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Rebuttal to Pro-Choice Abortion Position

Abortion has been a source for contentious debate in America and continues to be the focus of many moral debates. In the courts decision of Roe vs. Wade, the right for an individual to have an abortion became a constitutional right. This right by-passed the rights of the fetus and focused solely on the rights of the mother. In his position defense essay, Mr. Antwan Sturdivant claims that the mother should have a right to choose what happens to her body. He also cites that abortion should be legal in all cases including rape and abuse. He further comments that financial hardship is a valid reason for abortion. It is my goal to prove that these arguments are not adequate reasons to take the life of an unborn child. I will show that all life is valuable and even the unborn have individual rights. I will further prove that the problems in society such as rape, abuse and the needs of the poor need to be addressed separately from abortion.

Roe vs. Wade set the precedent that life can be taken under any circumstances. This decision is immoral and goes against the theory that Immanuel Kant had on the value of human life. His view is that "human beings have' intrinsic worth' or 'dignity' that makes them valuable 'above all price'" (Rachels 137). As stated by the American Pediatric Association, life begins at conception. Since life has been proven to begin at conception then that life has individual rights that cannot be surpassed by the rights of the mother. Kant's theory states that people cannot be used as a means to an end. This includes killing a fetus as a means to the mother's end happiness. We must treat people even unborn babies as an end which includes promoting their welfare, respecting their rights and avoiding harming them (Rachels 139).

Mr. Sturdivant argues that abortion should be legal in all cases including rape, abuse and the instances of the poor becoming pregnant. These are social issues within our society that should be addressed on a different level. The life of the unborn child is still valuable even when our societal rules fail to protect the mother. Legal abortion sidesteps the issues faced by women. The problem is not that the woman is pregnant but that the woman was raped or abused. The woman struggles financially and cannot provide for herself is the problem not that she is pregnant. Aborting a baby will not provide the mother with the ultimate happiness she is seeking. Classic Utilitarianism states that pleasure is the end goal. Sacrificing the life of a child will not provide that happiness. As utilitarians believe, we should look at the consequences of our actions. If the actions we take infringe on the rights of others or harm them, we must not move forward on those actions.

Abortion is morally wrong because it takes away the rights of one part of humanity and considers only the rights of the mother. Pregnancy is not a permanent state and there are options for placing a child that is unwanted with a family that would love them. With the determination that life begins at conception and the focus on social issues as separate from the issue of abortion, we should protect the life of the unborn. The only true morally right decision is to safeguard the life of all humans including the unborn.

Works Cited

Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. The Elements of Moral Philosophy. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2015.