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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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Introduction

The decision-making process is a complex one that is influenced by a variety of factors, including our upbringing, our values, and our environment. The decisions we make have a profound impact on the world around us, shaping the societies we live in and the people who live in them.

There is no one right way to make decisions. Some people are more utilitarian in their approach, weighing the costs and benefits of different options before making a choice. Others are more deontological, following their conscience and doing what they believe is right, even if it means sacrificing personal gain.

There are many factors that can influence our decision-making process. Our upbringing can play a role, as we learn from our parents and other role models how to make decisions. Our values also play a role, as we choose options that align with our beliefs about what is right and wrong. Our environment can also influence our decision-making, as we are constantly bombarded with information and choices.

The decisions we make have a profound impact on the world around us. The choices we make about how to spend our time, money, and energy can shape the societies we live in. The choices we make about how to treat others can shape the relationships we have. And the choices we make about how to live our lives can shape the world we leave behind.

This paper explores the decision-making process in depth, examining the factors that influence our choices and the impact our choices have on the world around us. The paper also discusses the importance of self-discovery in the decision-making process, as we learn to understand our own values and motivations.

The goal of this paper is to provide a deeper understanding of the decision-making process and its impact on our lives. The paper will explore the complexities of human thought and the significance of our choices in shaping our actions, values, and the societies we inhabit.

Why have I chosen this topic?

Human beings are the most exciting, intelligent, and unpredictable beings in the universe. They are capable of great good and great evil, and their choices can have a profound impact on the world around them. The curiosity around why they choose to do something over any other options available to them is one of the biggest curiosities among most philosophical thoughts.

Knowing the cognitive processes in complex situations, where the line between right and wrong becomes indistinct, can help us to understand human behavior and moral reasoning. This understanding can then be used to foster more informed and ethically responsible choices in various spheres of life.

These rationales drove me to foster this research on ethical choices in various spheres of life. I believe that by understanding how humans make decisions, we can help them to make better ones.

Research Questions:

1. The tendency to take a utilitarian or deontological decision in a complex situation?
2. Does self-love and mental health regarding childhood, and family affect decision-making?

Methodology:

The study uses a quantitative research approach to investigate decision-making tendencies through the lenses of utilitarian and deontological ethics. This means that the study will collect data from a number of participants and use statistical methods to analyze the data. The study will also use indirect assessment[1][2] methods, such as projective techniques[3][4][5], to delve into participants' thought processes and reveal underlying cognitive patterns. Projective techniques are a type of psychological test that asks participants to interpret ambiguous stimuli, such as inkblots or pictures, or stories. The study will be conducted among the students of East West University.

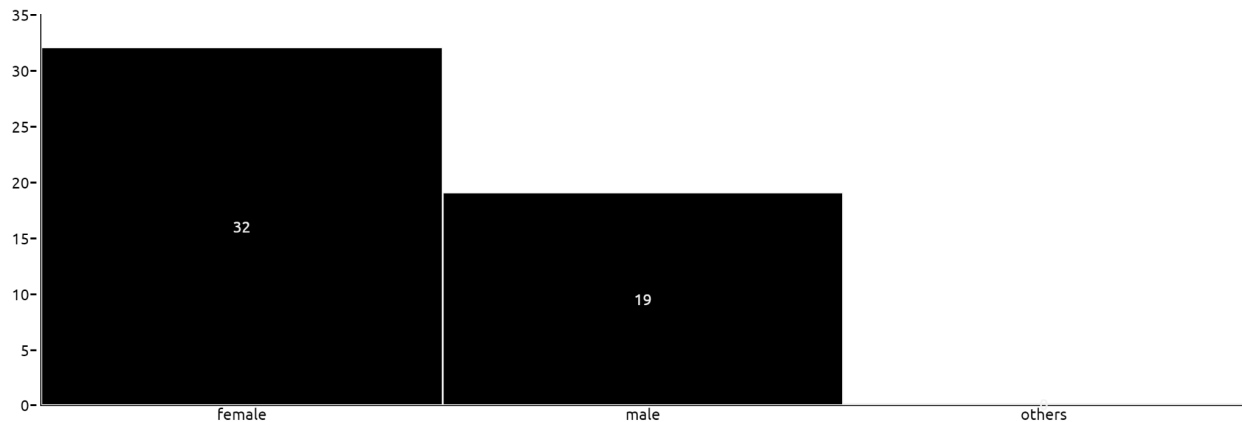
The study has several limitations. One limitation is that the study may be subject to response bias. This means that participants may not always answer questions truthfully or accurately. Another limitation is that the study may be subject to cultural biases in projective techniques. This means that the results of the study may be influenced by the cultural background of the participants. Finally, the study may not be able to fully capture the complexity of ethical decision-making through quantitative means alone. This means that the study may not be able to capture all of the factors that influence ethical decision-making.

