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Submission date: 06-Jun-2021 11:07AM (UTC-0400)

Submission ID: 1601403562

File name: Peer_Responses_Assignment.edited.docx (19.47K)

Word count: 1703

Character count: 8763

Peer Responses Assignment

Part one

Question 1

A year into the Covid-19 pandemic, research from different entities suggests that pregnant women face a high risk of hospitalization than women who are not pregnant. The rates of infection and painful death are also significantly high among pregnant women from certain ethnic minorities, mirroring the situation in the entire population. One of the increasing threats to pregnant women is that their lungs are already working hard due to the pregnancy, hence exposing them to respiratory illnesses like the Covid-19 and influenza. The uterus is growing and pushes the diaphragm, reducing the lung's capacity to supply oxygen to the mother and the child. In addition to that, some pregnant women shy away from the Covid-19 vaccination out of fear for their unborn babies. The world has developed several vaccines, but pregnant women have been encouraged not to take the vaccines because of the side effects, hence exposing them to the deadly virus. However, the good news is that research shows that the virus cannot be transmitted from a pregnant mother to a fetus.

Question 2

When offering solutions for the Covid-19 pandemic and pregnancy, some of the best resources used are research data from credible ¹ organizations, like Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and data from other institutions higher learning engaged in research. The Covid-19 pandemic caught the world by surprise, hence calling for scientists and researchers to burn the midnight oil in an attempt to offer solutions, if not find the cause of the problem, especially among pregnant women and patients with commodities. Furthermore, research takes time, but this time around, researchers took the

shortest time for the world to understand the disease; hence there is sufficient material from respectable institutions. In addition to that, another valuable resource that I found crucial is the regular updates by the WHO. Apart from just engaging in research, the WHO, through its Director General Doctor Tedros Adhanom, offered regular updates crucial in understanding the infection and how Covid-19 can be managed.

Question 3

Though pregnancy is a normal physiological milestone in a woman's life, the increased stress during public emergencies occasioned by the Sars-Cov 2 and Covid-19 lead to preterm birth, low weights among babies; information coming from China and The United States indicates that most pregnant women contracted Covid-19 and the Sars-Cov 2 virus and delivered via cesarean method due to emotional and psychological distress. The social isolation championed by medical experts similarly affects pregnant women, regardless of the viral disease identified, because pregnant women should go for regular checkups. However, due to some of the strict guidelines to curb the spread of these diseases, emerging evidence suggests that the experiences of prenatal females with Covid-19 and Sars-Cov 2 who have been put under a centralized healthcare system suffer additional exposure to the disease, which affects their pregnancies. Furthermore, due to the stress and stigma involved with the diseases, pregnant women are likely to miscarry.

Question 4

Data on the effects of Covid-19 inoculations on prenatal mothers is limited because clinical trials are not conducted on pregnant women. However, research suggests that when expectant mothers receive covid-19 vaccines, they pass the antibodies to the fetus. The vaccines work by instructing the body to produce certain protein elements of the virus. In essence, the

body generates and lets the body's response to understand whatever shape the virus assumes so that in the future, it can recognize its protein content when it infects the body, therefore helping the body fight the disease. The mRNA degrades quickly in the body, and that is why it is stored in cold temperatures. In this regard, pregnant women who receive Moderna or Pfizer vaccines will not transmit them to their infants through the placenta or breastfeeding. In addition to that, since these vaccines are degraded easily, they cannot survive the acidic conditions in the stomach of the unborn child; hence pregnant women cannot pass them to the fetus.

Question 5

According to research, 87% of mothers who at some point during their pregnancy contracted covid-19 passed their antibodies to their infants via the placenta. The advantage of these antibodies to the unborn child is that they help the body develop the child's immune system at a young age. The main disadvantage is that for those mothers who contract covid-19, the mother to infant antibody transfer is low compared to healthy pregnant women. In addition to that, even during birth, the mothers are not likely to infect their children. The maternally resultant antibodies can not only protect infants from the covid-19 virus but other types of viral infections. However, these antibodies are not 100% effective in protecting the infant, especially when the correct dosage is not administered as prescribed. In this regard, expectant mothers should take the vaccine in two stages. It is crucial to fully develop the necessary antibodies that can protect the unborn child against infections.

