



Essay on Euthanasia

Key Points

1. Introduction

- 1) Euthanasia or mercy death refers to deliberate action taken with the intention of ending a life, in order to relieve persistent suffering.
- 2) Euthanasia has long been a controversial and emotional topic.
- 3) On 7 March 2018 the Supreme Court of **India** legalized passive **euthanasia** by means of the withdrawal of life support to patients in a permanent vegetative state.
- 4) Voluntary euthanasia is currently legal in Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and some states of the USA.

2. Body

- The path-breaking judgment in ***Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India*** (2011) brought the issue of euthanasia into the public domain.
- The court permitted passive euthanasia for **terminally ill** patients under the strict supervision of the High Court.
- **Passive euthanasia** means withdrawing life support to induce death in a natural way. **Cost of treatment** is so high. It is prevalent in India
- **Active euthanasia** is when someone uses lethal substances or forces to end a patient's life.
- **Article 21** of the Constitution gives us the right to life. The right to life includes the right to live with dignity. But when there is pain is there dignity?
- **Section 309** of the Indian Penal Code prescribes punishment for attempting suicide. So euthanasia is important for those who are suffering from terminal diseases.
- Favor – quality of life, dignity, **resources**.
- Against – moral and religious arguments, possible recovery, mental illness, regulation, promoting **palliative care**.

3. Conclusion

- 1) Euthanasia is important for countries like India where the number of terminally ill patients is very high and the state doesn't have enough resources for all.
- 2) Proper regulation is needed for such cases. Convincing religious beliefs against premature death is a big challenge.
- 3) **Preventive treatment** is very important to avoid such stage.
- 4) Providing "right to die with dignity" is as important as providing "right to life".

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