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| **ASSIGNMENT**  **MAY 2021 SEMESTER** | | |
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| **SUBJECT CODE** | **:** | **FS1012** |
| **SUBJECT TITLE** | **:** | **CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS** |
| **LEVEL** | **:** | **BACHELOR** |

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| **MATRIC NO.** | **:** | **C30101190014** |
| **PROGRAMME** | **:** | **BICT** |
| **ACADEMIC FACILITATOR** | **:** |  |
| **LEARNING CENTRE** | **:** | **VIRINCHI COLLEGE** |

**INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS**

1. This assignment consists of **THREE (3)** questions. Answer **ALL** questions.
2. Plagiarism in all forms is forbidden. Students who submit plagiarised assignments will be penalised.
3. This assignment carries **60%** from the overall mark towards the final grade.
4. Submission must be made **BY** or **BEFORE 30 AUGUST 2021. The assignment must be submitted in PDF format.**

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| **THERE ARE TWO (2)**  **OF** **,, EXCLUDING THIS PAGE** |

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer ALL questions.**

**Question 1**

Judge the value of the evidence given in this passage:

Are Botox injections a safe alternative to face lifts? According to an interview with Dr N.O Worries, there are no dangerous side effects associated with Botox injections. Dr Worries performs hundreds of Botox injections. Dr Worries performs hundreds of Botox injections each month, is well established as a physician and has her own private practice. She claims that she never had a serious problem with any of her injections, and that her patients have never reported any side effects to her. Furthermore, the Hollywood association for Cosmetic Surgeons officially stated in a press release that Botox has never been shown to cause any negative effects, despite hat other physicians may argue.

**(20 Marks)**

Answer:

The above given evidence is based on the belief of Dr. Worries. This type of beliefs always consists of the beliefs the communicator has about the way the world was, is or going to be, or how they see the world and consists of their own views and beliefs.

Knowledge is one aspect which is never complete. There is no person in this world who is completely knowledgable. Each and every person tends to learn something new each day through their personal experiences. Experience teaches something which even education cant teach. That is the reason why it is always said that we tend to learn more through experience in real life rather than sitting in a classroom. It teaches the pros and cons of a particular situation which might not have been included in the text books that we study in our schools and colleges. So, considering the above evidence which is based on the evidence of a single doctor, we can somehow consider it but to fully evaluate the evidence we need to check the credibility of the evidence. We can use the mnemonic RAVEN to evaluate the evidence’s credibility.

R-Reputation

A-Ability to see

V-Vested interest

E- Expertise

N-Neutrality

Reputation:

This reputation is concerned with the source’s history or status which determines the reliability or unreliability. Professionals such as teachers, lawyers, or doctors are considered to derive credibility from their professional status. If they weren’t trustworthy, then it is less likely that they would have been able to make it in their profession. The above evidence is proivided by a well practising doctor as per his experience and hence the data is reliable.

Ability to see:

This critearea refers to whether or not the source is in a position to know what they are talking about. Regardless of how honest a source of information is, if they don’t have access to the evidence then the value of their testimony is going to be limited. To assess a source using this criterion, consider whether the person was present to see what they are claiming occurred first-hand, and if they were, then whether there were any conditions that might have obstructed their view or otherwise impaired their access to evidence. Since, the doctor has performed Botox injections multiple times and has closely monitered the patients, the given evidence supports ability to see critearea.

Vested Interest:

The vested interest criterion refers to whether the source of information has anything personally at stake, i.e. whether or not they have anything to lose or gain from it. If they might gain something by lying, then their credibility is weakened by their vested interest. If they might lose a lot by being caught lying, then their credibility is strengthened by a vested interest to tell the truth.

More often, though, vested interest weakens credibility. In this case, the doctor may have a vested interest to lie to increase their client retention and uprise their business , so he may have been promoting botox injections even if harmful. This can be the case which could degrade the vulue of the evidence.

Expertise:

Expertise revolves around whether an author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event? Is the author considered an expert in the field? Does the evidence come from a source that has expertise on the topic or event?

In the above case, the evidence directly comes from the doctor who has been practising botox injections and this evidence is stronger in the sense that it comes from the person with specialized knowledge.

Neutrality:

Neutrality revolves around whether the author is neutral about the issue or is bias evident? Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased? It determines whether someone is predisposed to support a particular point of view for reasons other than vested interest. Neutrality is very much required in any evidence because lack of neutrality can cause bias as the source can take side of the evidence or against the evidence depending on the relationship which ultimately weakens the credibility. Here, the source is clearly seem to have taken the side of the evidence and this can weaken the credibility.

These above mentioned R.A.V..E.N values judge the vlaue of the given evidence and thus the evidence is evaluated to be credible.

**Question 2**

How are Valid Arguments and Good arguments different from one another? Provide two examples for each that can illustrate the differences between the two.

**(20 Marks)**

Answer:

A valid argument is an argument that implies that there is no logical situation where all its premises can be true while the conclusion is false and vice versa. The conclusion follows logically from the premises in valid argument. whenever we have a valid argument, if the premises are all true, then the conclusion must also be true. Meaning that if we use only valid arguments in our reasoning, as long as we start with true premises, we will never end up with a false conclusion.

For example:

* I have three cars but James has two. Therefore, I have more cars than James.

Here, the conclusion matches with the premises, so it is a valid argument.

But taking another example: I have three cars but James has two. Therefore, James has more cars than me.

Here, the context between premises and conclusion differs as james can’t have more cars than me. Since, the premise cannot be true while the conclusion is false, the argument is invalid.

* All doctors are quacks. Smith is a doctor. Therefore, Smith is a quack.

Here also, the conclusion matches with the premises and hence is a valid argument.

A good argument is one in which the premises give good reasons to believe the conclusion is true. A good argument is one that presents a conclusion and then gives good reasons for accepting it. A good argument must have true premises so that it can persuade to accept its conclusion.

For example:

Premise1: No two-year old has ever been able to take a Lamborghini to its top speed.

Premise2: Your son is almost two.

Conclusion: Your son will not be able to take a Lamborghini to its top speed.

This is a good argument as the premise1 presents a proper and likely to be true argument and the premise2 is also true and since both the premises support the conclusion, the argument is a good one.

Premise1: All whales are mammals.

Premise2: All mammals are warm-blooded.

Conclusion: So all whales are warm-blooded.

This is another good argument because the both premises present a true and undeniable argument and which supports the conclusion fully.

**Question 3**

Depict these arguments in the “Q. Therefore P” format.

1. If he had the money, he would have given it to me.
2. If I had cat, I would be happy.
3. If he passes the trial, he will move to the next round.
4. If you manage to eliminate the impossible, then you will arrive at the truth.
5. If ever I had the chance, I would live by the sea.

**(20 Marks)**

**Answers:**

**a.**

**b.** He had a cat. Therefore, he is happy.

**c.** He passed the trial, Therefore, he

**d.**

**e.**

**END OF ASSIGNMENT QUESTION**