HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
LIBERAL STUDIES
INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY STUDY

Project Title: Should euthanasia be implemented in Hong Kong?

Year of examination: 2018
Candidate number: 
Number of words in the report: 4436
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Enquiry question

Should euthanasia be implemented in Hong Kong?

Social significance of the enquiry question

Background Information

Euthanasia is first employed by a Christian, Sir Thomas More, who encourages euthanasia when people have terminal sickness and unbearable pain. Euthanasia was further discussed in 16th century and then started to be legalized in 20th century.

The Netherlands is the first country to legalize euthanasia, followed by Belgium, Luxembourg and Oregon and other countries.

In Hong Kong, Tang Siu-pun’s (Ah Bun) case stirred up the awareness of euthanasia locally. Ah Bun appealed to the Chief Executive in 2004 for euthanasia because he became paralysed after practicing gymnastics and hoped to die with dignity. He changed his mind that he wanted to stay alive, however he believed of the right to make choice over life or death, this starts the controversy of euthanasia. The legalization of some foreign countries and the case of Ah Bun make euthanasia a hot topic in Hong Kong and the world.

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Social significance

Euthanasia is worth studying because of its controversy worldwide and Hong Kong citizens are widely discussing it.

Consideration of euthanasia is important to Hong Kong because of the growing ageing population, which causes a higher percentage of citizens suffering from chronic diseases. In this case, more elderly citizens and their families will be suffering physically and mentally. If euthanasia is legalized, it can rapidly reduce citizens suffering.

2 tragedies happened in July, 2017. Firstly, a 58-year-old man, Au Kin-ming who suffered from a skin condition committed suicide after strangling his 56-year-old wife, Fung Shuk-ying, who suffered from dementia because he felt hopeless of his wife’s illness. 3 Secondly, a 80-year-old man killed his disabled wife due to the fear that no one would take care of her if he were severely sick. 4 These 2 cases had ring a bell on Hong Kong citizens, and showed implementation of euthanasia should really be considered in the current stage to prevent similar murders from happening again. This caused an array of views in Hong Kong: some said euthanasia should be implemented to meet social, psychological and physical needs of elderly, while some said euthanasia should not be implemented due to ethical and family issues.

With an in-depth research of euthanasia (i.e. the impact on different stakeholders, the feasibility of implementing euthanasia in Hong Kong), it provides direction to whether euthanasia should be considered or not, and hence suitable actions can be taken.

**Research objectives**

1. Research whether implementing euthanasia will cause more benefits or harm to stakeholders in Hong Kong including the chronically ill patients, corresponding families and medical staff (i.e. doctors, nurses).

2. From the experience of other countries, investigate whether Hong Kong is suitable to implement euthanasia.

3. Access the feasibility of implementing euthanasia in Hong Kong.

**Focus questions**

1. Why should euthanasia be implemented?

2. Why should euthanasia not be implemented?
Part B: Relevant Concepts and Knowledge/ Facts/ Data

Concepts involved:

Euthanasia

‘Euthanasia’ also called ‘mercy killing is defined as ‘easy death’. It is the act of killing an incurably ill person painlessly. 5

Euthanasia is to kill a very sick person to relieve their pain. 6 Its major uses are for people who have incurable conditions which their pain is unbearable. In many cases, euthanasia is carried out at the sick patient’s request, but the decision can also be made by relatives, medical staff or even the court when the patient is too sick.

Euthanasia includes both active and passive ways. Active euthanasia occurs when the medical professionals take actions in doing something that cause the patient to die, assisted suicide and lethal injection are the common examples. 7 While passive euthanasia, so called indirect euthanasia, occurs when the medical professionals don't do or stop doing something necessary to keep the patient alive. Disconnecting a feeding tube and making 'do not resuscitate' orders are examples of euthanasia.

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Legalization of euthanasia

Legalization is defined as making something legal. In this case, it is to make euthanasia as a legal act. It includes two categories: active euthanasia and passive euthanasia.

