

**The Consequentialism Debate**

**Student's Name**

**Course Name**

**Course Title**

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**Due Date**

## **The Consequentialism Debate**

The Consequentialist debate details that if there is a goal that is moral enough then any method that is used remains suitable. Simply, the notion is that morally right deeds are those that have the best consequence.

### **Compare and Contrast deontology and utilitarianism.**

Utilitarianism is termed as the concept advocating for the precise deed to be assumed with the aim of benefiting the greatest number of individuals. The notion of utilitarianism is applied even when the act will harm an innocent person. In contrast, deontology is labeled as ethics detailing the commitment, responsibility, as well as moral duty. Deontology focuses more on the moral aspects of an action and not the consequences that it brings. The principle of deontology believes that some actions are always wrong, despite the consequences (Conway, & Gawronski, 2013). For instance, in a situation where an individual lies so as to attain a desirable outcome, deontologists term this as unacceptable.

Simply, deontology can be described as the understanding as well as practice that there exists respect for life, honest, in addition to fairness in spite of the consequences and without considering the impact on the minority. Assuming the best choice and then the right actions that presents the ultimate results can be summarized as utilitarianism if it is for a larger number of the populace. Nonetheless, the two philosophies have weaknesses. Utilitarianism critics for examples argue that the philosophy advocates for the enslaving of a small group of populace so as to assist the larger group. Conversely, deontology critics argue that as a result of its inflexibility it doesn't permit for extraordinary situations where a morally questionable act avoids any form of harm to others individuals (Gray, & Schein, 2012).

**Briefly discuss the differences between Bentham and Mill's versions of utilitarianism.**

The fact that Bentham wrote his version in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century while Mill on the other hand wrote his in the 19<sup>th</sup> century presents the initial difference because the social as well as political contexts were different at the times they wrote. Consecutively, Bentham notion was that there was a possibility to measure compare, and calculate pleasure and pain that as a result of the deeds according to the seven criteria he formulated. This notion was called felicific calculus by Bentham. According to Conway and Gawronski (2013), this meant that every act that individuals plan to undertake ought to be gauged by the units of pleasure in numbers that it yields or is expected to yield, in every category among the seven; where the most accurate act will come out as the lone that gives the maximum number of points.

Mill on the other hand understands that there are difficulties in coming up with the quantitative measurements where he redirects the viewpoint from quantity to the quality of pleasure. Mill differentiates pleasures as higher pleasures and lower pleasures. The higher pleasures are those that are related to the mind and bring happiness whereas lower pleasures are those that are related with the body and in turn bring contentment (Gray, & Schein, 2012). Mill believed that a good presented by a deed had to be equaled by any discontent that an individual felt, and this computation ought to be formulated for all individuals instantly impacted as a result of the deed.

**Discuss the political and ethical implication of utilitarianism.**

In the fields of politics utilitarianism has based the power of ruling administration as well as the purity of people rights on their utility and the purity of individual rights upon their value (Gray, & Schein, 2012). This leads to the provision of alternative theories of natural law, social contract

or natural rights. Utilitarian's have continuously held democracy as an approach of having the interest of the ruling administration coinciding with the interest of the populace.

From the principle of utilitarianism the common good is not necessarily the sum of the interests of the populace. Without a doubt, people that are prone to political action and help under the influence of utilitarian ethics will mostly be to make a decision favoring the supposed collective interest over and against that of the individual. Notably, there is need to question what will happen to human rights because as this happens the human rights seem to be sacrificed and set aside as being unimportant. In most democratic countries, over the last 100 year there has been the destruction of human liberty that has taken place due to the sacrifice of human rights.

According to Gray & Schein (2012), in communist countries where the leaders were seeking to establish the workers' paradise, utilitarianism served as the justification for the mass murders of millions of people that were innocent.

In a simple manner, utilitarianism does not present any cohesive approach to distinguish among the various groups that compete amongst one another in political deliberations and as a result fail to offer a sufficient guide for ethical human action (Gray, & Schein, 2012). The failure of utilitarianism at this point is tremendously essential for an entire host of policy concerns. Among these entails the concern of the government's provision of public goods needs some consideration.

## **2. Explain virtue ethics and care ethics and discuss how these approaches offer an alternative to the deontological and utilitarian focus on how we should act.**

Virtue ethics is amongst the key methods to ethical action that highlight the qualities or even the honorable personality as compared to giving emphasis to obligations or even regulations

(deontology) or giving emphasis to action outcomes (utilitarianism) (Conway, & Gawronski, 2013). In a situation that an individual is in need ought to get help. A utilitarian will aim that the outcomes of doing good presents utmost wellbeing. A deontologist in contrast will view that performing so the representative will be performing as per morale rule which states do unto others what you would like to be done to you. A virtue ethicist who helps will be viewed from a fact fact that assisting is charitable as well as benevolent. As a result, it is noticeable that virtue ethics define theories that put emphasis on the role of a character and a virtue in moral philosophy as opposed to either completing one's duty so as to have good outcomes (Gray, & Schein, 2012).

Virtue ethics advocates that individuals ought to not consider what actions are likely to turn the universe into a better place or even the standards that are to be obeyed however ought to focus on the kind of moral individuals yearn to be in their deeds. Ethics of care on the other hand opine that there exists moral consequence in essential features of relationships in addition to addictions in life. Care ethicists emphasize that the foundation for the moral fears ought to be peoples' emotive reactions to them. Continuously, the ethicists support that where there are distinct relationships then there is a large likelihood of distinct moral responsibilities. If individuals do not take care of the welfares of other humans that they know are suffering, then they cannot be viewed as caring agents. The caring agent ought to have a care response to those that suffer. As a result, there is a need to always act looking in the direction of concerns over the interests of individuals who can feel suffering and wellbeing.

### References

- Conway, P., & Gawronski, B. (2013). Deontological and utilitarian inclinations in moral decision making: a process dissociation approach. *Journal of personality and social psychology, 104*(2), 216.
- Gray, K., & Schein, C. (2012). Two minds vs. two philosophies: Mind perception defines morality and dissolves the debate between deontology and utilitarianism. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology, 3*(3), 405-423.