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Beggars Critique Essay

Envision an environment where citizens considered low-income or disabled being forced to exert themselves in workhouses, especially those who reside in the streets. Utilitarians, like Jeremy Bentham, believe that beggars are causing a decrease in the public's happiness. Bentham wants to fix this situation by improving on the idea of "pauper management" - i.e. "self-financed workhouses for the poor". As well as the idea of making them pay off their maintenance due to self-liberation accounts -i.e. an account where the cost of maintenance per beggar is tallied in. The philosopher has the belief that forcing beggars to work without an option will maximize happiness. However, forcing beggars into workhouses is not justified because it violates their right to human happiness. This is demonstrated by the following claims: 1) Beggars are being forced into workhouses, not invited 2) Self-liberation accounts put beggars in an infinite sequence of labor to pay off their maintenance, 3) Utilitarianism doesn't respect individual rights.

The beggars are forced into workhouses and are being stopped from expressing their individual rights. Their happiness isn't being considered since they are categorized as people of a lower class. They're being discriminated and ignored of their own rights. A flaw in utilitarianism is that it only cares for the pleasure of the mass majority, not the individual. "He concludes that the sum of the pains suffered by the public is greater than whatever unhappiness is felt by beggars hauled off to the workhouse." - Michael Sandel. This references that Bentham believed that the mass majority is the public and that their pleasure overrules the ones of the beggars. This

can also be considered being indentured. Beggars have no say in what they do and are being put to work in houses that can create profit since they would be self-financed. The beggars would work to pay for necessities. This introduces the idea of a self-liberation account.