

Course Title: Composition and Communication Skills

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**Term Paper on:**

**“Decision-making tendencies through utilitarian and deontological lenses: A psychoanalysis among the students of East West University“**

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**Why have I chosen this topic?**

Human beings are the most exciting being in this universe to study upon. The curiosity around why they choose to do something over any other option available to them is a curiosity among most philosophical thoughts and researchers. Knowing the scale of the human moral compass in complex situations, where the boundary between right and wrong becomes blurred and they tend to choose either Utilitarian or Deontological decisions where right and wrong blend in together drives them toward Utilitarian or Deontological decision making. These rationales drove me to ask specific questions to understand human behavior inspired by the big umbrella of philosophy and towards finding some small specific questions under this big umbrella of philosophy.

**Research Questions:**

1. How likely is a person to take a utilitarian or deontological decision in a complex situation?
2. Does their childhood affect their decision-making?

**Methodology:**

For acquiring the knowledge required for researching my curiosity I am choosing the quantitative methodology.

**Appendix:**

1. What is your Gender?
2. How happy do you feel with your family?
3. How happy do you feel with your friends?
4. Looking back to your childhood, how joyful it was?
5. How much do you want to be a parent like yours?
6. How likely are you to share your thoughts with your parents, without any hesitation as opposed to your/best friend?
7. How safe do you feel around the people you consider to be close?
8. How much do you let your guard down while hanging out with people you’re comfortable with?
9. How would you rank yourself as a friend?
10. How likely do you want a close friend just like yourself? Who is a direct copy of everything you are.
11. How likely do you feel your lover or life partner should be the same as you are now, and he/she should think and like the same things as you do?
12. Let’s assume you are driving a vehicle, and there are two roads for you to choose, while suddenly your brakes of the vehicle have failed, and on the road you have taken the President of your country (assume you don’t have any intention to harm him) is standing, on another road random 10 innocent people who you don’t know are standing, You can save one of them by changing your path or by not changing your path, but only the president has the ability to save you from further police issues and harassment, and will reward you. How likely are you going to change the path?
13. Assume you have a device, which you can use to transfer your pain to a random rich person, the person will not know about you, the pain will completely leave you and you’ll become happy, the rich person will have no clue about what really happened and where the pain came from, the pain may be a simple physical ache or some emotional or mental stress. How likely are you going to use that device?
14. Assume your partner/a favorite person/close friend around you is asking about their favorite outfit, and you think the outfit looks very bad and that favorite person looks ugly in it. How likely are you going to compliment a lie to your partner/a favorite person/close people?
15. In a perfect world criminal justice system, a person gets punishment based on how much control they had over the action that they had taken. Assume a person had a brain tumor that is solely responsible for some heinous crimes. He wasn’t diagnosed with the tumor before he became a criminal. His tumor can be easily removed thus curing his criminal mindset but if the tumor comes back he will be committing crimes again. How likely would you let him free without any jail time after the surgery happens and the brain tumor is removed?
16. The creation of revolutionary breakthroughs in medicine is harder and more costly than any other research in the world. Imagine a scenario where a doctor is doing experiments on stem cells in the human body, which can be obtained from the baby and the mother’s placenta during pregnancy. But having access to them is not easy and cheap, because most mothers change their decision about giving up their baby and placenta. Now imagine in a hospital a doctor is impregnating womans, who is medically dead, meaning her body is nonresponsive, she is just alive as her body is still functional, and had donated their organs after their life. This stem cell research can help billions of people with different incurable diseases, and the women will not be affected physically by this procedure as well as will not have any recollection of going through pregnancy and having that child. How likely would you agree with letting the doctor move on with this procedure?
17. People are innocent until proven guilty, a very common phrase for future lawyers studying in law school. Let's imagine a scenario, a man with no criminal record saw a woman in her most vulnerable moment, the woman was sick and unconscious in a dark alley. The Male Person was a good person and went there with the sole intention of helping that woman. But in the spontaneity of the moment he couldn’t help himself and got sexually involved. After that, he took her to the hospital. The woman didn’t have any indication of sexual activity both physically and mentally, and there is no way she will be able to know it ever happened. In your opinion, how guilty should that Male Person be?
18. A survey shows People tend not to call the police when witnessing sexual assault as indicated that the witness might be experiencing some arousal himself If on the spot the woman is not saying no, then people tend to believe that she has given her full consent in that situation and doesn't consider it to be sexual assault. What would be your action, if in any encounter you might think that the woman is not protesting and maybe seems like she might be comfortable in that scenario?

**Optional:**

1. Batman is a superhero character who never does anything wrong (even killing criminals). Joker is an extremist villain character who kills and terrorizes mass people. And he always gets away from jail. How likely do you agree about Batman should kill Joker in order to save innocent people from more harm?
2. Assume you are walking through a forest. You meet a group of human traffickers about to kill 20 innocent people. Seeing you, the leader of the gang gives you two options, either you kill one person and they will let the other 19 people go, or they kill all of them in front of you and also kill you. How likely are you gonna save 19 people by killing one?
3. In some cultures, crimes are justifiable due to a person's state of vulnerability. Assume a scenario where a poor person was passing by a desert, and suddenly saw a bag of money laying beside an unconscious notorious(known) criminal’s/murderer’s body. He takes the money and leaves him there to die. The poor person thinks he did a good thing as the criminal has certainly died and will not be able to harm anyone. How likely would you agree not to call that poor person a thief or a criminal?
4. Assume you and your friends are on a boat, the boat has a small hole. Suddenly you see a person struggling in the water for his life. If you take him on the boat, the boat will sink and you all are gonna die. How likely are you going to save your family by ignoring him?
5. Assume a doctor has five patients, A patient needs a heart, another one needs lungs, another needs a liver and the other two need one kidney. They will not survive till tomorrow if they don’t get transplants. There is a criminal who is in jail on death row for killing two innocent children and a pregnant woman. That man is matched for all five patients. The doctor can save all his 5 patients by using the prisoner now who is gonna die anyway. How likely do you think the doctor should use the transplant without the prisoner's consent?
6. Let’s assume a world where only one religion exists and everyone is a believer of the same god hence there is no diversity or fighting regarding religion. Also, This God directly communicates with the people. One day God told everyone that tomorrow a child will be born, who will lead humans to extinction after growing up. But did not specify which child exactly, therefore all humans decided that every child all over the world that is born needs to be killed, and they do just that and murder all the children in every hospital and every home that is born the next day. How do you agree with that decision? Let's assume there will be 2000 newborns tomorrow, and the current population is 400 Million, which includes your family and loved ones.