

Collaborate Learning Discussion 2 - Case Study: Accuracy of Information

Peer Response 3

Hi Sherelle

Great post, you have provided an excellent overview of the ethical considerations that Abi, as a statistical programmer working with nutritional data, must adhere to. You correctly stated that changing data values in his study would be unprofessional, unethical, and violate the BSC Code of Conduct (BCS, 2022).

However, this issue goes beyond just Abi's study. In fact, Fanzo (2019) mentions that policy makers and product development entities rely on accurate and timely data to make decisions that drive country development. Fanzo (2019) further suggests that those collecting, curating, and using data should abide by a global Hippocratic oath due to the importance of accurate data.

In addition, the ACM Code of Ethics (ACM, 2018) can be applied to this case. It emphasizes the importance of conducting research in an ethical and socially responsible manner. Principle 1.4 states that data scientists should "avoid harm to others" and "act with integrity and honesty." This principle is particularly relevant to Abi's case, as he must consider the potential harm that could result from intentionally misrepresenting his results (ACM, 2018).

In closing, Abi's case study highlights the importance of maintaining objectivity and impartiality in nutritional research, and the ethical responsibility of researchers to present accurate and unbiased findings. Abi has a responsibility to present his findings

accurately and objectively, and to ensure that they are not used to mislead or harm others.

References

ACM (2018) Association for Computing Machinery. ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Available from: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed 20 March 2023].

BCS (2022) Code of Conduct for BCS Members. Available from: <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed 20 March 2023].

Fanzo, J. (2019) Considering Ethics Along the Data Value Chain for Nutrition. *Sight and Life* 33(1): 122-126. Available from: https://sightandlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SightandLifeMagazine_2019_Data_in_Nutrition_ConsideringEthicsAlongtheDataValueChain.pdf [Accessed 20 March 2023].