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Assignment 2

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Module code: LCBB4006

Module name: Academic Skills

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2. Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills

Cottrell (2019, p. 253) underscores the significance of analytical and critical thinking as an essential skills for individuals, facilitating comprehension of processes and reasons behind different scenarios. This section will evaluate how analytical and critical thinking skills enable us to understand the behaviours of others, predict future scenarios, and solve problems creatively (Karzunina et al., 2017). The researcher explores the role of analytical and critical thinking in personal and professional contexts.

2.1 Definition of Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills

Analytical thinking entails deconstructing intricate information into simpler components or principles, aiming to extract facts that support evidence-based conclusions (Thaneerananon et al., 2016). On the other hand, critical thinking involves meticulously evaluating information or perspectives to form unbiased judgments. An integral aspect of critical thinking is its analytical dimensions, which involves rigorously scrutinizing one's thought processes to enhance them (Paul and Elder, 2020).

2.2 Importance of Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills in Academic Success

Haber (2020, p. 125) posits that a primary objective of integrating critical thinking into education to enable students to transfer acquired knowledge and skills from one academic discipline to another, or to real-world contexts outside of school. Cultivating this capacity promotes interdisciplinary learning and enhances students' ability to apply their knowledge in personal and professional domains. An alternative strategy could involve embedding critical thinking within broader skill sets rather than perpetually expanding its scope as an isolated construct.

Acquiring knowledge on a specific subject can alleviate the stress associated with decision-making. Engaging in the critical thinking process enables students to make

well-informed decisions and expand their knowledge base. This process facilitates problem-solving and equips students with the ability to apply knowledge to new situations (Meyer, 2023, pp. 137-140)

Moreover, by nurturing analytical and critical thinking abilities, students can interpret the perspectives of others by considering diverse viewpoints rather than solely relying on their own opinions. Meyer (2023) elucidated that enhancing our capacity to understand differing viewpoints may enhance interpersonal relationships as communication skills develop.

2.3 Importance of Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills in Professional Success

Firstly, according to Paul and Elder (2012), analytical and critical thinking skills play a pivotal role in recognizing and delineating intricate issues, allowing individuals to use analytical reasoning and logical deduction to formulate efficient solutions. By refining their critical thinking abilities, individuals can effectively analyse complex issues, break them down into manageable parts, and devise innovative solutions.

Secondly, Halpern (2014) highlighted that critical thinking significantly boosts creativity by inspiring individuals to investigate various viewpoints and potentialities. It helps individuals become more effective employees, and their creativity might positively impact the company.

Moreover, critical thinking improves communication abilities by enabling the exchange of ideas, exploration of diverse viewpoints, and consideration of additional evidence (Davies and Barnett, 2015). Recent research indicates that they enhance capacity to convey thought effectively, articulate ideas clearly, and interpret intricate information accurately.

Additionally, critical thinking is pivotal in assessing the credibility of information. Through critical evaluation, individuals can gauge the quality of information, enabling them to make informed choices and enhance effective decision-making processes (Facione and Gittens, 2016). Making informed decisions mitigate risks within the company.

The future advancement of critical thinking skills in professional contexts is crucial for fostering creativity, augmenting problem-solving capabilities, and refining communication proficiency across various professional environments. This will contribute to success.

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