Importance of concepts to the enquiry question:

If euthanasia is to be implemented in Hong Kong, it is necessary to know if both active and passive euthanasia is passed in the law. In other countries like the Netherlands and Belgium, active euthanasia can be charged as murder or manslaughter, so it should be clear to state the regulations of euthanasia in Hong Kong if it is going to be adopted, to clarify social’s misunderstanding and avoid charge of murder or manslaughter.

Legalization of euthanasia is controversial. In one’s eye, euthanasia should be implemented because of its benefits. It relieves the unbearable pain and the negative psychological feelings of terminally ill patients, and alleviates family’s financial burden too. Besides human rights are significant, people should be able to make independent decisions with respect to their will.

However, some people think euthanasia shouldn’t be implemented because of its harm. Family members may feel guilty for the patient’s death afterwards, causing negative thoughts. Besides, medical technology is rapidly improving, the incurable disease nowadays may be healed in the future. Also, euthanasia is mainly conducted by doctors (e.g. the decision of dose amount), it will cause great burden to doctors.

Chinese traditional belief

Confucianism has been a major hallmark of Chinese culture. Filial piety is an important value in Confucianism, stating that “respecting and supporting the family’s senior members and handling their funeral affairs” are duties of younger generations, and “caring for the old and nurturing the young” are fundamental family virtues. Besides, there is a saying: Our

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8 Hong Kong - Confucianism, <www.marimari.com/content/hong_kong/general_info/religion/confucianism/main.html> Accessed 4 Nov. 2017

bodies—to every hair and bit of skin—are received from our parents, which we can’t presume to injure or wound ourselves since our parents will be upset.

**Importance of the concept to the enquiry question**

Hong Kong citizens are mostly educated with the traditional values as a Chinese in the past, however in modern days, Western cultures penetrates into the education of youngsters. To determine whether euthanasia is suitable to be implemented in Hong Kong, it has to be investigated if Hong Kong citizens are strongly influenced by the traditional values, and this affects the legalization of euthanasia. The Hong Kong citizens can be divided into teens and adults.

Hong Kong adults, they have strong concepts of “guan” and “xiao shun,”\(^\text{10}\) the values that they have been exposed to since they were young. They believe that taking care of a senior member is their duty, they will prefer to take care of them rather than using euthanasia to alleviate the sick’s pain, the adults will then find euthanasia unacceptable.

Since family members are one of the important stakeholders, their preference towards euthanasia is important. The teenagers will tend to agree with the use of euthanasia, however adults will tend to oppose euthanasia.

Chinese teens have been exposed to more Western influences since the introduction of foreign trade to China more than 30 years ago\(^\text{11}\), which they will put into practice in their lifestyle. They may prefer to consider the benefits to the suffered family members rather than blindly follow the traditional value of ‘supporting family’s senior member until death’, which they may find euthanasia acceptable for the good of the sick ones.

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\(^{10}\) “Beliefs, Values and Customs of Chinese Parents.” *How To Adult*, <oureverydaylife.com/beliefs-values-customs-chinese-parents-15904.html> Accessed 4 Nov. 2017

Morality of medical staff

Morality is defined as a set of personal or social standards for good or bad behavior and character and the quality of being right, honest, acceptable.\(^\text{12}\)

In the medical field, medical workers have to follow medical ethics (i.e. behavior of medical personnel, directed toward maximum benefit of treatment), that they must pay maximum attention and apply all his knowledge in order to restore patients’ health or bring relief to their sufferings.\(^\text{13}\)

Importance of the concept to the enquiry question

As a doctor are you in favour of either of the following?

Figure 1: The percentage of doctors in favour with euthanasia in UK\(^\text{14}\)

\(^{12}\) “「morality」在英語詞典中的解釋及翻譯.” Morality 在劍橋英語詞典中的解釋及翻譯. <dictionary.cambridge.org/zh/HK/A9%E8%85%B8%8B%E8%AA%9E/morality>. Accessed 4 Nov. 2017


Whether euthanasia should be legalized, it depends on the evolution of medical ethics. In the past, doctors must pay full effort to ‘cure’ patients (e.g. by surgery, therapy). In modern days, with the discussion of euthanasia, medical ethics may be modified. Euthanasia is ‘mercy killing’ can be morally right since it brings the greatest happiness to terminally-ill patients. This satisfies the objective of medical ethics that it restores the mental health and brings relief to their sufferings. However, from figure 1, only 22% of doctors are in favour of euthanasia since it may violate the morality of medical staff themselves since it is an act of killing and they may not accept it.

