The Difference Between RELATIVISM



ABSOLUTISM

Ethical principles and values are culturally and/or historically dependent



Ethical principles and values are objective and independent of cultural context

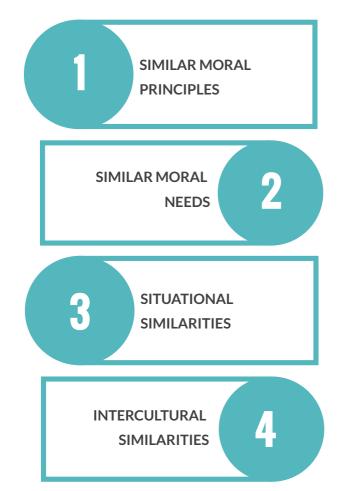
RELATIVISM

ABSOLUTISM



MAKING A CASE...

- Different societies have different moral codes.
- There is no objective standard that can be used to judge one societal code better than another.
- The moral code of our own society has no special status; it is merely one among many
- There is no "universal truth" in ethics.
- The moral code of a society determines what is right within that society.
- We should adopt an attitude of tolerance toward the practices of other cultures.





#OBJECTIONS



"Just because values differ that does not necessarily make them right in one culture or another" (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2012).

"Some absolutes, however, are too general to be of use in the specific situations" (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2012).



"The greatest problem raised in the absolutism-versus-relativism controversy is how to introduce stability, order, and security (absolutism) into morality and moral systems, while still allowing for individual and group freedom and creativity (relativism)" (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2012)?

References

Thiroux, J. P. & Krasemann, K. W. (2012). *Ethics: Theory and practice* (11th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall



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