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Morality Questions

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Morality Questions

Question 1

Different individuals have varying moral principles; therefore, it depends on what a person believes in. Similarly, other ethical principles are absolute because they are founded on universal truths. According to Kant (1785), moral principles are rules that individuals live by to ensure they operate on the right thing. Some of the ethical principles that make individuals do the right thing are fairness and equality. The two different moral principles include absolute and relative principles. Some of the examples of fundamental ethical principles are not to kill or respecting another person's property among others.

On the other hand, relative moral principle is founded on ideas and situations that can change with time or from one individual to another. Therefore, an example provided is a relative moral principle, and it is based on same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage is allowed in the constitution; although many people would say that it is ethical for individuals of same-sex gender to get married, more people would still be happy when it is not allowed. Relative moral principle depends on individuals' beliefs, and different people have varying views depending on their background. For instance, when an individual says something is good, such as supporting same-gender marriage, the other person will disagree because their belief does not support the moral principle. Therefore, this will make the situation morally wrong for those who do not believe in same-sex marriage; on the other hand, the other group will support the idea and view it as morally right and be happy.

Question 2

Immanuel Kant and Stuart Mill had disagreed on some situations on what should be moral. Kant claimed that the ultimate belief of morals is a norm in rationality and is called the categorical imperative. Therefore, Kant added that categorical imperative is an impartial, judiciously essential, and unrestricted principle that individuals must abide by irrespective of the natural requirements or dispositions. Kant (1785) established the ground opinion of metaphysics of morals that Kant explained as the priori or honest belief that can be used in all cultures and times. He also examined the notions of goodwill and duty. On the other hand, Stuart argued that utilitarianism is the foundation of morals. Therefore, the utilitarianism principle argues that actions are right in proportion because they encourage general happiness. The disagreement between Kant and Mill on what is moral is immense because Mill disagrees with Kant that the obligation must determine individuals' morals. Consequently, Mill claims that individuals are controlled by the desire to be happy. An example of a situation in which Kant and Mill disagree on morally best is when a person wants to be rich. Kant argues that an action is morally best or wrong based on its maxim, while Mill claims best on the consequences. Therefore, since Kant states that the individuals' actions are driven by desire, it will be morally right for one to steal as much as possible to be rich; on the other hand, Mill focuses on the consequence of an action. The result of stealing for one to be rich is morally wrong because stealing is universally wrong.

Question 3

Kant's ethical theory is created on the foundation of intrinsic value. According to O'Neill (2013), claimed that Kant considers that anything that has moral worth is for it to have goodwill. Therefore, individuals considered as independent lucid ethical agents are those that have intrinsic moral value. Similarly, the worth of individuals makes them warrant moral respect hence making Kant's moral theory to be called the respect for persons. Moreover, the ethical principle defined

by Kant is categorical imperative; this argues differently from the hypothetical imperative because hypothetical tells individuals what they need to do to attain their goals. However, categorical imperative states that ethical motives surpass other kinds of reasons. O'Neill (2013) emphasized one of the theories linked with Kant is deontological, and it argues that some actions are right or wrong based on a comprehensive set of rules. Therefore, activities that respect these laws are moral, while those not respect are not morally right. On the other hand, some actions can be intuitively correct, and Kantian ethical theory is wrong. For example, if a murderer is chasing the victim and one sees where the victim has hidden. When the murderer asks where the victim is, it will be right based on Kantian ethics to tell the truth where the victim is. However, an action is intuitively right when people view the effort as right based on feeling and judgment. Therefore, it is intuitively wrong for a person to say the truth to the murderer because it is logically correct for one to save a life.

References

Kant, I. (1785). Groundwork of the metaphysics of morals. (1785).

O'Neill, O. (2013). Kantian approaches to some famine problems. *ETHICA*, 510.

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