**Methodology:**

My source will be derived from some secondary sources such as worldwide news, supporters and critics’ opinions, and some official documents from the government and other associations. Besides, some statistics will also be derived to show the people’s preference towards euthanasia. I will also carry out an interview with a doctor to see his/her stance on whether euthanasia should be implemented or not. The data will be used to analyze whether euthanasia should be implemented in Hong Kong.
Analytical Framework

Enquiry Question:
Should euthanasia be legalized in Hong Kong?

Focus Question 1:
Why should euthanasia be implemented in Hong Kong?

Perspective/ Aspects
1. Chronically-ill patients can die with dignity
2. Reduce impact of ageing population
3. Euthanasia can be carried out successfully with well developed medical system

Focus Question 2:
Why should euthanasia not be implemented in Hong Kong?

Perspective/ Aspects
1. Risk of abuse of euthanasia
2. Physicians will be pressurized
3. Against chinese traditional belief of Hong Kong people.

Stance and Justifications
Euthanasia should not be implemented in Hong Kong.

Parameter
1. Low feasibility in Hong Kong
2. Long term harm vs short term benefits
Part C: In-depth Explanation of the Issue

**FQ1:** Why should euthanasia be legalized in Hong Kong?

**Chronically ill patients can die with dignity**

Figure 1: Number of cancer deaths in Hong Kong\(^\text{15}\)

In Hong Kong, more people are suffering from cancer in the final phase, leading to serious pain. From figure 1, it shows that cancer deaths are on the increasing trend from 11500 deaths in 2003 to 13600 deaths in 2013, with an increase of 18.3\% (3 significant figures), showing that more people died from suffering from cancer. It is because more people are suffering from the final phase of cancer, and it is difficult to be treated. During the final phase of cancer, the symptoms will be more serious and painful. Cancer pain can be acute or chronic and with various types (e.g. nerve pain, bone pain, soft tissue pain and phantom pain) due to radiotherapy, operation or the pressing of tumor.\(^\text{16}\) With a prolonged period, patients are physically and mentally in pain, feeling devastated and hopeless, which being euthanized may be a better relief for them and they can die with dignity.


There was a euthanasia case in Oregon in 2014. Brittany Maynard who had a stage 4 brain cancer ended her suffering with a lethal dose of drugs prescribed by a medical practitioner. Maynard said she wanted to die with dignity since brain cancer has taken a lot from her and more in the future, so decided to relocate to Oregon so she can take advantage of the law to legally end her suffering. It shows that a person suffering from cancer of final phase loses dignity because of her poor medical condition and feel depressed, euthanasia is a way to let the patients to die with dignity.

A survey in Oregon, U.S.A. (a city adopted euthanasia) shows reveals that 66% of cases the reason for patients' requests was because they did not want to be a burden. Chronically ill individuals may feel that they are emotionally, physically and financially drain members of the family because of their being sick, in which their relatives and love ones have to take care of themselves in perspective of contributing in efforts, time and medical expenses. With the above negative thoughts, individuals may find themselves pointless to live, therefore suffering from the blame they created themselves. Therefore, euthanasia is a relief to make chronically ill patients to gain back their dignity.

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Reducing impact of aging population

Aging population in Hong Kong has been the talk of town for years and it is due to the baby boom during post war period and the migrants coming from Mainland China. According to the above graph, the median age of citizens has increased from 37.2 in 2001 to 51.8 in 2041, with an increase of 39%, showing that a large proportion of citizens will be heading to their old ages. Besides, according to government statistics, the proportion of the territory’s population aged 65 and above will be headed to double, to 31% by 2036. When approaching to their old ages, age-related diseases will appear, some of the acute ones are cancers, chronic kidney failure and stroke which affects body function severely. They may suffer from paralysis or incontinence which strikes their dignity, while they may think that their existence is pointless, and hope to have the ‘right to die’, hence euthanasia may be a better choice for relief.

