best outcome for the most people, and what is wrong is anything that fails to do that. On the other hand, Kantian ethics, developed by Immanuel Kant, is based on the belief that the rightness or wrongness of an action is a property of the action itself, not its consequences. This paper will compare and contrast utilitarianism and Kantian ethics, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses, and exploring the similarities and differences between them.

**Strengths of Utilitarianism**

Because it equates what is ethically correct with what leads to positive results, utilitarianism is advantageous in the sense that it makes ethics more applicable to real-world situations. This means that activities are evaluated not according to abstract or religious ideals, but rather according to the effects those actions have. Another one of its advantages is that it is consistent with the widely held belief that rationality is selecting the approach that will allow us to achieve our goals with the least amount of effort. Utilitarianism asserts that happiness should be prioritized over other goods since it is the ultimate goal of most people to achieve the highest possible level of well-being for themselves (Estheexd ,2014). Examples are listed below, but the list is not exhaustive:

* Being happy is desirable in and of itself, but causing damage is morally reprehensible.

**Weaknesses of Utilitarianism**

One weakness of utilitarianism is that it assumes we can predict the future, measure outcomes objectively, and somehow figure out when long-term outcomes just don't matter. This is a challenging task, as it is difficult to predict all the consequences of an action, especially in complex situations. Another weakness is that it cannot account for the moral principle that some things just should not be done. For instance, torture is considered morally wrong regardless of the outcome it may produce (Estheexd ,2014). Utilitarianism ignores the moral importance of motives, which can be a critical factor in assessing the morality of an action. Some examples include:

* Value can be found in many forms; 'happiness' is not the sole such good. Things like love, human life, and independence are examples.

**Supporters of Utilitarianism**

Economists, contemporary politicians, and certain English philosophers are all on board with utilitarianism. Utilitarianism is attractive to these communities because it gives a workable framework for making decisions that can result in the greatest good for the largest number of people.

**Strengths of Kantian Ethics**

Fundamental rights, for example, can be explained by Kantian ethics. This means that every person deserves to be treated with dignity, and that any attempt to strip them of this is immoral. The fact that it is consistent with the concept that adults should be held ethically and legally accountable for their conduct is also a plus. Lastly, according to Kant, morality is objective and universal since any group of rational, self-directed individuals will arrive at the same set of ethical standards (Sirotkin, 2014). Some examples include:

* Kantian ethics says that all people have rights just because they are human and can think for themselves.

**Weaknesses of Kantian Ethics**

One weakness of Kantian ethics is that it refuses to accept that there can be conflicting duties. In some situations, individuals may face two moral principles that cannot be satisfied at the same time, forcing them to make difficult choices (Sirotkin, 2014). Another weakness is that it makes morality demanding and uncompromising, which means that individuals may feel overwhelmed or burdened by their moral obligations. Finally, Kantian ethics downplays the importance of outcomes in assessing the moral worth of actions, which can be problematic in situations where outcomes matter.

* Kant doesn't take into account how we feel about other people, which seems to go against how we naturally feel about our friends and family.

**Supporters of Kantian Ethics**

Human rights activists, philosophers, and professors are some of the people who support Kantian ethics. Kantian ethics is appealing to these groups because it gives a clear, objective way to judge the morality of actions and because it emphasizes the inherent dignity of people.

**Conclusion: Similarities between Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics**

While there are many differences between utilitarianism and Kantian ethics, both theories are objective and aim to achieve the greater good.

**References**:

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