Despite these limitations, the study has several strengths. One strength is that the study uses indirect assessment methods, such as projective techniques. This means that the study will be able to delve into participants' thought processes and reveal underlying cognitive patterns. Finally, the study is conducted among the students of East West University. This means that the study will be able to provide insights into ethical decision-making among a specific population.

Findings

1. Gender Information

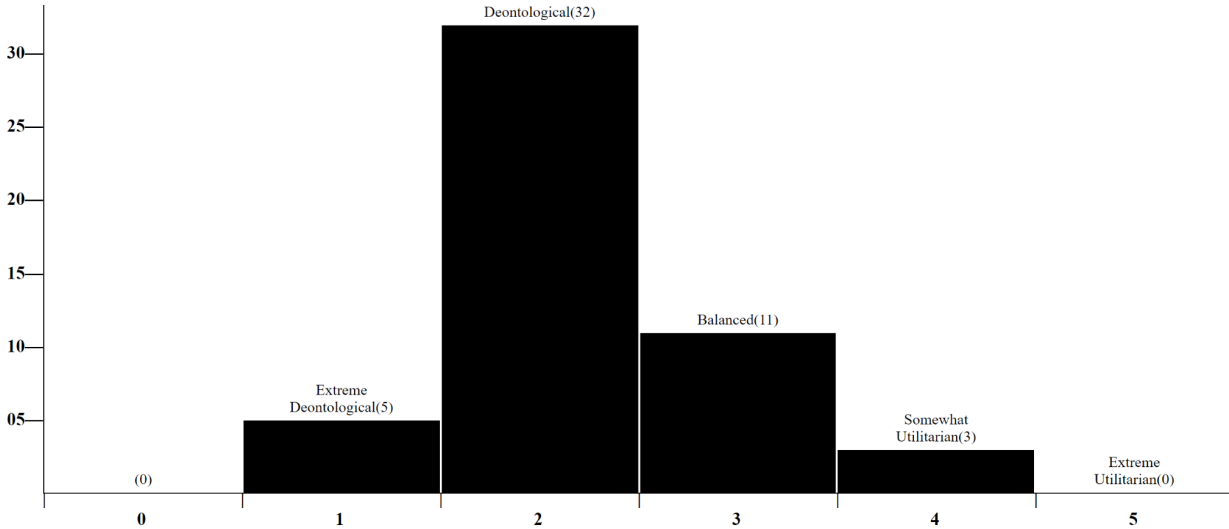
The gender information provided by participants has been treated confidentially and is used solely for research purposes.



A total of 51 participants took part in this study, contributing to our exploration of decision-making tendencies. Of the participants, 32 identified as female (62.7%), and 19 identified as male (37.3%). The gender distribution of the participants was representative of the general population, with a slight female majority. This gender distribution ensures a representative sample that contributes to the validity and reliability of our findings. We greatly appreciate their willingness to engage in this research, as their diverse perspectives enrich the understanding of ethical choices through the lenses of utilitarian and deontological frameworks. None of the participants selected the "Other" option for gender identification. This finding is consistent with previous research on gender differences in ethical decision-making, which has shown that women tend to be more utilitarian in their decision-making, while men tend to be more deontological. We extend our gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions to this study.