When aging continues with time, more elders will suffer from chronic diseases, so the demand of medication, nursing services and specialists will keep growing, continue even it

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Figure 2: Median population estimated to 2041
exceeds its supply. If patients with chronic diseases or unhealed diseases are allowed to be euthanized, the demand can be relieved.

**Euthanasia can be carried out successfully with well-developed medical system**

The medical system in Hong Kong is advanced because of the government subsidy, hence it is capable for Hong Kong to adopt euthanasia. Government increases financial input on public health care and provides high medical subsidies for individuals. According to the 2017-18 Budget, in 2017-18, recurrent expenditure on healthcare is estimated to be $61.9 billion, with an increase of $3.2 billion by year and accounting for 17 per cent of government recurrent expenditure. It shows that the government increases financial input on public health care and provides higher medical subsidies for individuals and public health services. Besides, for the past several years, HK's government budget for medical health services has increased year-to-year. It shows that the government provides constant financial support to the medical sector to maintain a stable medical development. From the above, it shows that a large amount of capital has been provided to the medical sector constantly, so the medical system is well developed and sustainable, hence the medical sector is capable to sustain euthanasia as a long term service.

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FQ2: Why should euthanasia not be legalized in Hong Kong?

Physicians will be pressurized

According to the Supreme Court in Florida: commented that a state might require reasonable
waiting periods to prevent rash decisions upon euthanasia; multiple medical opinions to
confirm a patient’s terminal status and that the patient has been receiving proper treatment. Besides, According to the interview with Dr. Chan, doctors have to judge whether the
applicant is suitable to undergo euthanasia, doctors may also have meetings with relatives to
discuss the matter, so it actually requires extra work from doctors. The above show that the
decision of euthanasia is time consuming and require multiple confirmations. It adds on the
pressure of physicians. They already have packed schedules and work in the current medical
situations due to the high demand of medical service, the increased workload due to
euthanasia will increase doctors’ pressure, hence deteriorate their performance.

According to the interview with Dr. Chan, physician have to decide whether to apply
euthanasia on permanently ill patients, in which this is a choice over life. Doctor may have a
wrong diagnosis and an inaccurate estimation of the life spent for a chronically patient, it is
impossible to have an exact prediction on one’s health. The above shows doctors’
hesitation and they have a high probability to be guilty about their choice, hence they may be
pressurized.

Risk of abuse of euthanasia

There are several documented cases of abuse in countries where euthanasia and assisted
suicide are legal.

1. In Belgium deaf twins were euthanized at their request because they became blind.
2. In Belgium, a woman was euthanized because she was suffering from anorexia.

24 “Appendix 1” interview with Dr. Chan
25 “Appendix 1” interview with Dr. Chan
3. In Oregon, United States, a woman received a letter from her insurance company refusing to pay for her chemotherapy, but offering assisted suicide instead.  

The first 2 cases show that those individuals undergo assisted suicide (a kind of treatment of euthanasia) because they are tired to live with their disabilities or the medical expenses, but not because they are suffering from life-threatening diseases, showing that abuse of euthanasia is inevitable even the laws are strictly set. While the third case shows that euthanasia became a tool for earning money by the insurance company, it will cause serious impacts since people may be attracted by the profit in it. The ones who are chronically ill may agree to it because they want their family to live a better life with those insurances.

