

A Study on the Acceptance of Passive Euthanasia in India

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Abstract: *Passive euthanasia is allowed in India as per Supreme Court guidelines in the case of Aruna Ranchandra Shanbhag v. UOI but there is no specific legislation regarding the application of passive euthanasia in India. Passive euthanasia has divided or mixed opinions. The aim of this paper is to analyse public awareness about passive euthanasia, their support towards it and the benefits and negatives of passive euthanasia. It also observes the maturity of Indians in accepting Passive Euthanasia and the relation between the gender of respondents and their support towards the practice of passive euthanasia. This study is based on both secondary and primary data. The primary data for the study is collected from 200 sample respondents by using a well structured questionnaire. The sampling method used in this study is convenient sampling. The independent variables are age, gender, educational qualification, employment status and marital status. The dependent variable is public maturity on accepting passive euthanasia in India. In the results of the study, it was found that majority are unaware of passive euthanasia but are still supportive of the practice. The major benefits and negatives of passive euthanasia were also identified as pain relief, control over final decisions, less caregiver guilt and issues with consent. It was also observed that the majority think that Indians do not have the maturity of accepting passive euthanasia. We should not oversee the choice of the patient for reasons of religious beliefs. Thus, Passive Euthanasia should be properly legalised with a legislation and strict guidelines in India.*

Keywords: Passive Euthanasia, Maturity, Awareness, Support, Legislation