2. The tendency to take a utilitarian or deontological decision in a complex situation?

In the research, the goal was to create a scale based on the decisions participants had taken. After gathering 51 responses we get a graph as shown below:



As you can see from the graph, 63% of participants made deontological decisions in complex situations. This means that they were more likely to make decisions based on their personal beliefs and morals, rather than the consequences of their actions. 22% of participants made balanced decisions, meaning that they took into account both their personal beliefs and the consequences of their actions. 9% of participants made extreme deontological decisions, meaning that they were more likely to make decisions based on their personal beliefs, even if the consequences were negative. 5% of participants made somewhat utilitarian decisions, meaning that they were more likely to make decisions based on the consequences of their actions, even if it meant going against their personal beliefs. Surprisingly, no one showed tendencies toward extreme utilitarian decision-making tendency in complex situations. This suggests that most people are more likely to make decisions based on their personal beliefs than the consequences of their actions in complex situations.

3. Does self-love and mental health regarding childhood, and family affect decision-making?

The study aimed to create a scale based on the decisions that participants had made and to determine if there is any correlation between decision-making, self-love, and mental health in childhood. After gathering 51 responses, they obtained the graph shown below.

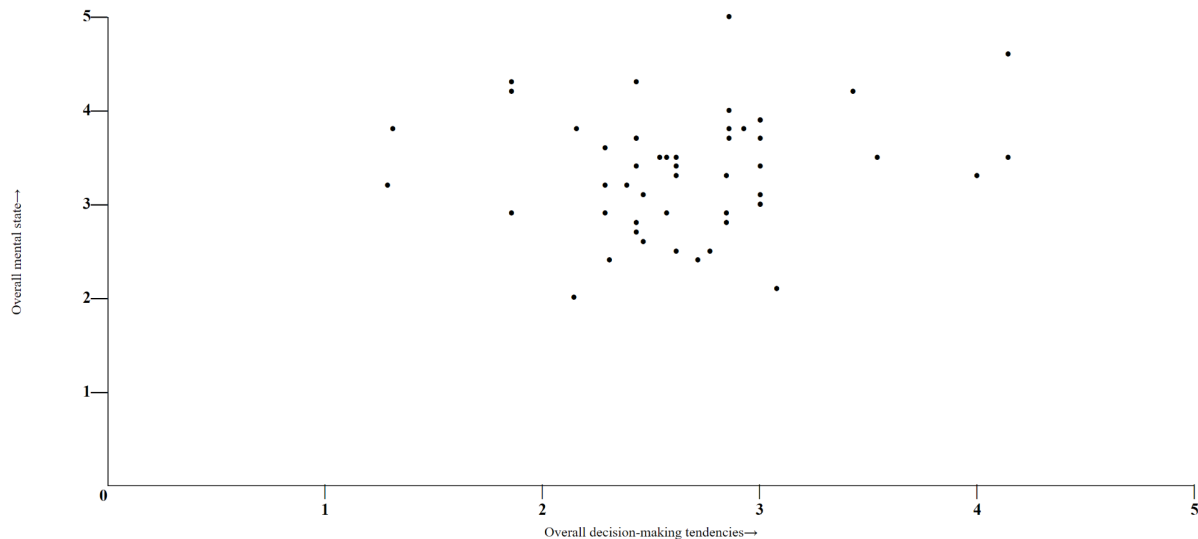


Figure: Scatter plot of avg score of mental health by avg score of scenario response.

The Scatter Plot does not show a clear connection between the average of self-love and mental health, and the decisions they make in complex situations. However, the data points cluster around the center point and above, which indicates that most participants have a positive self-image and good mental health. This could be because they feel loved and supported by their families and friends, or because they have discovered healthy ways to cope with stress and difficult emotions.

