



Philosophy

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India

<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Euthanasia: An Ethical Perspective

- **Medha Bharti • Soni Kumari • Gita Kumari**
- **Ameeta Jaiswal**

Received : November 2011
Accepted : March 2012
Corresponding Author : Ameeta Jaiswal

Abstract : *The ethical issue of Euthanasia or the right to death is posing a challenge to the entire human civilization. Literally, the word "Euthanasia" refers to the painless or mercy killing of a person who is either terminally ill or is suffering from an incurable disease. Euthanasia primarily concerns whether death is a right of every individual or not and involves several moral themes like the intrinsic value of human life and dignity, human freedom, right of choice, etc. With the objective of discussing these moral questions involved in euthanasia, a survey was conducted through interface*

discussions and questionnaire with fifty persons belonging to different strata of society. In the course of investigation it was found that majority of people were of the opinion that euthanasia could be allowed in exceptional cases where there is no hope of recovery but under certain guarded conditions.

Key words – *Euthanasia, terminally ill, human freedom, intrinsic value.*

Medha Bharti

B.A. III year, Philosophy (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Soni Kumari

B.A. III year, Philosophy (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Gita Kumari

B.A. III year, Philosophy (Hons.), Session: 2009-2012,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Ameeta Jaiswal

Head, Department of Philosophy,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : ajphilpwc@gmail.com

Introduction :

Euthanasia or the ethical issue of 'Right to Death' is posing a challenge to the entire world. There is an extensive debate on this issue mainly to discuss whether it should be legalized or not and whether the doctors be legally allowed to deliver a person troubled by severe pain or suffering from incurable disease. Moreover, the subject of Euthanasia is being discussed openly. Some of the practices that were controversial five years ago in the care of the dying patient have become accepted and routine. For example, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, non-existent, only a few years ago, are now common. Many physicians and ethicists have come to the opinion that it is ethical to