



Contemporary Challenges: Making a Difference

Assignment 2

Single use plastics

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Section 1 – Notes on the Presentation

Link of presentation video/slides:

https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/2226211_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/ErxfyM6BIahKnejUhPLefIIBgMs1tDmdTAgZCGG0BR3mVg?e=xcE21E

The role of ethics in identifying solutions

In our modern society, the rise of single-use plastics poses a serious environmental concern. The adverse effects of these substances on the environment, human wellness, and the overall well-being of the planet have sparked a global cry for answers. While scientific, economic, and policy-oriented measures are unquestionably important, the role of ethics in tackling the disposable plastics problem is also critical. The moral underpinning for assessing, prioritizing, and acting remedies, to guarantee our actions match with our beliefs as well as we consider the larger ramifications of our decisions, is provided by ethics. This article investigates the multidimensional role of ethics in developing solutions for single-use plastics and contends that a moral structure is required for meaningful and long-term advancement.

Before getting into the ethical implications of plastics that are only used once, it is critical to clarify the issue at hand. Single-use plastics include a wide range of things such as containers, bags, drinking straws, and packaging supplies. These goods are intended for short-term usage, frequently for a few hours or minutes, yet they remain in the atmosphere for decades, contaminating seas, killing animals, and threatening ecosystems. The single-use plastics disaster is more than simply an environmental concern; it is a multifaceted problem with significant financial, social, and moral consequences.

One of the most important ethical factors in combating disposable plastics is our environmental duty. Environmental ethics, for example, emphasises our moral need to safeguard and maintain the natural world. Recognising the harm wrought by single-use plastics, we are compelled by ethical reasoning to seek alternatives that minimise environmental impact. Reduced plastic manufacturing, more recycling, and a shift to alternate materials are all possibilities. Ethics also serves to reaffirm to us of the interdependence of every being on Earth. Single-use plastics do significantly more harm than only the immediate environmental implications. It has a negative impact on vulnerable populations, marine organisms, and the generations to come. Ethical

reasoning leads us to assess these bigger consequences and evaluate them against immediate efficiency and wealth.

Intergenerational ethics emphasises the need to consider future generations' interests and well-being. This concept emphasises the need to find long-term solutions to the problem of single-use plastics. Failure to handle this problem ethically would entail leaving an inheritance of contamination and environmental deterioration to our successors, which would be a morally repugnant course of action. The financial cost of reusable plastic usage is not allocated equitably. From hazardous waste dumps to contaminated rivers, vulnerable populations typically face most of its harmful consequences. Ethical frameworks centred on justice and equality advocate for solutions that address these discrepancies while also ensuring that the expenses and rewards of fixing the issue are divided equally.

Ethical business practises are becoming increasingly crucial in today's environment. Consumers and campaigners will scrutinise companies that choose profit above environmental and social responsibilities. Ethical reasons compel firms to embrace sustainable practises, minimise their use of plastic, and invest in environmentally friendly alternatives.

Ethical consumerism is important for decreasing single-use plastic usage. Individuals who make ethical decisions based on social and environmental factors help to increase the demand for environmentally friendly goods and hold firms responsible for their activities. The creation of rules and laws aimed at reducing single-use plastics is guided by ethical values. Ethical governments are more inclined to implement and enforce regulations restricting both the production and utilisation of such materials.

Corporate responsibility activities are driven by ethical issues. Many businesses now understand the necessity of decreasing their plastic footprint, not just for environmental reasons, but also to meet client demands and moral requirements. Responsible research and innovation prioritise ecologically environmentally friendly and socially responsible solutions. Ethical scientists and innovators are more likely to find solutions to single-use plastics which help both society and the natural world.

Ethical values emphasise the necessity of community involvement in tackling the issue of single-use plastics. Creating ethical societies that respect environmental stewardship encourages collaborative action and the implementation of long-term solutions.

While ethics provide an important foundation for resolving the problem of single-use plastics, they also provide significant problems and conflicts. Individuals must weigh the practicality of single-use plastics with their ecological and societal obligations while making ethical decisions. This frequently requires making less comfortable but ethically sound decisions. Transitioning to alternatives to single-use plastics may have financial implications, including employment losses in businesses that rely on plastic manufacture. Economic well-being of impacted people and their neighbourhoods must be included in ethical solutions.

Changing societal conventions and cultural practises around plastic consumption can be difficult. Ethical practises should consider different cultural viewpoints while encouraging sustainable behaviour. The problem of single-use plastics is worldwide, necessitating international cooperation. When governments prioritise financial objectives over collective environmental responsibilities, ethical quandaries arise.

The role of ethics in addressing the problem of single-use plastics is critical. Ethical concerns remind us of our responsibility to the environment duties, the interdependence of all species on Earth, and the importance of intergenerational equality. They point us in the direction of fair and equal solutions that protect poor neighbourhoods and future generations of people. Corporate responsibility is driven by ethical principles, which shape laws, inspire innovation, and stimulate community participation. However, combining convenience and responsibility, considering economic ramifications, honouring cultural norms, and fostering global collaboration are all obstacles in ethical decision-making.

