Annexure 1

Euthanasia and Right to Die with Dignity: A Socio-Legal Study

Questionnaire*

Information about the Respondent

Name : 
Address : 
Age : 
Gender : 
Occupation : 
Organization : 
E-mail : 

1. Do you know the meaning of “life”?  
   a) Yes  
   b) Somewhat  
   c) No

2. Do you know the meaning of “personal liberty”?  
   a) Yes  
   b) Somewhat  
   c) No

*The names and the information provided herein will be kept strictly confidential and the information will be used only for analysis purposes for the research work-Manpreet Kaur
3. Do you know that right to life and personal liberty is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

4. Do you know that the State can take away our right to life and personal liberty in accordance with "procedure established by law" which should be just, fair and reasonable?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

5. Do you know that right to life means right to live with human dignity?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

6. Do you agree that personal liberty includes personal autonomy and right of self-determination of human beings?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

7. Do you agree that right to personal autonomy and self-determination extends to taking one's own life?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

8. Do you know that attempt to commit suicide is punishable under Indian Law?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

9. Do you agree that punishing attempt to commit suicide amounts to aggravating the pain of accused?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
10. Do you agree that a doctor, assisting suicide of a patient, should be punished under law?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

11. Do you agree that patients suffering from incurable terminal disease or in coma or persistent vegetative state or brain dead do not live a dignified life?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

12. Do you know about euthanasia or mercy killing?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

13. Do you support that incompetent or unconscious patients should be killed by lethal injection or drugs?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

14. Do you support that patients kept on artificial life support system should be killed by withdrawing that system?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

15. Do you agree that there should be some guidelines to perform euthanasia?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

16. If unregulated, do you agree that doctors or relatives of patient would misuse euthanasia to satisfy their personal motives?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
17. Do you agree that unremitting pain is one of the major factors for the use of euthanasia?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

18. Do you agree that depression, hopelessness, general psychological distress, functional debility (patient has no pain but cannot get out of bed or provide self-care), meaningless and purposeless life is one of the major factors for the use of euthanasia?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

19. Do you agree that structural barrier to optimal end-of-life care (e.g. limited hospital resources) is one of the major factors for the use of euthanasia?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

20. Do you agree that being psychological and financial burden on the family is one of the major factors for the use of euthanasia?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

21. Do you know that Supreme Court of India, in its recent judgment, has allowed withdrawal of life support system for brain dead patient, if it is in his best interests, but has rejected killing by lethal injection?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

22. In case of an incompetent or unconscious patient (e.g. Brain dead or in coma or in persistent vegetative state), do you agree that physician attending the patient should decide his best interests?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No
23. In case of an incompetent patient, do you agree that relatives of the patient should decide his best interests?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

24. In case of an incompetent patient, do you agree that any person other than the relative or doctor (e.g. a social activist) should decide his best interests?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

25. In case of an incompetent patient, do you agree that neither the relative nor any other person but the court should decide his best interests?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

26. The Supreme Court of India has allowed withdrawal of life support system for brain dead, subject to approval of the Division Bench of High Court concerned, which shall seek the opinion of a committee of three reputed doctors, preferably a neurologist, a psychiatrist and a physician, to be nominated by it and after hearing the concerned parties, the High Court will give its verdict in patient's best interest. Do you agree that this procedure is satisfactory?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

27. If an incompetent patient had already expressed his desire to die (on the basis of evidence) in case he becomes incapable of giving consent in future, do you agree that such desire should be considered while deciding his best interests?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

28. Do you agree that limited hospital resources in India should be used for the treatment of those who can be cured rather than the ones who do not have any chance of recovery?
   a) Yes
29. Do you agree that government should establish highly specialized hospitals and medical institutions to provide end of life care (e.g. Palliative care and hospice care) for patients suffering from terminal illness?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

30. Do you agree that if euthanasia is legalized, it will have negative impact on people’s trust for doctors?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

31. Do you agree that our Parliament should make a law governing euthanasia and right to die?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

32. Do you agree that such law should make provision for the defence of doctors who perform euthanasia in good-faith?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

33. Do you agree that misuse of provisions/safeguards for performing euthanasia should be punishable under law?
   a) Yes
   b) Somewhat
   c) No

34. Suggestions, if any.

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