

APPLIED ETHICS: THE CONTROVERSIES ON ABORTION

Abebe BIRU¹

Abtewold MOGES²

^{1,2}Department of Civics and Ethics Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia

E-mail: abebebiru452@gmail.com, habtemoges88@gmail.com

P.O.Box: 378 (C/o of Jimma University), Jimma, Ethiopia

Abstract

This paper attempts to explore the nature of controversial applied issues chiefly it deals with abortion. The author presents the overall of what are the major parts of moral philosophy and a great emphasizes is given to applied ethics. Within this short and precise work dear you will identify those arguments which are against and in favor of abortion. Pro-life and pro-choice abortionist arguments are assessed extensively which pinpoints permissibility or impossibility of abortion. How the dispute of abortion associated with political outlooks was assessed in connection to prominent groups of abortion. A pregnant woman also aborts a fetus because of socio-economic matters and does it is permissible or impossible in light of morality. Finally, the author conclude by identifying those exceptional cases that allow abortion, in favor of

Thomson view and Warren conception of fetus as denial of fact is explored deeply.

Keywords: Applied Ethics abortion, fetus, miscarriage, induced abortion, pro-life and liberalism

1. Introduction

Throughout the history of moral philosophy different debatable issues are appeared and ethicists are questioned on those thoughts deeply. Moral philosophy is divided into three parts namely normative, non-normative, and applied ethics, the classification is based on the content of ethical concerns. Simply normative ethics focus on finding out of norm, principle, standard, value and rules which states that the goodness and badness of individual, or team work whether its moral, or not. Non-normative ethics associated with detecting of moral statement meanings and their fact in connection to moral life. But, applied ethics concern is yonder to the concerns of normative and non-normative ethics. Its task is to deal with controversial issues which have an aspect of moral thoughts.

Applied ethics is the art or science of reflecting on moral dilemmas and moral problems in different social contexts. The terms "applied ethics" and "practical ethics" are used interchangeably to indicate the application of ethics to special arenas of human activity (Childress 1986). According to Childress the word practical or applied indicates of that theories are realized to solve moral dilemmas. Theories with practices are adopted on moral philosophy to settle controversial subjects and this is the hallmark of applied ethics. There are two crucial features for an issue to be considered as an applied ethical issue, these are the act must be a moral issue, and the act must be controversial. And due

this there are at least to two arguments in any of applied controversial issues, because issues to be controversial characterized by the presence of proponent and opponent groups with unlikely arguments aimed at solving of a debatable concerns. Applied issues are many such as, abortion, euthanasia, animal right, justice, racism, sexism, and others. Here below find what an abortion is and how it becomes a controversial issue.

2. Abortion

Abortion is of applied controversial issue and many ethicists debated on this topic critically. Abortion is the dismissal of the conceptus before 28 completed weeks of gestation, or a fetus weighing less than 500g, (Obs and Yaounde, 2007). Abortion is tied with zygote. When a human sperm enters a human ovum, or egg, generally in the upper portion of the fallopian tube, a new entity comes into existence. Zygote is the name of the first cell formed at conception, (Schwarzwalder, 20110). It is completed when a pregnant woman wishes to cease what she has in her body. And it seems to be a technique of ending a gestation, either through using medicines (drugs) or through a surgical procedure. A pregnancy can be spontaneously lost (spontaneous miscarriage) or deliberately terminated (induced miscarriage). “Spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) is an abortion due to accidental trauma or natural causes due to incorrect replication of chromosomes they can also be caused by environmental factors,” (Duhan, 2018). Induced abortion is the abortion that has been caused by deliberate human action, (Ibid). Abortion is spontaneously take place which is not expected and intentionally aborting of a fetus, but due such factors a pregnant woman may lost her fetus due biological or physical problems that affect the development of a fetus. “Miscarriage is unwanted and unintended death of an unborn child caused by naturally occurring events”, (Wahlund,

2018). Induced abortion is completed when a pregnant woman has actively take part to do something that helps her to abort a fetus. When a pregnant woman has induced abortion is the possible sign of hers willingness to abort a fetus intentionally and consciously.

3. Pro-life and pro-choice arguments on abortion

Early we are saying that there are at least to two arguments in any of applied controversial issues, because issues to be controversial characterized by the incidence of supporter and adversary unlikely arguments aimed at solving of a controversial issues. Likely, here there are arguments in connection to abortion on the moral status of the act is morally good or bad. These two groups are called pro-life and pro-choice ethicists, they attempt to put a dispute on abortion to an end. Pro-life abortionists are conservative of abortion, hence they stands for the rights of a fetus life. And pro-choice groups are concerning with a woman right to exercise what she has in her own body.