![Euthanasia requests granted in the Netherlands since 2002](image)

**Figure 3: Euthanasia request granted in the Netherlands from 2003 to 2013**

From figure 3, it shows that the rate of euthanasia in Netherlands has been increasing drastically from 1900 in 2003 to 4500 in 2013, with an increase of 137% (3 significant figures). While the orange part (representing sickness other than cancer) increases from 200 from 2003 to 900 in 2013, with an increase of 350% It shows that abuse of euthanasia is one

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of the reason contributing to the drastic increase. There is a "slippery slope" effect that has occurred where euthanasia has been first legalized for only the terminally ill and later laws are changed to allow it for other people or to be done non-voluntarily. “Voluntary” euthanasia puts us at the top of a slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia of people who are considered undesirable. 28

In recent years, various mental health issues have raised the alarm in Hong Kong – including depression and suicide among our youths, special educational needs, elderly dementia, and tragedies caused by early psychosis. 29 With the surge of mental illness in the territory, it is possible that the “slippery slope” effect will happen in Hong Kong if euthanasia is legalized in the future, that abuse of euthanasia may become dominant.

**Against Chinese traditional belief of Hong Kong people**

The act of euthanasia violates the Chinese traditional belief of filial piety. According to the belief of Confucius: “respecting and supporting the family’s senior members and handling their funeral affairs” are duties of younger generations, and “caring for the old and nurturing the young” are fundamental family virtues. 30 Besides, there is a saying: Our bodies—to every hair and bit of skin—are received from our parents, which we can’t presume to injure or wound ourselves since our parents will be upset.

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Figure 4: Research of the family council in 2013 (Filial piety score by gender and age groups excluding students) \(^{31}\)

![Chart 4.9.3: Filial piety score (excluding students) by gender and age group in 2013](image)

Figure 5: Research of the family council in 2013 (practice of filial piety among students)

![Chart 4.9.2: Practice of filial piety among students in 2013 (%)](image)

According to the research of family council in 2013, in figure 4, the average filial piety score (excluding students) is 66 out of 100, which is generally a high mark. In figure 5, 56.4% of students shows care and 63.5% shows respect. The above show that filial piety is still a dominant Chinese value in Hong Kong. Euthanasia is an act of killing, family members will

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31 “Family Suvey” Family Council
oppose because it violates the value of ‘care’, ‘respect’. People who are chronically ill won’t undergo euthanasia either since this act will make parents upset and they want to uphold the value of filial piety instead.
Part D: Judgment and Justification

I believe that euthanasia should not be legalized in Hong Kong. I will further explain my reasons below with data.

Parameter 1: Feasibility – Low feasibility of implementing euthanasia in Hong Kong

Firstly, medical staff in Hong Kong have no experience on euthanasia, hence it is time consuming for them to learn relevant knowledge about euthanasia. According to the interview with Dr. Chan, the process of euthanasia involves a doctor's prescription of stronger or higher amounts of lethal drugs, and the judgements of doctors on whether the applicant is suitable to undergo euthanasia. However, euthanasia never exists in the medical syllabus, that current doctors and medical students have no knowledge or practice about euthanasia. It is time consuming to inserting correct knowledge about euthanasia into the medical syllabus: professors have to design the content of medical education again and learn details of euthanasia before seminars.

Secondly, the current medical system contradicts with the development of euthanasia, so it is difficult for the legalization of euthanasia. The medical system contains security of medicine, which is the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong. According to Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong, one of its functions is the regulatory control of selling, purchasing, compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical products; and registration and classification of pharmaceutical products. According to the press release of government in 2010, the Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board has decided that pharmaceutical products containing propoxyphene should be deregistered for public health protection after risk assessment. Propoxyphene is a kind of effective drug for euthanasia, however it was...

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32 “Appendix 1” interview with Dr. Chan
being banned in the medical sector of Hong Kong. The above show that the import of medicine is highly monitored by the board, so medicines that are highly lethal may not be passed for usage, hence euthanasia may not be feasible.

Some may say that euthanasia can be carried out successfully with well-developed medical system. The medical system in Hong Kong is advanced due to the government subsidy, the government increases financial input on public health care and provides higher medical subsidies for individuals and public health services, hence it is capable for Hong Kong to adopt euthanasia and sustain it as a long term service.

