

The right to assisted suicide



Insert His/her Insert Insert Insert The Right to Assist Suicide Introduction:

Every individual of this world is born to live a life according to his own wishes. He is free to live the life the way he wants to as he is the only owner of his life. No one has any right to pressurize one to change his way of living. Because, every individual on this Earth is responsible for all the happiness, joy, pain, sorrow and misery that he bears in his life and he is the only one who actually feels the circumstances he is going through and what problems he counters while undergoing all those circumstances. This topic clearly indicates towards the right towards assisted suicide. Need for the right to assist suicide: “ We charged both for two different aspects of what he did. It started as an assisted suicide and turned into a murder.” (John Skrzynski)

The above quoted saying by John Skrzynski, describes the complete need for the right to assist suicide. This issue can be illustrated by an example of a genetic engineer who loved his life and was a happy being. One fine day, as he was working in his lab, he met a brutal accident. This accident proved to be quite severe and led him to serious injuries which could not be cured at any cost. Further, he had skin cancer that tortured his body. He had lost his eyes, both hands and half of his right leg. Life had almost ended for him. He couldn't even eat properly due to his disease. According to the predictions of oncologists, his estimated remaining life was 1 and a half year. The hidden cancer had now advanced to a stage that could not be cured, neither could he beautify the last stages of his life as he was now a handicap. Life seemed to act as a punishment for him. It became nearly impossible for him to wait for a whole 1 and a half year. He started feeling that dying would be far easier than to spend a life of such crucial pain. Therefore, one day he asked a very close friend to kill him as he could not endure any more pain. His

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friend, realizing his pain, acted upon what was requested to him and killed him, for which he was blamed to have committed murder. Right to suicide is and has always been a legal act. But, right to assist suicide should also be legal. A person who wishes to die kills himself, for which it is said to be his right to die as it was his life which he wanted to end, But, what about a handicap? A person who wants to die but, due to his physical conditions is not able to perform suicide is helpless. Therefore, in such cases, the right to assist suicide should be accepted legally instead of naming this act as ‘murder’. Rapid and dramatic development in the medical science has no doubt played a vital role in saving the lives of many people, as well as prolonging the lives of dying individuals. But, at the same time, these developments are not yet enough to save the lives of some people like a case stated above. At such circumstances, it is the right of the patient to take the decision of his life. Every person has a moral right to choose freely what he wishes to do with his life as long as he inflicts no harm to others but, due to some uncontrollable conditions, is not able to accomplish his desired task. Therefore, such people should be assisted when they are in need and their desperate desire to die should be respected. The people chosen to help such individuals in their desired act should be given legal permission along with their signatures on legal agreement papers, so that, their help may be considered as ‘the right to assist suicide’ and not at any circumstance a ‘murder’.

References For the right of the terminal, hopelessly physically ill, competent adult, 2011. www.assistedsuicide.org Sandeen, P. Living with dying. 2011. www.deathwithdignity.org Rodriguez, S. The fight for the right to die, 1992. www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2009/02/09/f-assisted-suicide.html