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RMPP – Unit 12 – Final Reflection – Zihaad Khan

The Research Methods and Professional Practice (RMPP) module has covered a wide range of topics, providing me with a deeper understanding of various subjects and equipping me with valuable knowledge and skills that I may use both professionally and academically. Reflecting on the entire module, it has been an enriching and enlightening experience.

The first three units introduced me to the concept of critical thinking, which was foundational to the entire module. Through these units, I learned how to identify arguments both inductive and deductive and the importance of evidence-based reasoning (Miessler, 2020). In addition, the collaborative discussions held during these units proved to be highly beneficial, as they helped me gain a better understanding of the topics of ethics and professional practice. I learned how to apply ethical theories to real-world scenarios and how to make ethical decisions that align with my values and principles. Through working together and considering my colleagues' viewpoints, I was able to deepen my knowledge on this subject and explore different perspectives on the topic. In the context of my current experience as a senior consultant in unified communications, I realise the critical role these topics play in providing effective and ethical consulting services as well as protecting user's data and privacy (Bailey et al., 2013).

In terms of research methods, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of the research process from developing research questions to data collection and analysis. The units' essential reading material has emphasized the importance of a well-planned research design and the various methods (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) and techniques available for collecting and analysing data (Saunders et al., 2012). The concepts of validity, reliability, and generalisability have also been stressed, which has enabled me to ensure the quality of my research findings. These concepts challenged me to think critically and creatively about the research methods and questions I could possibly address in my capstone project.

By completing a literature review assessment on a selected topic, I gained a comprehensive understanding of how to conduct a systematic search for literature, as well as identify the gaps in literature, evaluate the relevance and quality of the sources, and synthesize the information into a coherent narrative. Furthermore, through receiving constructive criticism and formative feedback from my tutor, I was able to identify the areas where my literature review fell short and understand how to improve my research and writing skills in the future.

The chart worksheets and analysis exercises were particularly beneficial in reinforcing my understanding of statistical concepts. The exercises also served as a reminder of my undergraduate engineering statistics module, which also emphasized the importance of graphical data presentation (Dawson, 2015). In addition, inference and hypothesis testing examples were performed which are vital aspects of statistical analysis. I learned about the importance of ensuring the methodology used in a research project is valid for the variables of interest and how different levels of

measurement can impact statistical analysis (Berenson et al., 2015). I now feel confident in my ability to select appropriate statistical tests, analyse data, and present findings in a visually aesthetically pleasing manner.

Moreover, the research presentation task provided me with an opportunity to enhance my presentation skills. As part of my current work, I present on a regular basis, however, with this task I learned the importance of planning and organising my content and how to effectively communicate complex ideas to a non-technical audience. Overall, rehearsing and presenting numerous times has helped me to become an effective communicator.

The completion of the professional skills matrix, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, and action plan has had a significant impact on my personal and professional experience. The professional skills matrix allowed me to reflect on my current strengths and weaknesses in terms of my professional skillset. This reflection has motivated me to continue to develop my strengths while working on improving my weaknesses. The SWOT analysis provided an opportunity to evaluate the external factors that may impact my career and how to capitalise on opportunities while minimising threats. The action plan has allowed me to set achievable goals to develop my skills and increase my employability in the future.

Lastly, the module ended off discussing various concepts of project management, project lifecycles and how projects can be impacted by risk and uncertainty (Maylor, 2010). The essential reading items provided valuable insight into the importance of

project management, how to plan and execute projects, and how to manage risks and change effectively (Mircea, 2019). I found this information to be especially useful in my line of work as I often work on projects that require extensive planning and coordination.

In conclusion, the module has challenged me to think critically, communicate effectively, and apply ethical principles to real-world scenarios. By far, it has been a module that requires many hours of focused work and being able to juggle between, assessments, e-Portfolio activities, seminars, and collaborative discussions at the same time. However, I believe that the knowledge and skills I have gained from this module will be instrumental in my future endeavours. As a senior consultant in unified communications, I have been able to apply the skills acquired in this module to my professional work. The module has equipped me with research and data analysis skills that are essential to support my consulting services. Moreover, the confidence and motivation I have gained from the module will be useful in my capstone project, where I intend to conduct a literature review, analyse and present data critically. Overall, this module has provided me with valuable insights that will positively impact my professional development. I am both grateful and humbled by the knowledge I have acquired, and I am eager to continue applying this knowledge to my career and personal life.

References

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