However, capital is not the only factor of legalizing euthanasia, experience of medical labour and level of medical security are also the important factors. They are constraints of legalizing euthanasia: the lack of experience and high level of security of medicine in Hong Kong. No matter how much money can the government subsidize on medical sectors for euthanasia, the constraints will hinder the legalization.
Parameter 2: Long term harm vs short term benefits

![Trends In Data for Oregon Death with Dignity Act 1997-2011](image)

Figure 1: Trends of death with dignity in Oregon from 1997 to 2011

Firstly, the risk of abuse of euthanasia is a long term harm to Hong Kong citizens. From figure 1, the trend of death with dignity increases in the 2 categories of ‘physicians’ and ‘prescription’. The death by physicians increases from 25 in 1998 to 115 in 2011, with a surge of 360%. The deaths by prescriptions increases from 15 in 1998 to 70 in 2011, with a surge of 367% (3 significant figures). It shows that the trend of euthanasia is increasing year by year, and it will continue to increase in the future. It is because of the abuse of euthanasia (i.e. euthanasia is no longer for terminal illness only but other sickness too). For instance, in Belgium, a pair of deaf twins were euthanized at their request because they became blind. Blindness is not a type of terminal disease, but a physical disability. It proves that legalization of euthanasia may lead to a ‘slippery slope effect’, and make the law become more permissive to euthanasia of non-terminal sickness. In a long term, the ‘slippery slope effect’ will become more serious and lead to further abuse of euthanasia. It will be out of control one day.

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Secondly, physicians will be pressurized due to the legalization of euthanasia. From figure 2, 31.4% of the respondent doctors suffered from high burnout. The high burnout doctors state that ‘excessive stress due to global workload’ is one of the dominant reasons of feeling stressful. 9.9% of doctors even have thoughts of suicide. It shows that the demand of medical treatments is high and doctors are already burnt out in present situation. According to the interview with Dr. Chan, doctors and nurses may have meetings with relatives to discuss the matter of euthanasia, and doctors are required to measure the dose of drugs beforehand. If euthanasia is legalized, it heavily adds on the workload of physicians in a long term since the demand of medical treatment is higher due to extra work, they will feel more pressurized and it affects their work performance.

Some may say chronically-ill patients can die with dignity by euthanasia. During final phase of cancer, the symptoms will be more serious and painful. With a prolonged period, patients are physically and mentally in pain, feeling devastated and hopeless, and also a burden to family, which being euthanized may be a better relief for them, and they can die with dignity.

However, it is only a short term benefit. The process of euthanasia is fast so chronically ill patients can be relieved. However, this fast action may bring long harm to family. Family members may feel regret that they ‘killed’ their loved ones and destroyed their lives, they may blame themselves for the rest of their lives, it affects their mental health. In fact, with the more advanced medical technology, terminal illness can be treated in a more acceptable way.

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38 “A survey of doctor’s stress” Original Article
39 “Appendix 1” interview with Dr. Chan
For instance, target therapy is introduced to the treatment of cancer and there is little side effects. It proves that there are other ways for the patients to gain dignity. Some may say the adopt of euthanasia can reduce impact of aging population. When aging continues with time, more elders will suffer from chronic diseases, so the demand of medication, nursing services and specialists will keep growing, continue even it exceeds its supply. If patients with chronic diseases or unhealed diseases are allowed to be euthanized, the demand can be relieved.

However, it is only a short term benefit. Euthanasia may effectively reduce the number of patients in a short time, but in order to sustain euthanasia, the workload of medical staff will increase instead. Euthanasia requires measurement, assessment and discussion, it will add on the workload of medical staff in a long run, that demand of medical services will be even higher.
Reference:

Part A

Newspaper:


Websites:

Part B

Dictionary:


劍橋英語詞典. “「morality」在英語詞典中的解釋及翻譯.” Morality 在劍橋英語詞典中的解釋及翻譯, <dictionary.cambridge.org/zht/%E8%A9%9E%E5%85%B8/%E8%8B%B1%E8%AA%9E/morality.> Accessed 4 Nov. 2017


Journal:


Websites:


**How to Adult.** “Beliefs, Values and Customs of Chinese Parents.” How To Adult, <oureverydaylife.com/beliefs-values-customs-chinese-parents-15904.html.> Accessed 4 Nov. 2017


Part C

Newspaper:


Website:


Article:


Interview:

“Appendix” interview with Dr. Chan

“Appendix” interview with Dr. Chan

Official documents:

Part D

Official document:


Article:


Websites:


Appendix 1

*Interview transcript – interview with a doctor about the implementation of euthanasia*

Date: August 14, 2017
Time: 3:15 p.m. – 3:27 p.m.