The opponents of abortion (pro-life) abortionist's argument put forth is that the foetus is entitled to basic human rights from the moment of a gestation is conceived, (Duhan, 2018). A pro-life abortionist gives priority for the rights of a fetus to life. To abort is to kill a human being, and then abortion is compatible with committing of murder. "Anti-abortion activists adapted the slogan "right to life", (Solis, 2019). Their motto has clear message regarding to abortion which is care for the rights of a fetus is their primary concern. A pro-choice group emphasis is on the individuality and freedom of the woman to decide on what she has in her body, (Duhan, 2018). Pro-choice abortionists are liberal and due this they believed that it is the woman alone who has a right over her own body and under no circumstances, shall anybody else, including the state interfere in her personal bodily choice (Ibid).

According to proponents (pro-choice) abortionists that choosing abortion is a right that should not be limited by governmental or religious authority, and which outweighs any right claimed for an embryo or fetus, (ProsCons, 2019). A pregnant woman has the right and autonomy to make any decision about the fetus which is belonging to her body. Nobody can force and urged a woman to give a birth for the fetus it is up to a woman herself whether to abort or to give the right to life for a fetus.

Opponents, identifying themselves as pro-life, contend that individual human life begins at fertilization, and therefore abortion is the immoral killing of an innocent human being. They say abortion inflicts suffering on the unborn child, and that it is unfair to allow abortion when couples who cannot biologically conceive are waiting to adopt, (Ibid).

Pro-life abortionists are named as conservative groups, because they die hard to the rights of a fetus than a woman right. If a pregnant woman aborts a fetus is immoral and wrong deed, since at the moment of abortion to abort is to kill human being and killing is morally wrong. But, there are exceptional cases on which killing human being not to be morally wrong and pro-life abortionists due exceptional reasons they supports abortion unless it is immoral to abort.

A pregnant Woman has a moral right to decide what to do with her bodies, (BBC, 2014). Pro-choice abortionists associated the rights of a woman with her body as she is the sole decision maker of her body. Pro-life abortionists pictured out a fetus as a great thing that has valuable features while pro-choice abortionists envisaged as simply thing. “Pro-choice abortionists will argue that the entity in the womb is still not, or not yet, a person”, (Schwarzwalder, 2011). Warren has played a significant role on the issue of abortion that she held that abortion as morally permissible. She is supporters of abortion as ethically permitted. Warren has also developed different arguments in order to say it is

permissible. Accordingly there are criteria that make a fetus to be human being or not deserve the right to life. For Warren a fetus is not entitled with the right to life in the strict sense it lacks such features to deserve the right to life.

She acknowledged the most central criteria to the concept of personhood, or humanity in the moral sense to state that a fetus is not human being, (Warren, 1973). Consciousness is one of the principles that allow a fetus whether has right or not. Consciousness is the objects and events external and/or internal to the being and in particular the capacity to feel pain and others, (Ibid). Reasoning (the developed capacity to solve new and relatively complex problems) is also the benchmarks to argue that abortion as morally permissible, (Ibid). The third one is self-motivated activity (activity which is relatively independent of either genetic or direct external control becomes another prerequisite to determine whether a fetus is real human being or not, (Ibid). The capacity to communicate, the presence of self-concepts, and self-awareness are the means that recognizes a fetus is not human being, (Ibid). Warren strongly admitted the moral permissibility of abortion based on the aforementioned criteria's.

Warren was attempted to argue that abortion is morally permissible. More or less she linked the right to life and abortion with certain rights which are possessed by personhood beings and she refutes that a fetus is not equivalent to personhood, because a fetus has no likely rights as personhoods. A fetus, therefore, does not have full moral rights. According to Warren, it is possible to show that the fetus in fact is not a person and thus abortion is in all cases permissible, (Berkich, 2002). And abortion supporters will justify the refutation of basic rights for the unborn by mentioning the unborn human's deprived of cognitive mental development, (Iverson, 2019). Therefore, Warren position of abortion strengthens those ethicists approach who argues abortion as

morally permissible. Unlike to Warren, Thomson came up with another argument which stands for the rights of unborn fetus. Thomson said that every person has a right to life and a fetus has a right to life.

No doubt the mother has a right to decide what shall happen in and to her body; everyone would grant that. But surely a person's right to life is stronger and more stringent than the mother's right to decide what happens in and to her body, and so outweighs it. So the fetus may not be killed; an abortion may not be performed, (Beckwith, 2011).

A pregnant woman has the right to decide whatever decisions in connection to her body and a fetus which is belonging to hers own body. But it's advisable for a pregnant mother utmost to recognize a fetus that deserves the right to life, even though she has the power and freedom to abort what she has in her body and is preferable to calculate the values of giving birth for a fetus over abortion.

As Mahon cited Thomson declared that everyone possesses the right to his or her own body and this is the right to bodily autonomy, (Mahon, 2016). It's unto a pregnant woman interest to save a fetus from abortion or allow a fetus to pass away. Nobody has the right to use my body without my permission. "In the case of pregnancy as a result of rape, the fetus has no right to use the woman's body, because the woman has not given the fetus permission to use the woman's body", (Mahon, 2016). She says that pregnancy due rape is, and then the mother has not given the unborn person a right to the use of her body for food and shelter. Because, the unborn fetus has no right to use the woman's body, the woman may refuse to allow the fetus to use her body and due if she refuses to allow the fetus to use her body, she is not violating any right of the fetus, (Ibid). Thomson, conclusion is that unborn persons whose existence is due to rape have no right to the use of their mothers'

bodies, and thus that aborting them is not depriving them of anything they have a right to and hence is not unjust killing.

