



IB TOK Presentation: The Rise of the Anti-Vaccination Movement.

The Real-Life Situation

In this presentation, we will look at a real life situation where regarding the rise of the United State's anti-vaccination movement. Despite the movement which occurred in the eighteenth century, the practice has been there. The newborn babies are vaccinated and that has been the norm. Nonetheless, there has been emergent issues after study was published by Andrew Wakefield that shaded light on the relationship between autism and rubella vaccine.

Decontextualization

This real-life scenario is investigating how the anti-vaccination campaign in the world influences the understanding of scientific awareness. While the science establishment ultimately debunked the paper published by Wakefield, there is still a vast number of the public who see his knowledge arguments as legitimate.

Knowledge Question

The situation which encapsulates the public's acceptance of the published claims by opponents of vaccination give birth to the question of knowledge.

The question

To what extent is the acceptance of scientific knowledge shaped by the media?

The Structure

The Areas of Knowledge

- The main areas of knowledge that will be addressed in this presentation is human and natural sciences.

The Ways of Knowing focused on

- The central ways of knowing that will apply to this evaluation are reason, intuition, language, and emotion.

Claim 1

The distorted nature of modern mass coverage plays a critical role in shaping the general public's view of scientific knowledge.

- In the last two decades, news media have been a valuable source of knowledge for the general population. Because of this media dependency as a main source of scientific information, culture has become subjected to a lot of myths, particularly in areas of knowledge such as natural sciences.
- The real-life scenario affirms this argument in that, because of the original reporting on Wakefield's claims in his disqualified article, the media circulated incomplete facts that affected the public's view of vaccination.

Counterclaim 1

There is a very technical language that is normally used by the science publication, therefore, the public find it hard to understand them.

- The technical jargon in publications instigates the misunderstanding between the public and the media.
- To some extent, the public do not find the essence of relying on media. They go ahead to read information directly from the sources. Such cases rely on experiences that are encountered by different persons. Thus, the assertion does not arise from the media but rather from intuition.
- The result is the inability of the media to convince the public on information regarding scientific information.

Claim 2

The focal dogma is challenged by the hierarchies that exists to limit the claims of knowledge.

- Enquiries that arise from such areas of knowledge facilitate the scrutinizing of claims that are deemed scientifically acceptable.
- Even so, there are proponent who claim that knowledge is insufficient because some claims are not made available for various forms of media.
- We can, hence, conclude that the media plays a significant role in determining the extent to which the scientific information is available to the public.

Counterclaim 2

Through the scientific approach, an ideal framework is provided through which makes and tendencies can be rectified and corrected.

- In the recent past, the empirical method has provided a consistent basis for the advancement of legitimate scientific evidence. As a consequence, all ideas proposed to the public by the media are subject to falsification. This feature helps scientists to correct any errors made by the media to the general public.

Link back to the RLS

The prominence of the anti-vaccination campaign demonstrates how the press play a vital role in the popular perception of science knowledge. Effectively, news reports can affirm or invalidate the credibility of particular information statements. This is apparent in the real-life scenario in which mainstream scrutiny of Wakefield's arguments has distorted general understanding of vaccine procedure.

Conclusion

Lastly , it is obvious that the media influences the degree to which scientific information is embraced by the wider public. As human beings, we determine which ideas to believe are based on our own experience and the power of ways of learning, such as reason, interpretation and intuition. This illustrates why the public's conception of scientific facts is focused on the understanding of media coverage. Another real-life scenario that illustrates this notion is the existence of climate change skepticism.

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