The Death Penalty

Name

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In a culture where life is highly valued and social morals are immensely observed, the debate on death penalty is quite common and highly contended. If the values of religion, morality, philosophy, and ethics are strictly observed, the application of the death penalty triggers a lot of controversy among the members of the public (Davis, 2002). However, factual evidence is essential in the making and implementation of any policies, especially when the policy involves such a delicate matter as taking the life of another individual (Cullen et al., 2002). On the pro-death penalty argument, death punishment is effective if it deters murder and other crimes on a significantly high magnitude (Davis, 2002). Most of the religious fraternities agree that every life is a precious gift from the creator; therefore, taking it is immoral. The question is whether the death penalty should be implemented or not; answering it, it is best to understand the issues at stake (capital punishment and deterrence of murder). In light of the debates between the ethicality of the death penalty against life sentences, this paper will give opinions and recommendations on the matter while using facts and views on the subject. The paper will also offer better deterrent methods to murder than the pro-death penalty.

The death penalty is also referred to as capital punishment and is the legally recognized imposition of death as a punishment to an individual for a crime committed. It is mostly used on criminals who in the past involved themselves in extremely heinous crimes. This system has been in practice since the ancient times (Wozniak, 2009). In determining the validity of the punishment, several factors are considered: fairness (the fairness of the capital punishment process is checked), efficacy (the functional purpose that the punishment serves), international concerns (considerations for many global concerns regarding the legalization and the use of the death penalty system), moral and ethics (the morality of using the death penalty is checked), cost
(the cost effectiveness of the death is put under scrutiny), execution mode (permitting certain modes of execution and denying others), and constitutionality (whether the penalty meets the stipulations of the constitution concerning preservation of life and the judicial interpretation checking the power of the courts). According to Tanner (2007), the criminal justice system has a mandate to minimize all human suffering by order or works and to fundamentally hinder any kind of violence. It is shocking how the rights of a criminal are highly debated while the victim never escapes the fatal intentions of the criminal. Therefore, in the death penalty argument, two lives are thought about. It is a weighable balance with the murderer on one side and the victim on the other. If the government abolishes the capital punishment, crime rates are bound to shoot upwards since the fear of the capital punishment will no longer haunt the crime doers putting into consideration that people have an innate fear of death. More citizens will be living in fear since the criminals will be roaming up and about. The death penalty most probably eliminates repeat murders and deters foreseeable murders (Mooney and Lee, 200). It is good to remember that the victims (or future victims) are the main focus of this debate and not the civil rights of the person who is heartless enough to commit murder. Even though deterrence of future murders is not guaranteed, the lives of the future victims are saved.

In conclusion, the death penalty should be put in places in all countries to punish individuals who commit heinous crimes. Although some argue that innocent lives may be taken, so far there has been no evidence of such an occurrence. Furthermore, an individual is held in the death row for a period of about 10 years giving the judicial system enough time to prove guilt or innocence (Fenno, 2001). Justice must prevail where crime has been committed, and it cannot in any way punish the innocent while sparing the guilty. This paper is of the opinion that every state should incorporate the capital punishment. The debate should not be on whether or not to execute
the death penalty but rather how to do it humanely. This will ensure deterrence of future crimes and prevalence of justice.
References


