

Sample 1: On Distributive Justice

Part 1 (223 Words):

In our Rawls Game discussion, [Peer] criticizes a Laissez-Faire, or free-market system of resource distribution. He argues that a society with free markets is undesirable because it is not structured to serve the common good, stating that a free-market society rewards luck, as individuals born with talents, or qualities, that the market will be financially rewarded, while those born without market-desired talents are left financially helpless with no way to move up in society. He further argues that this inequality of wealth and living standards is unjustified, even with the addition of a basic need 'safety net' that a Sufficiency system would provide. In this paper, I will provide a counter argument to [Peer]'s premise that the inequality created by a Laissez-Faire system is unjustified. I believe that the self-interest of financial wealth will incentivize talented individuals to produce products and services desired by society as a whole. These societal demands will in turn incentivize the talented individuals to innovate and produce products and services more efficiently and to a higher quality, consequently creating better baseline welfare standards in a Laissez-Faire/Sufficiency system. In short, even though a Laissez-Faire/Sufficiency distribution system may lead levels of substantial inequality, society will benefit as a whole because the untalented individuals will be living a higher quality of life from the improved products, services, and baseline living standards.

Part 2:

- 1) [Assumption] Individuals are randomly born with different talents to different degrees, and into different environments that could influence the development of said talents.
 - 2) Free markets will financially reward the production of its desired products or services.
 - 3) [From 1 and 2] Free markets financially reward individuals born with talents conducive to produce products or services desired by the market, and individuals without talents or with talents that are not desired by the market will not be financially rewarded.
 - 4) [From 1 and 3] Naturally talented individuals are not deserving of the rewards that the market provides.
 - 5) [Assumption] Individuals with more resources will leave other individuals with less resources.
 - 6) [From 3, 4, and 5] Even with Sufficiency, the unequal living standard of untalented individuals compared to talented individuals is unjustified.**
 - 7) [Assumption] Financially rewarding certain individuals provides only self-benefit.
 - 8) [From 3 and 7] Talented individuals in a free-market system will not serve the common good.
 - 9) [Assumption] Systems of distribution that does not serve the common good are undesirable.
- C) [From 6, 8, and 9] Therefore, a society run under a free-market system is undesirable.

Part 3:

- 1) [Assumption] The products and services that the market desires are determined by what the society desires as a whole.
 - 2) The needs of individuals that are untalented, if in high demand, will influence the market demand for the production of products or services that can fulfill those needs.
 - 3) [Assumption] Individuals are not inherently motivated to help the common good, rather from their own self-interest.
 - 4) [From 1, 2, and 3] The market will financially incentivize talented individuals to create and improve the desired products and services for everyone, even those that are not talented, in turn also improving the baseline welfare in a Sufficiency.
 - 5) [Assumption] Individuals will utilize the least amount of their resources for the greatest and highest quality of products and services.
 - 6) [From 4 and 5] Talented individuals will be incentivized to use their resources more efficiently and improve the quality of the products and services desired by society.
 - 7) [From 6] The living standard of untalented individuals will improve from the higher quality of products, services, and baseline welfare.
 - 8) [Assumption] An unequal society with a higher baseline welfare of sufficiency is more desirable than an equal society at a lower living standard overall.
 - 9) [From 6, 7, and 8] A society run under a free-market system serves the common good through its products and services, and greater amount of resources overall.
- C) Therefore, it is false to suggest that **the unequal living standard of untalented individuals compared to talented individuals from a free market is unjustified.**

Note:

- This student had a very complicated set of premises, they did well with them but do use caution if you find yourself in a similar situation.