

## WORKSHEET 2 – THE COSTS OF COMPARISON

### FIRST SITUATION \*)

A close relative is critically ill and in hospital and kept on life sustaining machines to help him breathe. The overall health won't improve. The critical condition implies severe neurological impairments that would confine him to bed, unable to speak, walk etc.

The doctors have decided that it is in the patient's best interest to withdraw treatment and turn off the machines.

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| 1) Rate the extent to which you feel each of these emotions (1 = not at all, 7 = extremely). |
| a) Overwhelmed      1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| b) Upset                1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 2) How confident are you that the best decision was made?                                    |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 3) To what degree would you have preferred to make this decision yourself?                   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |

### SECOND SITUATION \*)

A close relative is critically ill, after three weeks the overall health has not improved. The doctors inform on two possible courses of action: continue the treatment or withdraw the treatment by turning off the machines. They explain the consequences of each action. If treatment is withdrawn, the patient will die, if continued, a 40% chance of survival and a 60% chance of surviving with severe neurological impairments.

Because of critical condition, the doctors have decided it is in the patient's best interest to withdraw treatment.

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| 1) Rate the extent to which you feel each of these emotions (1 = not at all, 7 = extremely). |
| a) Overwhelmed      1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| b) Upset                1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 2) How confident are you that the best decision was made?                                    |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 3) To what degree would you have preferred to make this decision yourself?                   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |

### THIRD SITUATION \*)

Same patient situation.

The doctors offer *you* a choice: Continue the treatment, or withdraw the treatment by turning off the ventilation machine. The doctors also explain the consequences of each decision. If the treatment is withdrawn, the patient will die. If the treatment is continued, there's a 40% chance that the patient will die and a 60% chance of surviving with severe neurological impairments. What do you do?

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| 1) Rate the extent to which you feel each of these emotions (1 = not at all, 7 = extremely). |
| a) Overwhelmed      1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| b) Upset                1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 2) How confident are you that the best decision was made?                                    |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
| 3) To what degree would you have preferred to make this decision yourself?                   |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |

### Tasks:

- Discuss the different cases with regards to the different "choice" conditions and their implications. Point out the different conditions.
- Make references to the adult education sector and the discussions we had around e.g. psychological barriers and other barriers.
- Discuss "choice"//teacher/trainer/staff, "choice"// (disadvantaged) learners, "choice"// system.
- Would it be helpful to be more aware of the impact of choice?

*And...Do you think, people always make the best choices?*

\*) Examples taken from "The Art of Choosing" by Sheena Iyengar, ISBN 978-Q-349-12142-0