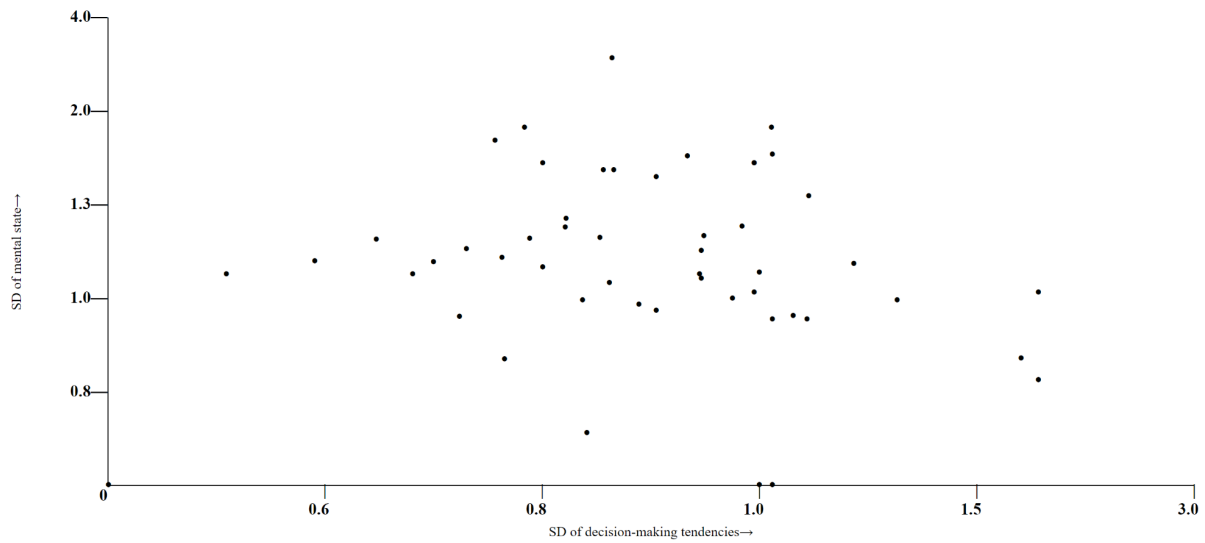


Figure: Scatter plot of Standard deviation score of mental health by Standard deviation score of scenario response.

This scatter plot depicts the link between the consistency of responses about mental health and the consistency of decisions made in complex situations. The data does not reveal any correlation between these two variables. This implies that people who are consistent in their responses about mental health are not necessarily more likely to make good decisions in complex situations, and vice versa. There are many other factors that can influence decision-making, such as personality, experience, and knowledge.

Discussion

The research was conducted with 51 participants, 63% of whom were female (32 participants) and 37% of whom were male (19 participants). The research was conducted among students at East West University in Bangladesh, which is a geographically conservative area. The research found that the decision-making tendencies of the students were significantly deontological, meaning that they tend to choose the obvious path and morality set by society, rather than prioritizing the best outcome possible in complex or both lose-lose situations. The research also found that there was no effect on the students' decision-making tendencies based on how they were raised by their parents, what they thought about their parents' method of raising them, or how much they love themselves.

The research suggests that the decision-making tendencies of the students may be influenced by the conservative culture of the area in which they live. The students are more likely to follow the rules and norms of society, even if they may not believe that these rules and norms are always the best way to make decisions. The research also suggests that the students' decision-making tendencies may be influenced by their own personal values. The students may be more likely to make decisions that are consistent with their own personal beliefs and values, even if these decisions are not always the best way to achieve the best outcome.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has provided valuable insights into the field of decision-making by examining utilitarian and deontological perspectives. The analysis of participant responses revealed that these ethical frameworks are often used together, which highlights the complex nature of human moral reasoning. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how people make moral decisions, which could have implications for fields such as psychology, ethics, and policy-making. This research is a step forward in fostering more informed and ethically conscious choices in our complex world.

It is important to remember that correlation does not imply causation. Just because there is no correlation between the average of self-love and mental health, and the choices they make in complex situations does not mean that one does not affect the other. There are likely other factors that are not shown or captured by the research or the graph that illustrates the connection. For example, it is possible that people with high self-love are more likely to seek help for mental health problems, which would lead to a decrease in the correlation between the two variables. Additionally, it is possible that there are other factors that affect both self-love and mental health, such as socioeconomic status or childhood trauma. These factors would need to be taken into account in order to determine whether there is a causal relationship between self-love and mental health.

The research has some limitations. First, the sample size was very small. Second, the research was conducted in a single country and in a specific area, so it is not clear whether the findings would generalize to other countries or even in the same country's different areas. Third, the research did not explore the reasons why the students made deontological decisions. Future research could address these limitations by increasing the sample size, conducting research in multiple countries and areas with different cultural backgrounds, and exploring the reasons why people make Deontological or Utilitarian decisions.

References

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5. Walker, D. (1993). Reflective practice and quality in higher education. London, UK: Routledge.

