Universalism and relativism theories

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Discussion question 2

**Compare and contrast universalism and relativism.**

In comparison, both models explore more on the indispensable significance of an ideology reasonably than just assessing and declaring actions as right or wrong. Universalism embraces an individual as a social component, enjoying absolute rights and motivated by the chase for self-interests, irrespective of their sexual orientation or cultural background (Ayars, & Nichols, 2020). On the contrary, the relativism model is more concentrated on the cultural aspects and views the community as the basic social unit (Berry, 2018). Thus, it is responsible for differentiating a right or wrong deed based on their norms and practices. In ethics, universalism is viewed as a perfect world, but ethical relativism consistently explains the realistic ideology on why different cultures view a similar action differently. Arguably, the cultural relativism model lingers to impact the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since its adoption.

**Evaluate how universalism and relativism affect global social corporate responsibility.**

For effective planning of the organizational social responsibility, the approaches considered are highly dependent on the needs of the society in the different geographic positions, cultural practices, and demographics. For example, in the quest for an organization to improve the efficiency and quality of life for the community around the firm, the company is required to consider their way of life and thus their needs. In such a scenario, the theory of universalism and relativism adequately contributes to planning the needs of the people based on universal and cultural desires. For instance, there is only one opinion concerning the need for education. This is not a decision for the culture to decide, thus the universalism model's role.

On the contrary, cultural relativism is highly considered in making decisions regarding the norms and traditions of the specific community when addressing some of the social issues common to their traditions (Santoro, & Santoro, 2018). For instance, when the organization needs to plan on the most effective intervention to apply in a program for the rape victims in the society, the relativism model is considered, as a different culture views the issue of rape as a taboo, and thus individuals are ostracized. Regional discrepancies in honest opinions are essential to the global planning of CSR in creating interventions that are incredibly significant to the beneficiaries.

References

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