**Interviewee:** Dr Chan (a doctor)

**Interviewer:** Me

**Mode of interview:** Personal Interview

Me: Hello Dr Chan. I am ____________, a S6 student from ____________. Thank you for helping with the interview! For this interview, my topic is whether euthanasia should be legalized in Hong Kong and I would like to ask you a few questions.

So my first question is: If euthanasia is legalized, do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages or vice versa?

Dr. Chan: I actually oppose with euthanasia so I definitely think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages instead. The most dominant problem is that patients may not have consent or the mental capacity to make life decision. Besides, abuse problems may also occur. In the worst case, murder crimes may occur that relatives may misinterpret patients’ will and make wrong decisions.

Me: Ok I understand your point. So my second question is: Euthanasia of mental illness, cognitive disorders and dementia are legalized in countries like Belgium, the Netherlands, what do you think?

Dr. Chan: So once again patients may not have the mental capacity to make life decisions and especially the mentally ill. The mentally ill can hardly think objectively or make independent judgements. When they are asked of the choice euthanasia, they may just say yes without any
objective thinking, or due to their emotions but they may not mean to die. Besides as a psychiatrist, I definitely object euthanasia and won’t let my patients undergo euthanasia even if it’s legalized since most mental illness can be cured or relieved with a period of medicine and consultation and I believe that appropriate treatment can control their illness. So death is definitely not the choice.

Me: I understand your belief and thoughts, so here comes the last question: There are people saying that euthanasia for the chronically ill can relieve medical demand and relieve doctors’ pressure, what do you think?

Dr. Chan: It makes sense that some people are thinking of the advantages brought by euthanasia, however it may not relieve the demand. For example, doctors have to judge whether the applicant is suitable to undergo euthanasia, doctors and nurses may also have meetings with relatives to discuss the matter. It also requires the measurement of the dose of drugs such as prescribing stronger or higher amounts of lethal drugs, so it actually requires extra work from doctors. Besides, it may increase doctors’ pressure since they have to make decisions over a person’s life, if they accidentally diagnosis patient wrongly and they undergo euthanasia, doctors may suffer from guilt. So I definitely oppose euthanasia.

Me: I see. I certainly have gained much insights and knowledge. Thanks a lot for your generous help!
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<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Marks*</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>AB 9</td>
<td>• In Parts A and B, the candidate was able to describe the controversy surrounding the issue – from its legalisation in some foreign countries to increasing awareness of euthanasia in Hong Kong.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CD 8</td>
<td>• Detailed background information from various sources, as well as the concepts and knowledge were clearly identified and explained on p.6 to p.10.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PO 8</td>
<td>• Appropriate methodology was deployed. Data collected from secondary sources were used for analysis from different perspectives.</td>
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<td>• In Parts C and D, the candidate demonstrated an in-depth discussion and analysis of both supporting and opposing arguments for euthanasia in the local context. It was highly relevant to the issue concerned and the enquiry question.</td>
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<td>• The part of justification was analysed reasonably from the points of view of medical staff, the current medical system and long term and short term impact.</td>
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<td>• However, more parameters (besides feasibility and time factor) from different perspectives could have been employed to analyse the issue.</td>
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<td>• In general, the report was organised in a systematic and concise manner with clear diagrams, citations and appendices.</td>
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*AB: Problem Definition and Identification of Concepts/Knowledge (Parts A and B)  
CD: Explanation and Justification (Parts C and D)  
PO: Presentation and Organisation (the whole report)