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Ethics: Case Study The theory of utilitarianism, which s that a person should act in such a way to produce the best consequence, can play a critical role in decision on the investment project. Choosing to invest in this project will have an implication on the surrounding due to the gases released from the energy plant. Additionally, there may be contamination from waste pits that result from oil drilling. The surrounding area could further experience change in weather patterns as well as acid rain that will corrode buildings and wilt plants.
However, the project will also benefit the community since it will be a source of employment to the local people. The project will further result in the region’s infrastructure develop as well as increase trading activities. According to the theory of utilitarianism, an act should be classified as immoral only if its consequences are so severe that people would wish the agent of that action obliged to act otherwise (Hinman 142). Despite its effects on the environment, the positive consequences of this project outweigh the negative consequences mainly due to its economic significance to the region.
In addition to the above macro issues, several micro issues too should also be considered. Investing in this project involves both money and time and getting returns from these two investments will be significant to personal happiness, according to the theory of eudemonia, which states that the ultimate goal of human life is happiness and good life. This goal can be achieved by practicing virtues in one’s daily life and is defined as a quality that allows a person to succeed at an idea (Hinman 145). In this sense, the investment is recommended as long as it promises personal happiness. The investment should therefore be implemented as both theories support it.
Works Cited
Hinman, Lawrence. Ethics: A Pluralistic Approach to Moral Theory. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Pub Co, 2013. Print.