4. Politics of Abortion

The contrasting view of pro-life and choice abortionist's argument on abortion is somehow influenced by political outlooks. Liberalists are basically are favoring of pro-choice belief, and conservatives are supporters of pro-life ideas. There are remarkable inferences from both parties to attract their opposition voters through abortion debate. As (Lopez, 2011) cited that Saletan claimed liberals are characterized by the belief that freedom should be exercised by the individual; whereas, conservatives believe freedom should be exercised by institutions, such as communities, church, businesses, and families. Pro-choice abortionists advocate a liberal institution which allows individuals freedom without such constraints. And abortion is a matter of individual freedom that a woman to make whichever decisions about the pregnancy belonging to her bodies. Why pro-life abortionists are also named they are conservative is due their obstinacy point of view that a right to life is prior to a woman life. Those who oppose abortion (anti/pro-life) groups are recommended that institutions like church, families, and others organizations are so important to save the rights of a fetus life.

5. Abortion and economic matters

Socio-economic problems are factors which forced a pregnant woman to have an abortion. Basic needs are central for survival and parents to their kids have the duties of enriching with a minimum of basic needs. "The most common reason women give for wanting to terminate a pregnancy is that they feel that they cannot afford to have a baby or to have another baby", (Pearson,

2017). It indicates of that pregnant mothers are not willing to see the sufferings of a fetus after birth in relation to basic needs and as therapy they choose abortion as solution. According to some Pro-abortionists attitude the cost of raising children burdens their parents, and it also burdens the public with additional welfare spending when poor mothers bear children, (Antkowiak, 2019). Obviously, there are children living on street and unable to feed themselves who leads miserable life. Unwanted sex caused for abortion because if there are no consent between a pregnant woman and the one who has sex with this is pregnant woman at the end the woman may wishes to abort, because her sex partner may not responsible of raising a fetus when she may give birth.

6. Conclusion

Controversial issues are too debatable as we see in the case of abortion. The crucial concern on abortion is ascertaining of the permissibility and impossibility interims of moral sight. Different group's particularly pro-life and pro-choice ethicists are appeared strongly to ensure whether it is good or bad. The termination of pregnancy has created confusion among different societal groups and also it appeared on contemporary periods. Pro-choice approach of abortion seems to be unacceptable among the majority. Especially, Anne Warren was extreme pro-choice abortionist on which she disdains the rights of a fetus to life. Her metaphysical criteria's to distinguish a fetus from really human beings are too exaggerated. She mentioned that consciousness, reason, self-motivated act, and communications are the principles for a thing to deserve a right to life.

The author wants to object Warren's criteria's are not always valid to say a fetus has right to life or not. How reason would become a requirement of stating whether a fetus deserves a right to life or not? Since a fetus to deserve

right to life according to Warren endowed with reason unless isn't entitled with such rights, but it is impossible. We all human beings are not conscious, reasonable, capable of self-motivated acts and others before we born. After birth we develop such potentiality via processes when we growth more and more and a fetus in a woman body obviously lacks these such features. Generally, it is advisable for a pregnant woman to give birth for a fetus and the fetus has the fortunes of acquisition of such Warren principles of deserving a right to life. To deny the rights of a fetus due such measurements seems to be refusing of the right to life of those mentally disordered individuals. Since they are not aware of themselves, consciousness, communication, and self-motivated acts, then to argue they have no the right to life is compatible with denying of the right to life of a fetus.

Judith Jarvis Thomson, approach toward abortion is so persuasive regarding to moral perspectives. For Thomson abortion is permissible due such exceptional cases unless to abort is to kill a human being. What the interesting idea that Thomson put forwarded is a pregnant woman has the right to decide any decision of her body, when she passes decisions the great weight have to be given for a fetus to deserve the right to life. There are multitudes of factors caused for abortion such as life of the mother, physical health of the mother, abnormality in the baby, rape, incest, social or economic concerns, (Longbons, 2019). Exceptional cases like death, diseases, and others related physical and biological problems are related to abortion and at this time abortion is permissible to save a woman life. But, giving priority for a fetus life when there are problems somehow caused for a great burden for a pregnant woman, nevertheless to minimize suffering of a mother resulted from abortion is defend by aborting a fetus. Therefore, abortion from rape, unwanted sex, and if it leads to disease and death of a woman life is permissible.

Therefore, Warren perspectives are too extreme that resulted in refuting of totally a fetus as it is not a personhood due the non-existence of criteria's among a fetus that makes personhood, and this seems to be denial of a genuine fact of being a human being. And I found that Thomson approach toward abortion is the moderate one since based on reasonable account she has proposed an important view.

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