

# M. Ethics 5

Killing of a person for a benefit of person

terminally ill

but there are other situations..

- Netherlands was the 1st country legalized euthanasia.

## Euthanasia

Mercy killing!

قتل الرحمة

broadly means → good killing

eu → good

thanatos → death.

contemporary understanding → painless & gentle death

## Forms

### active

death is brought about by an act.

• overdose of paralysing?

### Passive

death is brought about by an omission. <sup>Failure to do something</sup>

• someone lets the person die.

### Withdrawing treatment

switching off a machine (life-supporting)

### Withholding treatment

not carrying out surgery that will extend life for a short time.

according to patient's autonomy

### Voluntary

request of the person who die.

### non-voluntary

when the person is unconscious otherwise unable to make a meaningful choice (living & dying) & an appropriate person takes the decision on their behalf.

### Indirect euthanasia.

→ providing treatment (usually to ↓ pain) that has the side effect of speeding the patient's death.

since the primary intention is not to kill, this is seen by some people (not all) as morally acceptable.

### Assisted suicide

voluntary active

physician

### # Arguments in favour euthanasia

- It happens anyway
- Medical resources.
- The right to die

### # Arguments against euthanasia

- Religious arguments
  - against the will of God
  - value of suffering
  - against best of interest.
  - other people have right too
  - regulation of euthanasia
  - Devalues some lives
  - overpovening of dr.
  - proper palliative care make euthanasia unnecessary

### # The oregon approach

+18, resident in Oregon

2 oral & 1 written request

1st → last request 15 days

terminally ill life expectancy 6 months

prognosis by 2nd consultant

psychological v/s

Practical + Ethical

### DNR, Do NOT resuscitate

- dr is not required to resuscitate a pt if their heart stops.
- designed to prevent unnecessary suffering.