Death penalty should be abolished because essentially discriminatory, and opposes the view of justice especially if it is viewed from the ethical framework of Kantina ethics. This framework views human beings as worthy, and therefore, should always be respected not treated as a means. Death penalty treats human beings as tools for social deterrence which denies them integrity, and right to life although they have committed heinous crimes. If the death penalty is abolished, then it would give prominence to human rights, reduce state power, and provide a way for redemption (Jones, 2023, p.80). The framework also determines whether a rule can be formed as a universal law. It gives rise to a question on whether there will be a world, where the state executes for murder. If that world is created, then the human beings will be engaged in a constant cycle of violence, which does not value life. Justice according to the Kantian perception emphasize on respecting human beings and their dignity. And if a person is executed, then it eradicates their inherent nature of logical reasoning, and closes the path for redemption, as it fails to uphold justice.

The society would be impacted in numerous ways, because eradicating death penalty will emphasize the message that human life is sacred and will further associate with the norms of human rights. It also removes the possibility of executing an innocent person, which is inherent within the justice system. Abolishing death penalty will also imply that the society is compassionate in the long run. By choosing mercy over justice, people will harbor empathy towards each other (Aylsworth & Castro, 2024, p.35). Additionally, it will create a society where offenders are punished based solely on evidence instead of ineffective measure which costs more on the people. Death penalty is given by the state to achieve social goals, and hence, it opposes Kant's ideals of rendering dignity to every human beings. Although, supporters of death penalty highlights that it brings closure to the families of victims, however the reality is far from it. It

exacerbates the cycle where violence is prevalent, and the family is stuck in suffering and pain. Fair trial should be eminent in the society so that the offenders can mend their ways, and can be redeemed.

References

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