

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Building Construction & Safety After the Villaggio Fire

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Gray, D. E. (Ed.). (2016). Building Construction and Safety After the Villaggio Fire [unpublished course material].

Comment

This reading comes from various English sources. However, if you find an article or blog post in Arabic (or any other language) that you believe offers an important perspective not contained in this reading, please send it to me! I will get a translation and include it.

Questions

1. Why is the Villaggio Mall Fire a topic in business, society, and ethics?
2. Nineteen people died at the Villaggio Mall in Doha on May 28, 2012. Based on your understanding of the events, was the Villaggio Fire a catastrophic event that could have happened anywhere, or was it something more particular to the environment of Qatar?
3. Who (if anyone) is morally responsible for those deaths in the fire? That is, who is to blame for causing or allowing those deaths to happen? (Hint: your answer to the previous question may be relevant here.)
4. What do you think is meant by a "culture of safety"? In light of the various recommendations made in the case study for fire safety in Qatar, what are the elements of such a culture? What is Qatar doing to promote this culture?