Question 6

According to experts, understanding the potential of the Covid-19 vaccine is a huge step in a woman's pregnancy since vaccine roll-out is ongoing. In addition to that, research suggests that the rate of transfer of antibodies from a mother to child via the placenta varies. Despite the

discrepancy, maternal infection, whether symptomatic or otherwise, leads to sufficient antibodies transferred to the unborn child via the placenta. In addition to that, the transmission of antibodies from the pregnant mother to the child commences at the seventeenth week of growth but increases from the seventeenth week until the child is born. In this regard, pregnant mothers should receive the vaccination in the second trimester because it offers optimal results in producing antibodies passed from the mother to the child. However, experts warn that more research needs to be done to ascertain why this discrepancy occurs. Still, the significant number of antibodies produced in the second trimester is enough to protect the newborn during conditions of vulnerability.

Part two

Peer 1 Response

I agree with your argument that moral reasoning is better than the consequentialist perspective of reasoning. We live in a society guided by moral principles that we ought to respect for life to have meaning. I also strongly disagree with the consequentialist theory suggests the consequences of every decision should guide our reasoning and actions. In essence, human action should not be guided by consequences but by choices, which are either right or wrong. I also agree that it is problematic to think of the negative consequences of our actions, but where we face two options, it is easy to arrive at a verdict. In practice, moral reasoning benefits the individual, but others as well based on a decision that is either right or wrong. A person with a moral mindset understands that their actions have a broader influence in bettering the lives of others. I am afraid I disagree that consequences should guide human conduct because it instills fear in people, making them adopt bad decisions. However, just because a choice is right does not make it correct.

Peer 2 Response

It's true that utilitarianism and subjectivism are morally sound because they are rooted in personal volitions. I also concur that the correct choice is not always the right one to promote individual happiness. Nonetheless, humans are influenced by their environment. You have provided an excellent example in mentioning eating disorders. Another example is the life people live on social media platforms. People want to be loved and go to the extreme to borrow fancy clothes, take pictures of what they eat, and post them on social media to make others envious. Whereas utilitarianism and subjectivism advocate for personal happiness, they are incorrect because a decision, though fitting, cannot be correct. Just as it is highlighted in your example, it is wrong to eat foods that can make one increase body weight to the extent that it becomes a medical problem. At the same time, it is wrong to starve to please strangers.

Peer 3 Response

I concur with you that for a long time, utilitarianism has been a problem. The practical argument is that the correct action offers the most happiness. Furthermore, the theory is complicated since it fails to reconcile what is legally and morally correct. This theory is weak. For instance, as a judge in a small town, imagine a suspect has committed a crime and is brought to court for sentencing. As a judge, if you sentence an innocent person to jail, there will be peace in the community. However, if you set free the suspect, he will possibly go back and commit the same crime making the community unsafe. In this regard, utilitarianism advocates for sentencing the man to jail under such circumstances. Something might be correct in the heart, but that does not make it right under the law. I am afraid I disagree with you because we should be guided by our actual values and beliefs, no matter what society pushes us to do. Furthermore, the law is meant to guide us in making these decisions when we face a dilemma.

Peer 4 Response

Though utilitarianism calls for humans to do the right thing to produce happiness, the circumstances are different. In such instances, we should be guided by moral reasoning even if it does not offer meaningful happiness. For instance, when facing a situation like an example, you have given \$100, and you have nothing else, but there is a family in need of food. However, why should it be at the expense of personal gain? If I am faced with a similar situation, it is difficult to say what I would do, but the bottom line is that it should not be at the expense of my happiness. I can give numerous examples. For instance, humans can function with one kidney. Does that mean that we should donate one kidney to a stranger because failing to do so means we are unselfish? I agree with your argument that there are pros and cons of utilitarianism, but the circumstances are different in any decision. I agree with you that a practical decision should be based on individual wishes and preferences and not a blanket rule dictating the position to be adopted.

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