Pharmaceutical Companies and their Unethical Behavior

There are two arguments which have been put forth concerning the issue of experimental trials conducted by large American pharmaceutical companies. First, the author argues that these large drug companies are involved in out-sourcing for drug trials in places outside the United States of America and Western Europe. For instance, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the United States Merck is perceived as having conducted at least 50% of its drug trials in other countries. Subsequently, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals is expected to conduct 70% of its drug trials in such countries as Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

This is because of the fact that patients in such poor countries are more than willing to undertake medicaments under test. Moreover, it should be noted that these patients are desperate for admission into trial clinics. Ironically, the author asserts that these patients are lesser beneficiaries of these drug trials since they are not placed at fair position upon which it is important to access these drugs despite their inexperienced participation. These patients cannot get this medicine because of the fact that they can neither afford the drugs nor make the drugs meet their medical needs per se. In other cases, the medicaments are never licensed in those countries where they were first introduced. Statistically, 90% of the global medical research
budget is channeled to illnesses which cause only 10% of human death. Thus, according to the Shah (1), these poor people participate in clinical trials which will never benefit them.

What is more, the author puts up with another argument which encourages the participation of these people in the course of taking medicine for such serious illnesses. The author advocates for the participation of such drugs-trials irrespective of possible deaths. She further argues that these trial drugs are not necessarily negative since they work for the best course. For instance, she does not perceive any wrongdoing in the deaths of the characters in the film “The Constant Gardener”. Furthermore, she agrees that the participation in drug trials should be made mandatory irrespective of possible substantial risks involved. In addition to this, she argues that human research institutions are mandated with the responsibility for overseeing the safety of these trials but at the same time, risks are inevitable.

Knowledge of drug trials is considered to be a fundamental practice in the medical field; however, there are ethical issues involved in the course of the exercise. First, the use of people without their consent or as a result of misinformation is considered unethical and inhumane in that matter to conduct. Notwithstanding, these drug trials are necessary considering the fact that diseases keep on mutating in order to offset the purported vigor of medicines.

Utility theory holds that the command set to determine the basis of right or wrong of a matter solely depends on the results concerned with selection of one course of action over the others. Thus, this philosophy is meant to cover a broader aspect that is not limited to personal interests over those of others. In this case, the interests of the majority are favored and advocated for. In applying this philosophy to the drug trials, it is, thus, evident that it advocates for obligatory participation in these drug trials since it enables to invent medicines for complicated
diseases. In that case, the common good of this philosophy lies in the fact that it takes into account the health needs of the wider society.

Kant’s moral philosophy promulgates mutual consent of individuals so that they are allowed to participate in any matters irrespective of their self-governing state. Thus, this philosophy claims that people should be left to choose their manner of course whether it is perceived to be wrong or not. Applying this philosophy to the case, the study reveals that people should not be forced to undergo drug trials if they do not wish. As for my point of view, despite the fact that the move tends to achieve individual autonomy, it might result in diminishing of efforts made by researches of pharmaceutical institutions to find relevant and effective drugs needed for the cure of the developed illnesses.

In my opinion, the following principle is fair enough for conducting ethical forms of drug trials: “Each and every drug outfit company in the country should act towards performing drugs trials on humans only after revealing significant and complete information, which pertains to risks involved as well as possible side-effects of participation in such drug trials”

I have made a decision to serve on the National Board of Drug Testing Ethics since there is a need to keep up with the changing disease mutations. Furthermore, these tests should undergo intense scrutiny before they are allowed to make tests on people in a proper manner.

It should be noted that the approval granted to these research trials means that the amount of risks involved will be minimized as a whole. As a result, it becomes somehow safer to conduct researches in order to define the relevance of the medicaments.