

## **Week 1 Discussion: Is it Right to be a Relativist?**

### **What Would a Subjective Moral Relativist Say About What the Doctor is Doing and Why or Why Not Do I Agree with the Subjective Moral Relativist**

Newton (2016) states that subjective relativism declares that each individual has their own moral authority and source of their own principles. Subjective relativism prevents a person's morality from being imposed on another, meaning what works for one individual may not work for another, and vice versa. If a subjective moral relativist were to say something in this case, they would argue that the surgeon's actions are ethically wrong. I would vividly agree with the subjective moral relativists. I think that everyone should have the ability to make their own decisions. In this case, the surgeon's friend chose his small daughter to undergo female genital mutilation because he believes in the cultural practice and knows the ritual. At the same time, the small girl isn't old enough to make her own decision, and the decision made for her looks to be unethical.

### **Examining What A Cultural Moral Relativist Would Say About the Case and Why or Why Not Agree with the Cultural Relativist**

According to Cole (2019), cultural relativism refers to the knowledge, behaviors, and values that individuals must understand within their cultural context and that the culture's moral code defines what is good within a given group. Therefore, in this case, a cultural relativist would consider what the doctor is about to do as right within the doctor's and the girl's father's culture. However, I disagree because the girl is being subjected to a ritual without her consent, but rather through beliefs and customs, making cultural relativism the wrong approach. According to Rachels and Rachels (2019), different societies have different cultures that have different moral beliefs (p. 43). Some of these beliefs do not show that they are objectively morally right. This is why I incline toward subjective relativism rather than cultural relativism. Also, we become individuals based on our upbringing, cultural background, and religious views, and our beliefs become those of our own logical and emotional thoughts and feelings.

### **Naming and Evaluating General Criticisms of Cultural Relativism as Being the Wrong Moral Approach**

The best way to comprehend human ideas and actions is to understand them within the context of cultural relativism and the cultural environment in which they occur (Stanford, 2020). Cultural moral relativism asserts its authority and validity. Since cultures are so diverse, it's impossible to create an objective and logical norm based on national respect for all of them, but there must be other grounds for categorizing anything as right or wrong that has nothing to do with culture.

### **Why or Why Not there is an Objective Moral Truth About Any of the Possible Actions by the Nurse and/or Doctor in this Case?**

There can be no objective moral truth if it is based on moral and cultural relativism. According to our understanding, the nurse and doctor are just obeying the ethical code of conduct in their practice. Even though the practice's legality is still under appeal, they should protect the young girl from the dangers of female genital mutilation, which has

been proven hazardous in the past. In the end, this conduct lacks objective moral truth. Moral facts, according to relativists, are relative to the viewpoint of the observer or the context in which they are assessed, contradicting claims of objectivity.

### References

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