



Contemporary Challenges: Making a Difference

Assignment 2

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Section 1 – Notes on the Presentation

Interdisciplinary thinking

Interdisciplinary thinking is the capacity to take into account several disciplinary viewpoints on the phenomenon being studied, to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different viewpoints, and to combine their insights to develop a fresh, more thorough knowledge of the phenomenon. Interdisciplinary thought should result in a synthesised answer, a fresh application, or new insights into the phenomenon. In today's changing environment, interdisciplinary thinking is becoming increasingly important. Interdisciplinary thinking gives a huge advantage in a world with many contemporary problems and a variety of difficulties, and it may aid us in resolving those contemporary problems, which in this context refer to the issues with single-use plastics.

Interdisciplinary thinking has many advantages, including the capacity to address complicated problems. Environmental problems is a very wide and complex topic to discuss on. Thus, with the cooperation of experts from various fields, they could generate a way to help the public understand the issue in simpler terms. Next, interdisciplinary thinking aids people and organisations in adjusting to new difficulties in a world that is changing quickly. Interdisciplinary teams are better able to adjust and react to unforeseen circumstances by utilising a variety of knowledge and abilities. This shows that the method can help in the enhancement of the resilience of the human communities and the ecosystem. Furthermore, innovative solutions can also be generated through interdisciplinary thinking among the various experts. Not only do they have different expertise, they will surely have different backgrounds. An example of different backgrounds are such as cultural backgrounds, every culture have their own ways in solving problems. We can see how diverse cultures are by looking at things such as foods, so we can have the assumption that the difference in cultural backgrounds among the experts could help into fostering more innovative solutions to modern solutions where in this case is regarding the harm that is caused by the overwhelming amount of single-use plastics usage.

It is clearly shown how advantageous the implementation of interdisciplinary thinking is. However, it does come with its disadvantages. Finding common ground between researchers from different professions can be difficult since they may have distinct ways of thinking and diverse approaches to problem-solving, which is one of the initial drawbacks of interdisciplinary study. The majority of people have their own ego, some may have a higher level of ego, this factor will surely increase the difficulty in finding common grounds between them. Communication issues and conflicts regarding the goal and course of the research may result from this. Moreover, finding solutions using this method will not be swift and simple. Unfortunately, interdisciplinary research usually takes more time and money than traditional, discipline-specific research. This is because researchers will often have to invest more time and effort in getting to know their peers from different backgrounds and learning the fundamentals of other fields. Additionally, because of this, funding interdisciplinary research is more challenging and might cause project delays.

Section 2 – Reflection

The Gibbs Reflective Cycle has six basic components: description, feelings, evaluation, analysis, conclusion, and action plan. We must provide a thorough description of the experience because it is described. My group and I agreed to divide the group task into divisions, and we each independently researched the portion that was allocated. The group assignment discussion process is essential because it gives us the understanding and perspective we need to address the group task. To avoid the assignment submission site crashing, we plan to submit the report and upload the video before the deadline.

Feelings and ideas about the experience are the following component of the Gibbs Reflective Cycle. Personally, I have never heard of the term interdisciplinary thinking. Thus, I was quite intrigued into learning something new and fascinated to do more research on it. We were able to complete the group task despite the difficult and challenging approach. However, with the guidance of each other, we succeeded in completing our parts.

Moving on to the Gibbs Reflective Cycle's evaluation phase. During the assignment discussion, the appraisal of the experience gives us a chance to assess the efficacy of the solution. Everyone in the team understood how important this assignment is and gave their priority into finishing it. Everyone was helpful and did their parts responsibly despite having other things that they rather do. This assignment would be much more difficult to complete without the efforts of the other group members.

Next, the Gibbs Reflective Cycle component also incorporated analysis to clarify the situation. Work division is important because it fosters a sense of cooperation. The group assignment method is not straightforward because the other participants must work and there is little time for us to discuss the assignment. Thus, utilized some times in our weekends to do the assignment.

Moreover, the conclusion is also regarded as one of the Gibbs Reflective Cycle's components. The conclusion signifies that we must draw a conclusion on what we have learned during this project and time. I now recognise the value of cooperation, the value of contributing ideas and engaging, and the value of planning. Before we begin to address the issue, we should have a clear discussion, plan, and get more involved in conversations to generate fresh ideas for solutions.

Lastly , the Gibbs Reflective Cycle's action plan showed us how to react when we encounter similar circumstances in the future. Teamwork and participation during the assignment are essential to meeting the requirements. I'll be sure to thoroughly pay attention to the assignment component the professor brought up and incorporate it into an efficient and clear comprehension. I'll gain from this experience in the future.

References

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Appendix

As shown above, my part is regarding interdisciplinary thinking and its significance to the issue chosen by our group. We can see how helpful this method can be into resolving the issue. My presentation of this section will give further understanding to the audience listening.

Link for the video: https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/2226211_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/ErxfyM6BlahKnejUhPLeflIBgMs1tDmdTAgZCGG0BR3mVg?e=xcE21E