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**“THE PHENOMENON OF SUICIDE AND THE MEANING OF HUMAN LIFE”
A PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS**

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HD/ MA/07/08/061

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A Dissertation

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the
MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY**

**Department of Philosophy & Psychology
University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
2010**

648609



SYNOPSIS

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Introduction

This study is undertaken to examine the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of human life. It is an object of multidisciplinary scientific study in Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Psychiatry, Philosophy and Political science, etc, each providing important insights into meaning of human life and phenomenon of suicide. It is a complex form of human behavior and part of human nature as well as a challenge on human existence. Meaning of human life and the phenomenon of suicide pose difficult questions, and in different answers have been given by Philosophers and Theologians of different periods and different traditions. Indeed, the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of human life have been under the spotlight in philosophical examinations in the west at least from the period of Plato. French philosopher, Albert Camus in his *Myth of Sisyphus*, claims that suicide one of the serious philosophical problems. For a long time philosophers have tried to solve to this problem through the ethical analysis and valuable suggestion were made. I'm going to emphasizes some of the ethical dimension within current approach toward suicide. This debate is closely tied to the ethics of suicide ant its tendency is to focus around the issue of duty, rights, obligation and meaning of human life.

Current problems

Currently, suicide is a burning issue throughout the world. It has been moving up on the ladder of the leading case of death in this century. It is observed to be a grave social, moral and economical problem in some developed countries and developing countries. It is increase among people regardless of their economical and educational background; do not pay attention to the issue of suicide. Every day all over the world more than thousand people commit suicide annually it is estimated more than 100,00000. In Sri Lanka, its rate is twice as high as any where else in the world. Even though world average suicide rate is between 10– 25% per 10,000 population in Sri

Lanka its more than 46.9%for the 10,000 people. The civil war in Sri Lanka climes several thousand live every year but the suicide's statistics are to be believed suicide is a biggest killer in the island.

Objectives

The objectives of this research explore the controversial issues, which exist and are hotly debated in moral and religious philosophy, of the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of life. This study is undertaken the most profound philosophical problem neither the essence of reality nor the foundation of knowledge but rather essence of human being and problem of phenomenon of suicide. This study is going to claim that the phenomenon of suicide represents the single most serious, important and urgent philosophical question which must be answered before any other question is considered.

In general or religious perspectives, the birth of human species is regarded as superior to the other living being. Every human being shares the responsibility to safeguard this superiority. Man likes and tries to maintain his physical well being by all positive ways. He even wish to over come death but in contrast those who committed suicide or attempted to do decide to end their life by themselves. It is regrettable that a man, rational being, commits suicide while other living beings have never attempted it. So sanctity of life becomes a related matter with suicide.

This serious philosophical problem of suicide arise a number of conceptual and moral questions and the meaning of human life also set up a philosophical questions concerning the purpose and significance of human existence. This concept can be expressed through a variety of related questions such as this suicide morally permissible or even morally permission in some extra ordinary circumstance? If suicide morally accepted, can it really become a universal law of nature? Is suicide behavior rational or irrational does anyone has the rights to end one's own life? Does it promise pleasure to the individual? Does it give permanent solution to a temporary problem? Does it violets natural law? Why human existence in the world? What is that significance and nature of life, etc. mainly this kind of questions arises from

dissatisfaction with life. Therefore this paper has objection to examined the main current historical and contemporary philosophical surrounding these important issues.

Hypotheses

This research is an attempt to test the validity of the following hypotheses. Whether or not the phenomenon of suicide moral / acceptable depend on the circumstance under which suicide is committed or attempted. The suicide of the individual, who will only experience pain for the rest of his existence and who has no other reasons to continue his existence may decided to surrender him to suicide might be moral. So egoistic suicide morally permissible but if a person will be predicted to have a long life and if that person decided to commits suicide that will be morally wrong.

Research methodology

Research methodology is an important component of this research. I'm going to use the descriptive, analytic, comparative, historical, inductive and inductive research methods, besides interviews and questionnaire methods shall be employed. I am also going to use the referring philosophers' original works on suicide and the meaning of human life. I will use the secondary resources books, related documents, paper clipping and various other documents from internet, media, etc.

Chapter divisions

- 1) Introduction to the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of human life
- 2) Philosophical views of the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of human life –
A historical and conceptual over view
- 3) Religious views of the phenomenon of suicide and the meaning of human life –an
ethical perspective.
- 4) Legal, medical and socio – economic issues of the phenomenon of suicide.
- 5) Conclusion –the conclusion will include and analysis of the existing views on the
phenomenon of suicide and suggestion on prevention of suicide.

Bibliography