Marcus Domingo

Assignment 1

CS-105-001

**Act Utilitarianism Theory**

Act Utilitarianism Theory basically states that someone’s actions in any given situation are morally correct only if the actions produce at least the same amount of happiness as any other action they could have taken. They key value in this theory is happiness itself and do the consequences produce more benefits or harms?

The decision comes into play when Jean discovers that the local pharmacist is legally unable to provide the medication, thus he has two options. The first being that he can go search for a doctor that would legally give him a prescription for the medication. Time being a factor in this option as well as the fact that he wouldn’t be able to get a hold of a local doctor because of the holiday leaves this as a negative option. Negative meaning that there would be a loss in overall happiness (-70 total happiness); the pharmacist feels bad for turning down Jean (-10 happiness); Jean being unable to find a doctor would lose happiness because Pierre would die (-40 happiness); Pierre losing happiness because he dies (-20 happiness). The second decision being he uses his administrator privileges to impersonate a health care provider and get the medication “legally”. This one has a positive total happiness (+30 total happiness); the pharmacist in this decision is affected because he is happy that he got a prescription on such a busy holiday (+10 happiness); Jean although is happy he got the medicine he is also upset and worried about illegally using his privileges (-10 happiness); Pierre would be relived he didn’t die and that he wasn’t in anymore pain (+30 happiness). The latter decision under the Act Utilitarianism Theory is morally correct because the outcome has a higher total happiness than any of the other outcomes.

My final scenario under the Act Utilitarianism Theory would be the same outcome as Jean’s. Under this theory Jean’s actions are justified because in the end his benefits outweighed his harms and he has gained more happiness with this outcome than any other possible outcome.

**Rule Utilitarianism**

Rule Utilitarianism Theory states that an action is only right if it complies with the rules that leads to the greatest overall happiness of a given situation.

In this instance let’s say the rule is “Save a life regardless of the risk”. We are looking at Jean’s choices and not the pharmacist so for the sake of the scenario the pharmacist still turns Jean down due to a lack of a prescription. The first choice Jean can make is to take this by any form of force of his choosing. Due to the rule and shortness of time being a factor in this instance there is a positive total happiness (+25 total happiness); the pharmacist is upset because he just got robbed (-20 happiness); Jean feels bad about robbing the pharmacist but is happy he has the medication and it didn’t take that long to get (+15 happiness); Pierre is happy that he is going to live and is relieved he is no longer in pain (+30 happiness. The second choice Jean can make is to use is privileges to acquire the prescription. Longevity of time being a factor and the rule this one as well has a positive total happiness (+45 total happiness); the pharmacist is happy because he can prescribe Jean with the medication (+10 happiness); Jean although feeling upset about doing things illegally and this taking a while to complete he still is happy that he received the prescription (+5 happiness); Pierre is happy and relieved that he is going to live and not be in pain (+30 happiness). Due to the rule being “…regardless of the risk” we aren’t going to look at the decision for looking for a doctor because that involves no significant risk. Under Rule Utilitarianism the second decision to impersonate a health care provider is still produces the biggest increase in total happiness.

My final scenario for the Rule Utilitarianism Theory would also be the same as Jean’s. With the given rule, Jean’s actions are justified under this theory because the decisions he made produced more benefits than harms increasing the total happiness.

**Kantianism**

Kantianism is based on what we out to do. Meaning that our actions should be based off of Good Will and universal moral rules as well as treating people as an end and not a means to an end.

Looking at Good Will first. Jean’s actions are not moral. Knowingly being a pharmacist himself, he already knows that you need a prescription to attain the certain medication. He also knows that using his credentials to obtain the medication is highly illegal and he could lose his job and go to jail. It is also his duty to follow the laws of the country understanding that he needs to find a doctor. It is also his duty to follow the policies of his company and know that he cannot use the privileges he was given and use them in an unprofessional manner. Interestingly enough the first formulation of the categorical imperative seems to justify he actions of impersonating a health care provider. Seeing that he wouldn’t be able to get a hold of a doctor on the holiday and his nephew dying, it seems that his only choice was to impersonate a health care provider so he could acquire the adequate medication to save his nephew. Although the first imperative justifies it the second formulation of the categorical imperative does not. In the scenario Jean is using the local pharmacist to get the medication and the pharmacist is unaware of being used. Therefore, he isn’t respecting the pharmacist and the laws he is limited by.

Overall under the Kantianism Theory Jean’s actions are not justified. He is using the pharmacist as a means to an end and his actions are not dutiful because impersonating is not what he ought to do.

**Social Contract Theory**

Social Contract Theory states that everyone has to follow rules that a governing body enforces. Although some situations under some rules may seem irrational, rational people have to accept them.

The local government has laws for acquiring medication from a pharmacist. The process includes going to a doctor, receiving a prescription, and then being able to get the medication from the pharmacist. According to the Social Contract Theory these are the rules that have been placed by the local government. Therefore, Jean has to accept these rules even though in the given situation it is life or death for his nephew. Unfortunately, it’s a local holiday so it’s impossible to get a doctor for the prescription, thus Jean has to accept that there is nothing he can do to save his nephew.

The Social Contract Theory doesn’t justify Jean’s actions. Under no circumstances would he be able to impersonate a doctor to receive a prescription under this theory. Jean’s actions are not moral because he didn’t abide by the rules that were set in place by the local government.