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Ethics Research on Drug Testing Welfare Recipients

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Ethics Research on Drug Testing Welfare Recipients

Presentation Outline

Introduction

Since federal financial support for the deprived was changed into the period limited, job fixated Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) initiative, drug misuse amongst welfare recipients have returned like a major and contentious worry frequently (ASPE, 2011). As a result, there have existed heated legislative disputes in recent years about welfare policy for those with drug delinquency convictions, in addition to suggestions to make drug tests a situation of admissibility.

The Advantages of Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

Main point 1: Rational usage of public funds.

- A small number of people whose levies fund the welfare scheme would agree that their money should be used to help people on welfare to purchase drugs, so proponents of compulsory drug testing claim that systematic drug assessments would guarantee that people on prosperity were spending their money on food, housing, and other necessities rather than drugs.

Main point 2: Identifying people who require drug addiction therapy.

- Substance misuse is an issue that affects the entire society, not just the people who use drugs.
- Mandatory drug testing assists in identifying people who need substance addiction treatment to get it, and it saves currency in the long run, according to drug testing supporters.

Main point 3: Alternate drug testing approaches are available.

- Even though universal substance testing of all welfare candidates is not economical, a policy can be restructured.

Main point 4: Guide in the labor market.

- Representatives of state administrations have claimed that because businesses frequently require drug testing.

Main point 5: Prolonged welfare use is discouraged.

- Increasing the number of conditions for benefits pushes people to look for a job and avoid the accounts and other burdensome organizational prosperity requirements.

The Disadvantages of Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

Main point 1: Underprivileged stewardship of public funds

- Challengers of compulsory drug analysis contend that the cost of testing outweighs the savings received through testing.

Main point 2: Constitutional violation.

- Violation of people's constitutional rights to be free from irrational searches.

Main point 3: Marginalization of people on welfare.

- Critics of drug analysis legislation contend that mandatory drug testing for welfare applicants perpetuates their perception of drug abusers.

Main point 4: Children are denied welfare assistance due to drug testing.

- ¹ The Department of Health and Human Services suggests that children made up about 75% ¹ of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants (ASPE, 2011).

Opinion

- Testing welfare clients for drugs are not an ethical policy. Rather than enacting policies that are likely to cause more harm than benefit, the national government needs to make drug management accessible to more individuals who willingly pursue it.
- Excluding drug users from benefits could help to achieve the goal of decreasing welfare funds expended on drugs.
- The expenses of achieving this goal would be far too high, preventing individuals from sustaining their fundamental necessities, intensifying economic adversity and health concerns, increasing criminality as individuals seek alternative sources of assistance, and resulting in harmful consequences for youngsters.
- This is the right approach to be implemented because excluding people from benefits is likely to harm their ability to find work.
- Consequently, this opinion coincides with the practical approach since it focuses mainly on drug testing outcomes.
- I think that referring drug addicts to treatment may help to moderately reduce drug usage and, as a result, welfare payments spent on drugs. However, based on the research, it's unclear whether treatment would boost employability.

Conclusion

What is evident is that if other constraints to employment are not resolved, gains in these areas are unlikely to be very helpful. Treatment's implications on child wellbeing are likewise debatable. Following parental therapy, certain studies in the United States revealed an increased probability of child abuse charges. According to Monash University (2019), welfare drug testing schemes are more likely to raise than decrease overall government expenditure. Although there are some moderately favorable impacts, this policy's expenses and disadvantages on welfare

recipients, drug users, and the public generally are too great to justify any affirmative consequences. Lastly, the manifestation of costs and afflictions is more likely than realizing any favorable consequences based on the facts.

Discussion Questions

- Is drug testing welfare recipients ethical?
- What is the objective of welfare drug testing?
- What proof does the federal government possess to warrant the drug tests conducted on welfare recipients?

References

- ASPE. (2011, 11 October). *Drug Testing Welfare Recipients: Recent Proposals and Continuing Controversies*. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/drug-testing-welfare-recipients-recent-proposals-continuing-controversies-0>
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