

Week 1- Discussion: Wisdom vs. Knowledge

Critical thinking involves the use of six different skills. These skills include interpretation, evaluation, explanation, self-regulation, inference, and analysis (Facione & Gittens, 2016). Critical thinking can be defined as one's ability to quickly solve problems and adapt to situations by thinking outside the box (Moore, 2011). For example, when working with patients, a nurse may have an emergent situation requiring them to solve a problem using only the resources around them. This basically means there is more than one way to get the correct answer. I think of wisdom as the knowledge one gains through their experiences. Wisdom is information one might pass on to others as advice or insight. According to Ruhl (2020), intelligence can be defined as one's ability to learn, emotional knowledge, and the ability to adapt to meet the demands of the environment. I personally think of intelligence as an umbrella term with the concepts of well-being, critical thinking, and wisdom fitting underneath. I believe well-being includes a person's physical health as well as mental health. There are many aspects that define one's well-being; these aspects include the ability to take care of one's self, the ability to establish and maintain healthy relationships with others, and the ability to thrive in a job or profession that one finds satisfying (Facione & Gittens, 2016).

Yes, I agree that wisdom/critical thinking is a better predictor of well-being than intelligence. This is due to the fact that wisdom and critical thinking are types of intelligence that should be considered when determining one's well-being. The development of wisdom and critical thinking skills are necessary tools that enhance an individual's ability to look inward. When focusing inward, individuals can honestly know themselves and determine what they want from life. While looking inward, one can better themselves both physically and mentally.

On the other hand, I do not believe we can use our intelligence to become "good". I believe being a "good" person involves empathy, compassion, honesty, and loyalty. I do not believe that these attributes stem from one's intelligence. I think that these attributes are both natural and nurtured. I believe that some amount of empathy and compassion is naturally instilled in our hearts, and negative experiences and trauma may bury one's natural empathy and compassion. I also believe that with proper nurture, a greater amount of compassion, empathy, and honesty is achieved.

The question is, are good people smart? In my own understanding depends on every individual because looking at the definition of good, it is morally excellent, virtuous, righteous, pious, and pleasant (Facione & Gittens, 2016). At the same time, smart is having or showing a high degree of mental ability. Therefore, as one has the qualities of a good person, it does not necessarily mean one will be smart. One can be good and not smart. Also, one can be smart and not good. It all depends on individual makeup. On the hand, the question is, are smart people good? For me, I will say yes. Smart individuals think objectively and do their job beautifully, making them successful. The definition of good is the ability to provide help or goodness to yourself or others. Smart is defined as the use of critical thinking to solve a problem. We can make use of our intellect, experience, and judgment to become good.

References

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Moore, T. J. (2011). *Critical thinking and language: The challenge of generic skills and disciplinary discourses*. A&C Black.

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