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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57602

Title: Is Helping Others an Obligation?

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	...			
Techn. Quality		...		
Clarity	...			
Significance		...		

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 180

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The paper "*Is Helping Others an Obligation?*" presents a thoughtful philosophical reflection on morality, citizenship, and human responsibility within society. Through personal anecdotes and ethical questioning, the author explores whether acts of kindness arise from moral obligation, legal duty, or individual choice. The paper successfully engages readers by using relatable situations, such as helping an elderly woman cross the road and observing a poor child sharing food with a stray dog, to examine broader moral and social concerns. One of the strongest aspects of the paper is its reflective and conversational style. Instead of relying solely on abstract theory, the author uses everyday experiences to provoke ethical inquiry and emotional engagement. The discussion about the distinction between legality and morality is particularly compelling, as it encourages readers to consider whether simply obeying laws is enough to make someone morally responsible. The author effectively questions whether societies built only on legal obligations would lose empathy, compassion, and communal identity.

The incorporation of George H. Smith's argument adds intellectual depth to the paper. By presenting Smith's idea that helping others is a voluntary act rather than a moral obligation, the author creates a balanced debate before gradually critiquing this viewpoint. The paper persuasively argues that communities are sustained not merely through contracts and laws but through shared expectations, cultural values, and unspoken acts of kindness. This philosophical stance gives the essay emotional resonance and highlights the social importance of empathy.

However, the paper also has certain limitations. The argument is primarily based on personal reflection and moral reasoning rather than formal philosophical analysis or empirical evidence. While the conversational tone makes the essay accessible, some ideas could have been developed with greater academic structure and supporting references. Additionally, certain informal expressions and emotionally charged language slightly reduce the scholarly tone of the paper. A clearer organization of arguments and engagement with multiple philosophical perspectives could have strengthened the analysis further.

Overall, the paper offers an insightful and emotionally engaging exploration of morality and social responsibility. Its strength lies in its ability to connect philosophical questions with ordinary human experiences. By emphasizing kindness, empathy, and communal commitment, the author effectively argues that helping others should not merely depend on legal obligation but should emerge from shared humanity and moral consciousness.