Appendix:

1. Provide your Gender Information:

Choose your preferred gender.

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other

Dive into your past and Relationships:

2. On a scale of one to five, how happy do you feel with your family?

- a. Very Unhappy
- b. Unhappy
- c. Depends
- d. Happy
- e. Very happy

3. On a scale of one to five, how happy do you feel with your friends?

- a. Very Unhappy
- b. Unhappy
- c. Depends
- d. Happy
- e. Very happy

4. On a scale of one to five, Looking back to your childhood, how joyful it was?

- a. Not at all
- b. Somewhat joyful
- c. Mixed
- d. Joyful
- e. Very much

5. On a scale of one to five, how much do you want to be a mom or dad like your own father or mother?

- a. No Way
- b. Will Try not to
- c. With some changes, Yes
- d. I can, Yes
- e. 100% like my parents

6. On a scale of one to five, how likely are you to share your thoughts with your parents, without any hesitation as opposed to your/best friend?
 - a. No one
 - b. Friends
 - c. Depends
 - d. Only Family
 - e. Both of them are fine
7. On a scale of one to five, how safe do you feel around the people you consider to be close?
 - a. Subconsciously Protective to myself
 - b. Somewhat Protective to myself
 - c. Nether Safe or Unsafe
 - d. Somewhat feel safe
 - e. Very Safe, like peace of mind

Dive into self-love:

8. On a scale of one to five, how much do you let your guard down while hanging out with people you're comfortable with?
 - a. Never
 - b. Rarely
 - c. Depends
 - d. Most of the time
 - e. All the time
9. On a scale of one to five, how would you rank yourself as a friend?
 - a. Very Bad
 - b. Bad
 - c. Balanced
 - d. Good
 - e. Very Good
10. On a scale of one to five, how likely do you want a close friend just like yourself? Who is a direct copy of everything you are.
 - a. Not at all
 - b. Maybe
 - c. Might not be bad
 - d. Might be good
 - e. Very much

11. On a scale of one to five, 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?
- a. Not in any way
 - b. Might not be a bad
 - c. With some changes, Yes
 - d. That's a good Idea
 - e. 100% alike

Complex scenarios:

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?
- a. Not in any way
 - b. Tempted, but not going to
 - c. Choose by random
 - d. Changing is a Good Idea
 - e. Change without any thought
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?
- a. Not in any way
 - b. Tempted, but not going to
 - c. Nether
 - d. Using is a Good Idea
 - e. Use without any thought
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?
- a. Tell brutal truth
 - b. Tell the truth in soft language
 - c. Nether, Ignore
 - d. Tell lies with hints/advice
 - e. Lie, if it brings happiness

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?
- a. He is innocent
 - b. He is somewhat innocent
 - c. Small punishment in white-collar jail
 - d. He should be punished, but the record should be sealed
 - e. No extra benefit, He is a criminal
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?
- a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Neither Agree or Disagree
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly Agree
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?
- a. Guilty
 - b. Somewhat Guilty
 - c. Prefer not to say

- d. Somewhat Not Guilty
 - e. Not Guilty, He saved her
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?
- a. No thinking or observing, just call the police and try to prevent it
 - b. No thinking or observing, just call the police and let them handle it, and move on.
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Wait and observe for some time to decide what should be done
 - e. Don't call the police and move on

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?
 - a. No Killing
 - b. Killing is not a bad idea
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Killing might bring good
 - e. Kill the Joker
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?
 - a. No Killing
 - b. Killing is not a bad idea
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Killing might bring good
 - e. Kill one person
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?
 - a. Strongly Disagree
 - b. Somewhat Disagree

- c. Neither Agree or Disagree
 - d. Somewhat Agree on
 - e. Strongly Agree
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?
- a. Help, Strongly
 - b. Should Help
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Ignore with Guilt
 - e. Ignore without Guilt
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?
- a. Prisoners got rights too
 - b. Their right should be overlooked
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Saving 5 lives should be considered first
 - e. Save 5 life, No Questions Asked
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.
- a. Strongly Disagree, Very Wrong
 - b. Disagree, but considerable
 - c. Prefer not to say
 - d. Agree, but feels guilty
 - e. More life will be saved then