Initial Post

What is the gap between normative liberty and practical liberty?

According to Brownsword's handbook, the distinction between normative liberty and practical liberty is only a theoretical but impractical alternative. Even though there is no law to forbid doing something, it does not follow that everyone who would like to do it that would be able to do so. (Roger et al., 2016) The reasons can be due to a financial constraint, a legal disagreement, or even the impossibility of the choice, among other things. For reducing the gap, it is necessary to understand how these constraints affect the actual possibilities.

Immanuel Kant, a philosopher of freedom, stated that to achieve freedom of choice and action from restraint by external forces, as well as even from one's own simple inclinations, one must first submit their inclinations to the principle of reason and its demand for objectivity, which Kant ultimately refers to as "autonomy." (Paul, 2010)

To prevent normative liberty, the government should overcome all technical barriers and restraints. On the other hand, citizens need to be aware that practical liberty has restrictions that are governed by laws and for certain purposes. The government may strike a balance between freedom and national security, and where appropriate, it might heed suggestions from the general population to garner greater support.

References

Paul, G. (2010) Freedom: will, autonomy*. Key Concepts - A Philosophical Introduction*: 85-102. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/UPO9781844654758.006

Brownsword, R., Scotford, E. & Yeung, K. (2016) *The Oxford Handbook of Law, Regulation and Technology*. Oxford University Press. Available from: https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/27999/chapter/211731564 [Accessed 25 September 2022].