Justice and Ethical Dilemmas

Your Name (First M. Last)

School or Institution Name (University at Place or Town, State)

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**Ethics:**

Ethics is the standard of behavior of individuals that tells the action or decision individuals make in different circumstances and within some specific relation, i.e. as children, friends, parents, colleagues, etc. Professionals have their own code of ethics (“HSS-VCSKILLS-15,” n.d.). There are five approaches of ethical standards which are:

**The Utilitarian Approach:**

This approach enables individuals to make a decision which does the least harm. In other words, we can say that a decision that results in the greatest happiness for the maximum number of individuals.

**The Rights Approach:**

Every individual has the ability to select a pattern of life. The right approach means the decision or action an individual makes and it results in moral rights and respects for the individuals who would be affected by the decision.

**The Fairness or Justice Approach:**

This approach claims that any ethical decision that individuals make should possess equality. In other words, actions should treat all individuals equally. Sometimes it becomes necessary to treat individuals unequally at this point fairly based action should be made and that decision should be defensible.

**The Common Good Approach:**

Individuals live in the society and they have to interact with others. Therefore, it is necessary that interaction should be on the basis of ethical reasoning. Compassion, care, and respect are the basic requirements for ethical reasoning.

**The Virtue Approach:**

Virtue ethics is directly related to the person rather than his action. Virtues are nature and habits of the individuals. It includes self-control, fidelity, tolerance, honesty, compassion, love, and tolerance.

**Comparison and Contrast of two approaches:**

Above five approaches cover all the ethical standards which are different from each other, but some approaches have similarities among them. The fairness or justice approach and the right approach are similar because both approaches cover the welfare of society. For example, whenever individual needs to make a decision which can affect other people as well then he will follow the two approaches at the same time i.e. the right approach which will allow him to think for the mutual interest rather than self-interest and at the same time he will follow the fairness or justice approach that means he will make a decision which will be in favor of all the people and will not create any harm for anyone. Two approaches "The common good" and "The virtue" approaches are entirely different. In the common good approach, individual serve the society as a whole while in the virtue approach each action is directly related to the person who is making the decisions.

**Approach for criminal justice professionals:**

The fairness and justice approach is the most appropriate for criminal justice professionals to aid them in making decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas. For example, if a judge needs to take the final decision for a person about his crime, the judge needs to be unbiased. The fairness and justice approach suggest the professionals or judge make- a decision without any favoritism or personal point of view. The obligation of all the laws and regulations should be fulfilled. Both the parties should be treated equally. It makes it easier for the judge to find whether the person is culprit or innocent which results in the least harm in the society (University, n.d.).

It is possible that different judges use different ethical decision-making approach which according to them is better suited to the specific segment of criminal justice. For example, there is the case of high speeding and judge needs to decide whether a person should be sentenced to the jail or fine should be imposed on him. One judge may use the utilitarian approach and make the decision of fine while other follow the fairness or justice approach and sentence him six-month jail because he already made the same decision on same type of case before (“Ethical Dilemmas of Justice,” n.d.).

References

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