**How my View About Drug Addicts has Changed Over Time**

**Good morning Ms. Wanjiru**

**Revise this paper as directed below:**

This paper misses important elements of the rubric.

Table

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*You need* ***an example*** not 3 different examples. One description of a complex ethical situation.

Table

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Analyze the situation from the lenses of one or two renowned ethical concepts.

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Analyze and/ or justify your actions using one or more ethical approaches.

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Make sure your word choice and sentence structure is philosophical.

Five years ago, I despised drug users but not anymore. Has my ethos changed, or have I discovered a positive trait in them that I never noticed previously? I believe that drug users lack moral principles and deserve to be punished. While this may be true, my experience over the last three years proves otherwise. Scientifically, drug abuse causes euphoria- a feeling of excitement and relief. Extreme feelings of happiness and relaxation make drug addiction arduous to quit. Since 1960, (Healthline, n.d.) social awareness on drug abuse has been availed to various forums and learning institutions. Being a learner from the age of nine, my interpretation of drug users has always been ‘they are dangerous and immoral, I should stay away from them’. Two years ago, I developed a severe anxiety disorder and found unexpected, welcoming conversations with drug addicts. The interactions allowed me to pour out my fears, and my perception of drug addicts started wavering.

As an active Christian, my life revolved around a serene environment, with frequent weekly worships and mentorship seminars on morality. My village was based in a remote residence surrounded by four churches, and sophisticated with strict cultural norms. All my friends in high school looked up to me for spiritual knowledge and moral-based decision-making. Therefore, it was unfathomable to have drug addicts as friends and I think nobody in my church would associate with me- the ‘immoral’ tag would be my new name. My experience with a celebrated television host, who shifted to drugs for lack of support altered my perception of addicts. This friend divorced her husband after infidelity allegations. Family, friends, and fellow employees walked away- her behavior crossed the ethos of her background so everyone judged her. ‘Virtues are attitudes or character traits that enable us to be and to act in ways that develop our highest potential’ (Santa Clara University, n.d.) and I am compassionate. She was kind, honest, and empathetic with my anxiety problems therefore, initiating a mediation between her and her ex-husband was the least I did. I also introduced her to my church, and gradually, she recovered and started a new happy life. Reflecting on this experience I am glad I was compassionate to change the lady’s life. In this encounter, I employed the virtue approach.

I have been raised in a very conservative culture that barely embraces change in dressing code or a shift from ethics. Interestingly, I loved everything about my life; calm instrumentals, long baggy skirts, veiled head, and self-induced modesty with no viable outlet for fear. I met a defense forces doctor and before interaction, she seemed self-actualized - referring to Maslow’s pyramid of human needs. My expectations were wrong, she turned out contrary to what I believed to be ‘a good person’. She was a messy, perverted, late-hour drunkard with high tolerance to alcohol. At a one-time sober encounter, she raised a dialogue on driving drunk and killing three people on a motorbike- she survived severe injuries. Later, expressed her feeling during litigation as the most traumatizing and frustrating; people branded her as a murderer. Luckily, she managed to circumvent the murder charges and has lived under alcoholism since then- in denial of being a murderer. In the common-good approach, ‘we focus on ensuring that the social policies, social systems, institutions, and environments on which we depend are beneficial to all’ (Santa Clara University, n.d.) I utilized the justice and common good approaches in this experience: Free from prejudice, I suggested a conversation that saw her air her side of the story to clear guilt and also pay fine.

My third experience was with a harsh 42-year-old employer. According to (Healthline, n.d.), ‘anger can escalate cases of suicide or violence and is provoked by underlying health or psychological conditions such as alcoholism and depression. It may also be triggered by frustration by others or failure to achieve a goal,’ the way she vented over miscellaneous issues confirmed this. I have been in that situation in life, where a teacher denied me access to a computer laboratory in high school and failed in a test; I had accessed the lab two days before and surpassed the set time limit. Failing was caused by my hard-headedness, so I chose to come to terms with it. My employer had extreme periods of anger that caused her to drown her son-who survived. At 42 years, she was impulsive and alcoholic, traits which relapsed my avoidance of alcohol abusers. Her behavior was dangerous and at one point she stabbed her husband at the workstation while she was drunk and according to the rights approach, ‘we have the right not to be harmed or injured unless we freely and knowingly do something to deserve punishment or we freely and knowingly choose to risk such injuries’, (Santa Clara University,n.d.) Her relatives and I had her moved to a psychiatric clinic for assistance. I used the fairness approach in this experience: I chose this ‘favoritism’ decision because she was genetically bipolar. ‘Favoritism gives benefits to some people without a justifiable reason for singling them out, (Santa Clara University,n.d.). Prejudice on drunkards triggers more indulgence to abuse; guidance and recommending mentorship always creates a difference.

My encounter with SACCO’s founder was epic. The man was running a humanitarian SACCO that received monthly grants of 10,000 dollars a month from the government. Being run by corrupt leaders, funds were embezzled and the SACCO never benefitted the shareholders. A friend recommended me to the SACCO as a Human Resource expert. During one of my interactions with a withdrawing shareholder, I learned that the head of the SACCO had been involved in scandalous theft of money in a previous SACCO. Being an employee under the leadership of a man with a tainted reputation, jeopardized my future ambitions, therefore, I had to create a plan. I applied for an appointment to address the SACCO’S progress with him. During the conversation, he was flirty and I discovered he was an alcoholic. After subsequent meetings, we developed a substantial rapport that he started drinking in my presence. In one of our meetings, he got drunk and opened up about his plan to milk SACCO’s funds and shut it down. Luckily, I had a record that saw him ripped off powers and arrested. According to the rights approach, ‘we have a right to what has been promised by those with whom we have freely entered into a contract or agreement’, and ‘the right to be told the truth and to be informed about matters that significantly affect our choices,’ (Santa Clara University, n.d.). Although my act was unethical to our privacy guidelines, I had secured funds for several shareholders, already banking with the SACCO. Reflecting on this experience, I am happy that I risked my job to save the SACCO from theft. In this experience, I employed the rights approach and common good approach.

My experience with drug abusers has changed my perception of alcoholism. CDC recommends one glass per day or a maximum of two for men. Excessive consumption leads to addiction and mental illness. The fact that every addict I encountered was fighting an inner battle portrays drug abuse as a coping mechanism. Being brought up in a society that prejudices drug addicts, has seen most of my acquaintances succumb to depression or withdrawal from alcoholism. My view about drug addicts has thus changed, I focus more on what led an individual to drug abuse rather than their behavior and, use the virtue ethics approach as much as possible. I also sensitize people on the relevance of counseling and therapy; a problem shared is a problem half solved. Ethics offer a guideline on what is right but accommodating and addressing imperfection can save more lives.

Reference

Santa Clara University. (n.d.). Santa Clara University: The Jesuit University in Silicon Valley. <https://www.scu.edu/> Accessed on October 12, 2021

Healthline (n.d.). Medical information and health advice you can trust.Retrieved from:  <https://www.healthline.com/> Accessed on October 12, 2021