Finally, ethics serves as a moral compass, guiding us towards solutions that are consistent with our beliefs, promote environmental sustainability and safeguard the environment for present and future generations. While technological and policy methods are important, the ethical underpinning guarantees that these approaches are successful additionally just and accountable. As we confront the single-use plastics catastrophe, we must recognise and embrace the critical role of ethics in guiding us towards an environmentally conscious and ethical future. As a guiding factor, ethics may assist us in navigating the complicated world of single-use plastics. We can build solutions that not only solve the immediate crisis but also respect our moral duty to protect the earth and its people by prioritising environmental stewardship, intergenerational parity, and social justice.

Section 2 – Reflection

The Reflective Process

Reflection is a strong cognitive process that allows people to develop understanding of their own experiences, behaviours, and decisions. It is a planned trip that includes description, emotions, assessment, analysis, conclusion, and action planning. In this essay, we will look at each step of the reflection process, its importance, and how it may help one's personal growth and self-improvement.

The reflective approach begins with a detailed and impartial account of the incident or circumstance in question. This stage entails recording the information, events, and circumstances without bias or interpretation. Individuals provide the groundwork for further thought by stating what happened, when it took place, as well as who was involved. Description helps us to take a step back and look at the issue objectively.

Emotions and feelings are an essential aspect of the human condition. Recognising and expressing emotions associated to the event is critical throughout the reflection phase. Individuals are encouraged to be open with themselves about how they felt throughout the event or circumstance in this phase. Recognising these feelings, whether they were satisfaction, anger, sadness, or worry, is the first step towards comprehending their influence.

The following phase is appraisal, which comes after reporting the incident and identifying sentiments. Individuals evaluate the event based on their beliefs, principles, and ambitions. They question themselves, "Was this compatible with my personal values?" or "Did this benefit my well-being?" Individuals can use evaluation to determine the relevance of an event and its conformity with their personal ideals.

Analysing an event is delving further into it by investigating the origins, repercussions, and underlying aspects. It necessitates folks investigating why events transpired in the manner that they did. This phase frequently entails critical thinking, challenging assumptions, and evaluating alternate viewpoints. Individuals develop a better knowledge of the nuances surrounding the event through analysis.

The conclusion summarises the reflecting process. It entails gaining insights and learning from the event. Individuals analyse how their views, behaviours, and beliefs have been shaped by

the event. Individuals' self-awareness improves throughout the conclusion phase as they draw the links between what they have seen and their development path.

Reflection without effort is insufficient. The action plan is the process's last stage, in which participants decide how they will put their gained insights to future circumstances. It entails creating objectives, making commitments, and devising concrete measures to effect good change. The action plan turns introspection into a driving force for development and progress.

The practise of contemplation is extremely beneficial to one's well-being and growth. Individuals become more aware of their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours as they reflect. This increased self-awareness enables people to make conscious decisions that are in line with their beliefs and aims. Individuals may learn from their encounters, both good and bad, via reflection. It converts historical occurrences into meaningful lessons that guide future judgements.

The reflection process increases an individual's problem-solving abilities through examination and review. It fosters a more deliberate and strategic approach to problems. Reflective people are better able to make educated judgements. They think about the consequences of their decisions on a deeper level, resulting in more productive and ethical decision-making. Development and growth as individuals are the results of the reflecting process. Individuals actively strive towards becoming the greatest versions of themselves by recognising areas for growth and developing action plans.

The reflective process, which includes description, feelings, assessment, analysis, conclusion, and action planning, is a potent instrument for personal development and self-improvement. It promotes self-awareness, supports experience-based learning, improves problem-solving and decision-making abilities, and eventually leads to significant human growth. Accepting the reflective process may be transformational, allowing people to handle life's obstacles with increased understanding and wisdom. Reflection is a continuous ally in the quest of finding oneself and improvement in an atmosphere where constant evolution and flexibility are required.

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Appendix

The plan for the presentation was to divide the work into six of our group mates who have each of their sections:

1. Imran Shah Norman Nathan: Decision frameworks and techniques, concluding
2. Stephanie Yong Mun Lei: The role of ethics in identifying solutions
3. Lim Zhan Nian: Wicked problems, Design thinking
4. Nik Nasha Ameera: Decision making tools
5. Muhd Zafran: Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams
6. Zahara Begum: Emotional Intelligence, Persuasion and Diplomacy

Everyone did research on their own parts and came together to link every piece of information together into slides, therefore creating the flow of the presentation.

Link of presentation video/slides:

https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/2226211_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/ErxfyM6BIahKnejUhPLefIIBgMs1tDmdTAgZCGG0BR3mVg?e=xcE21E