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Utilitarianism and Deontological Ethics

Utilitarianism ethics proposes actions are considered morally right only if maximizing positive and minimizing the bad. Many contemporary utilitarians for example John Stuart together with Jeremy Bentham consider the good as pleasure or well-being. For that reason, on this particular view, actions are only morally right if they tend to maximize pleasure or well-being or reducing suffering. Contrarily, Heinzlmann (2018) argues that deontological ethics bases morality on certain obligations and duties and claims that various actions are fundamentally right or wrong, meaning right or wrong in themselves, irrespective of the outcome may precede from those engagements. An action or choice is made right by its conformity with a moral norm. Therefore, an agent is responsible for acting in harmony with a moral norm, notwithstanding the possibly valuable effects of behaving otherwise.

The categories of unethical police behavior are safeguarding the law and protecting citizens' privileges. Every police swear an oath to protect the law and protect people's legal rights. The ethical issue arises in the capacity to uphold the two when they are conflicting. An example of this instance is in the subsequent drug wars. When someone is with illegal drugs, they are likely to face jail time. However, Bradford et al. (2020) maintain that the police cannot reflect this right to life and freedom concerns since they would be breaking the law if they failed to detain and charge the individual. This occurrence forces the police to act in the best concern of the nation rather than an individual.

The second category is the use of necessary force. The famous black lives matter movement focuses on the use of excessive and unnecessary force by law enforcers. Police officers have the right to use the required force to maintain the law. However, in some cases, the

excessive use of excessive force is unjustifiable hence unethical. Therefore, police officers find themselves in a dilemma of weighing out when and when not to use force.

Finally, profiling is another category of unethical police behavior and has been a major factor of policing throughout the years. Although officers should use their judgment and discretion in determining the suitable course of action based on different cases, this has not been the case (Bradford et al., 2017). Unfortunately, the current society is full of stereotypes and wrong assumptions resulting in ethical and racial profiling. Police on duty have limited time to evaluate a situation and internally break down societal imposed belief systems that direct his actions.

Civil liability refers to a legal responsibility that requires a party to compensate or follow other court enforcement in a complaint. According to 42 U.S. Code, Section 1983, if a state actor employs the legal structure to violate someone's constitutional rights, the person possesses the cause of action against the individual in the form of civil liability lawsuit and a cause of action against the responsible action is provided (Officials, 2020).

References

Bradford, B., Milani, J., & Jackson, J. (2017). Identity, legitimacy and “making sense” of police use of force. *Policing: An International Journal*.

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