

# **Judging whether Life is or is not Worth Living in the Case of Suicide: A Theoretical Approach**

**Viyanga Gunasekara**

## **Abstract**

*Suicide is a growing concern in Sri Lanka, but little is understood about the thought process that precedes the act. Despite the fact that different religious and moral norms in Sri Lanka have reservations about ending one's own life, there is little exploration as to how people make their moral judgments when attempting suicide. Using three theories of morality, the author has developed a model to examine the process of moral judgment preceding suicide. The argument is that moral judgment can either be governed by intense emotions (impulsive) or well considered (deliberate) thought. This theory could be useful to understand why people are sometimes so quick to resort to attempting suicide, and how such instances can be limited in future generations.*

**Keywords:** *Suicide, Morality, Moral Judgment, Theories of Morality, Impulsive Reasoning, Religious and Cultural Norms*