M3 Discussion Board

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The case study revolves around the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Research study that took place from From 1932-1972. The study was conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service to study the disease, syphilis in African-American. After reading the case, it can be understood that the participants used as objects of study took part in it because they were kept un-informed of what was going on in reality. They were told by the public health officials that they are being tested for bad blood. In addition, the target population was living in extreme poverty and pitiable living conditions, with poor sanitation and dirty floors (Fourtner, Fourtner, & Freeman Herreid, 1994). Besides, the miserable population was ready to participate in because they were awarded money for burial.

The research study violated a range of ethical principles. First of all, the participants were kept uninformed of the real objective of the study and it was conducted on a population that had never been to a doctor so they were unaware of reality. In addition, after the penicillin was discovered as the treatment for syphilis, the patients were left untreated to track the full progression of ailment. No effective care was provided to the patients, eventually, a number of people died of syphilis. Most of them also suffered from poor health consequences. Moreover, participants of the study had no medical ethics training.

I believe, it is not possible to conduct such an experiment these days. Regulations have been made after World War II that given the human and animal subject research. Ethical training programs guide the researchers and the monitoring committees and review boards emphasize the rights of the research subject (Reverby, 2001). No such study similar to that of Nazi experiments or Tuskegee Syphilis Research can be conducted in an environment of research guided by a range of international, global and local regulations and their strict governance.

# References

Fourtner, A. W., Fourtner, C. R., & Freeman Herreid, C. (1994). Bad blood-A case study of the Tuskegee syphilis project. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, *23*, 277–277.

Reverby, S. M. (2001). *Tuskegee: Could it happen again?* The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine.