

MORALITY CHECK ESSAY 2

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Phil 2306: Introduction to Philosophy

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The KGS Syndrome - Personal Application Analysis

Answer #1:

To start with, bystander Effect is a social psychological theory wherein a person is less likely to step in or help someone in need if there are a large number of people in the area. This is not good especially during an emergency because bystanders are more likely to take action if there are few or no other witnesses. Bystander syndrome occurs because of two major factors. First is the “Diffusion of Responsibility”. This is created when there is a presence of other people in a situation. This means that the responsibility to help or to act is thought to be shared among all of those present in that situation. Since there are other bystanders, people do not care or even feel the pressure to take action. Second is when an observer feels that an action done to the victim is not appropriate, they tend to respond in a way they believed to be good or appropriate (Cherry, 2020).

For example, a blind old man is about to cross the pedestrian lane along with other people. He doesn't have someone to assist him. The bystander effect is an observable fact that the more people witnessing the incident, the fewer people who will take action. If you are one of those people who surround that blind man, the tendency is that you will think whether you will assist him or not. Diffusion of responsibility will take place by then. Since there are lots of people around, you will feel less pressured to assist. You are thinking that assisting the blind man is a shared responsibility between observers.

Moving on, in the commentary of Mr. Mark Dado concerning the killing of Catherine Genovese, the “Bystander effect” has been observed among the witnesses. There are a total of 38 witnesses in the crime. However, not one of them tried to help the victim. Mr. Dado mentioned that as the number of bystanders increases, the lesser is the likelihood that someone will act. This

means that if there are more observers present in the situation, then it would take more time to take an action to help the person in need.

On the other hand, diffusion of responsibility took place because the observers are less pressured to act since there are other by-standers to share the responsibility with. This means that people help someone in need if there are no observers who can see the actions (Cherry, 2020). Based on the explanation of the witnesses, it seems that they don't want to get involved since they thought that it was just a lover's quarrel. It is a fact that sometimes, we tend to think whether our behavior is socially acceptable since most of the time, getting involved or intervening in a situation is labeled as “aggressiveness”.

Answer #2:

Yes, I believe that “Kitty Genovese” syndrome is still happening today. People nowadays care less for their neighbors. They don't feel the responsibility to care for other people, the government, and the environment. They act as if nothing is happening around them. People just don't take the responsibility to help others especially those in need (Cherry, 2020). Though most of us are willing to help someone in need, not everyone is curious about what really is happening around us, not everyone wants to get involved and not everyone has the courage to get involved.

Based on research, “Kitty Genovese” syndrome mostly happens in highly urbanized areas. People in urban areas are pre-occupied with so many things in mind and they are surrounded by much more stimuli so there is a tendency that they won't notice what is happening (Perry, 2012). On top of that, bystander syndrome occurs when there are a lot of people present in the situation. Many incidents happened around the world wherein victims weren't saved because of people who don't know how to show care to other people. The reason for being afraid to provide inappropriate responses was always an issue.

Answer #3:

To overcome the “bystander effect” and the “diffusion of responsibility”, we need to be aware of the phenomena. These two syndromes are holding us back in doing something we are supposed to do in times where we need to act on something. We should be observant, getting involved doesn't mean that we are putting ourselves in danger. Acting consciously and responsibly is the right thing to do. Besides that, we can overcome these two by learning to show care for other people. As moral agents, we have the responsibility for right conduct, one of which is to lend someone help (Cherry, 2020). Helping someone in need should be etched in our hearts. This can be taught first in the family. The family should teach children the value of helping other people, especially, those people who are in need.

References

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