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# Descartes' Perspective

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# Descartes' Perspective

## Question 1

Concerning the fundamental beliefs in human life, I'm afraid I have to disagree with Descartes. This is because mothers' experiences during our initial stages of life form a massive impact on our lives. Whatever they experience significantly affects how we interpret things and how we behave in general. Descartes (2010) denied these our fundamental pieces of knowledge by arguing that they are just but mere fallacies. In my disagreement with him, therefore, I put a counter-argument that what our mothers smelled, tasted, and heard during our initial stages of life become very instrumental in influencing our future lives, and the way we act or behave is direct as a result of these fundamental experiences we experienced from our mothers. As backed by Morelen et al. (2016), maternal emotions directly influence the child and how the child is most likely to behave in the future. Therefore, if a mother experiences things such as hearing negative information that causes stress, they are most likely to pass the negative experience to their children, affecting their cognitive behaviors. For example, when a child is breastfeeding, he will look directly at the mother's face while breastfeeding and copy the mother's mood. When the mother is constantly sad while breastfeeding, the child is most likely to embrace sadness as a way of behavior and become an introvert. I firmly hold that whatever our mothers feel, see, hear or taste becomes our fundamental beliefs since socialization will pass them on to us. By so doing, I'm afraid I have to disagree with Descartes's epistemology concerning the fundamental beliefs of human life.

## Question 2

Descartes' claim that there exists a clear distinction between mind and body is valid. The meaning of the distinction between mind and body, according to Descartes, is that body of a human being consists of the noticeable and physical parts of his whole being that can be touched and seen. In contrast, the mind is the unnoticeable part of a human's whole being that takes charge of the thinking and cognitive behavior (Descartes, 2010). He proves this by saying that even though these interdependent parts of a being interrelate to achieve a common purpose of human body functioning, the mind consists of the soul essential in doing the cognitive work. In contrast, the body, like the head, hands, and legs, plays a physical role in ensuring that living and survival are achieved.

Further, he claims that there is no doubt that the body exists. Still, it is challenging to comprehend how the soul looks but gave a concrete explanation that soul equals to mind, and there is no religious implication that soul and mind have in common. Also, it is pretty accurate in his description of the body to have a definite shape that occupies a particular space. At the same time, the mind is a part of the cognitive feeling that one cannot express to exist in nature. What someone thinks or someone's mind cannot be comprehended until he behaves in a particular character, specific for the body. Lastly, one can determine what someone's mind occupies only after showing certain behaviors, which are seen in how one talks, looks at others or behaves. So, body behaviors are controlled by the state of mind and how one thinks or perceives things.

**Question 3**

The claim that God exists by Descartes and how he proves the claim is correct and worth noting. He claims that the fact that there exist human beings with all their senses is rightly created with a perfect creation of universes, and the sky is enough proof that there exists a supernatural being that was behind the beautiful design that we experience. He urges those who

might question the existence of God to give explanations to how there is a sense of perfection in the universe. For example, the sky, sun, moon, and clouds are perfectly placed so that they never harm humans but provide a sense of completion to them if it is not God- the supernatural being that controls such. Also, in his explanation about God, he notes that nature seems to be perfect, and this perfection is probably a responsibility of someone eternal. Undoubtedly, the person in control of the character is God, an omnipresent, omnipotent, and unchangeable superpower. His prove that God exists essential in meditation 2-4 because, in all the meditations, there seems to be a perfect creation of occurrences in human life, like the relationship between body and mind and truth and falsity, which needs an explanation on whose responsibilities are occurrences. His proof that God exists, therefore, puts the question to rest since we now know that the existence of everything in this world is a result and excellent work of someone supernatural who is God. Indeed, everything seems perfectly created on earth, and the relationship between living and non-living is perfect coordination that only requires an ideal being to realize. This super being must be God who had to live to make all these a reality.

## References

Descartes, R. (2010). Meditations on First Philosophy in which are demonstrated the existence of God and the distinction between the human soul and body. *Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings*, 73-122.

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