

MACS 30100

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Deviant aggressive behavior

Problem 1. What social policy would be appropriate to reduce deviant aggressive behavior if Theory I were correct? Theory II? Theory III? Theory IV?

Theory I:

For Theory I, it claims that Deviant aggressive behavior is learned from experience. Individuals in a society learn to do those things for which they receive rewards and to avoid those things for which they receive punishment. In order to reduce deviant aggressive behavior, I think the society should have to make the social policy be clear about what is correct and what is wrong. In addition, the policy should have a big punishment to inappropriate behaviors and a big award to appropriate behaviors. In this case, the social policy should clearly restrict deviant aggressive behaviors. Furthermore, once people with deviant aggressive behavior have been found, they will receive huge punishment, such as cast into prison, give a large amount of fine, and stripping some personal properties. Moreover, social policy can also award those people who report deviant aggressive behavior to stimulate them to prevent deviant aggressive behaviors from happening. Thus, people will learn from such a social policy that deviant aggressive behavior is wrong and avoid such a behavior.

Theory II:

For Theory II, it claims that Deviant aggressive behavior is a symbolic expression of hostility toward personal authority figures. When an individual is frustrated in his personal life, he becomes angry toward parents, bosses, or public officials. He will express this anger by deviant aggressive behavior. In order to reduce deviant aggressive behavior, I think society should have a more complete mental health consulting system. In other words, when an individual is frustrated in his/her personal life, he/she is able to access the mental health consultant easily. His/Her depression can be treated well by the consultant, who can have a thorough conversation with the patient. Furthermore, social policy should establish more education on mood control, since people cannot only rely on mental health therapy. They should also should learn how to make their mental health on a good condition on their own. In addition, the policy should also promote people to go to mental health consulting center to see a therapist and encourage school to have more mental health education, since in current society, people mostly do not want to go to see a mental health therapist and they do not have a clear sense about mental health. Thus, after social policy updated, people can be more educated on their mental health, and be able to go to see a mental health consultant easily.

Theory III:

For Theory III, it claims that Deviant aggressive behavior is the rational action of oppressed individuals. Social rules systematically discriminate among people. People who are most hurt by the rules are least likely to profit from conforming to them and thus do conform less. In order to reduce deviant aggressive behavior, I think the society should make people enjoy equal power to each other without any discrimination. This is pretty hard to make it real, since people are different to each other. There are no two same individuals in the world. Thus, in order to make equality to approach to ideal, society should make each single policy same for everyone. The policies should not be different to different individuals. For example, during the application process for high school students who want to study in universities, high school students from a state have a high chance to get into a university located in the same state. I think in order to get rid of the discrimination, the policy should make every applicants have same chance to get into the university. Once discrimination in the society disappears, deviant aggressive behavior will rarely happen again.

Theory IV:

For Theory IV, it claims that Deviant aggressive behavior is a social role. Individuals are socialized into the role through contact with a deviant subculture. In order to reduce deviant aggressive behavior, I think the society should use police force to eliminate such a deviant subculture, and try to establish more positive cultures and social environments.

Problem 2.

The experiment I am going to discuss about is Mass Shootings:

A school shooting occurred at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, United States, in the Houston metropolitan area, on May 18, 2018. Ten people eight students and two teachers were fatally shot and thirteen others were wounded.[1][2] The suspected shooter was taken into custody and later identified by police as Dimitrios Pagourtzis, a 17-year-old student at the school.[3][4] The shooting is the second-deadliest school shooting in the United States in 2018, after the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in February resulted in 17 deaths and 17 injuries.

In terms of the reason why the student would shoot students, there are several potential reasons from different sources. First of all, the shooter's father claimed that his son was mistreated by school and bullied by his classmates.[5] In addition, another source said that the shooter killed one of his classmates because he had been rejected to be the boyfriend of that girl and been disliked by her. [6] Furthermore, Born to Kill appeared on a T-shirt he posted on his Facebook page before the shooting, along with images of the trench coat and an explanation of its decorations. [7]

As we can see from these information, he cannot get rewarded by showing his love to the girl, which is to be her boyfriend. Thus, he decided to try to reverse the treatment to her, and killed her in order to try to get some reward. However, he is just too young to make the right decision. This fact proved Theory I. For Theory II, obviously, we can see that he had been mistreated by school and bullied by classmates including the girl he loved. Thus, he felt frustrated by these persons, and try to revenge on them, which makes the shooting happened. For Theory III, we can see that the shooter had been mistreated by school. A rational thought can be that the school's rule cannot give any profit to him. Thus, he decided to conduct the shooting. For Theory IV, we can see that before the shooter took action, he posted "Born to Kill" T-shirt on his facebook. There are a lot of people on the internet that have deviant aggressive behaviors potentially. They had affected the shooter seriously, which made him post the photo on facebook and decided to kill his classmates and teachers.

Reference

- [1] Joyce, Kathleen. "Texas high school shooting leaves at least 8 dead, suspect in custody: report". Fox News. Retrieved May 18, 2018.
- [2] "8 students treated for gunshot wounds". CNN. May 18, 2018. Retrieved May 18, 2018.
- [3] "Several dead in Texas school shooting, say witnesses". News.com.au. May 18, 2018. Retrieved May 18, 2018
- [4] Barker, Aaron. "LIVE: 8-10 killed in Santa Fe High School shooting, sheriff says". Click2Houston.com. Retrieved May 18, 2018.
- [5] "Santa Fe High School shooting suspect's father says son was bullied". Retrieved 2018-05-28.
- [6] "Teen killed in school shooting knew suspect would target her". New York Post. 2018-05-21. Retrieved 2018-05-28.
- [7] "Who Is Dimitrios Pagourtzis, the Texas Shooting Suspect?". The New York Times. May 18, 2018. Retrieved May 19, 2018.

Waiting until the last minute

(a)

I will discuss two potential reasons for this observation.

First, waiting until the last minute has probably become a habit. When we encountered tasks that we do not like in the past, we always avoided them to seek short-term mood repair. In other words, our avoidance to such tasks was rewarded. We could feel better, at least for the moment, when we pushed the task off to later, since the negative feeling toward aversive task within us was removed, and this is rewarding. Such rewards make us establish such a behavior to wait until the last minute. In other words, a habit is formed. The next time we face an aversive task, we will avoid it, and we do this again and again until there is no time left.

The second reason some people waiting until the last minute to finish their tasks is that they like the arousal. As I personally often hear, "I'll feel more like doing it tomorrow," I also hear "I work better under pressure". Thus, from these words, we can see that waiting until last minute will make people more focusing on their tasks, since it must be done in a short period time.

(b)

The first model I made is to make how many minutes before deadline the starting time is and how many minutes it takes to finish the task as response variables. The level of difficulty of the task, how much you love the task, the level of the length of the task to be the explanatory variables. For the three explanatory variables, all of them will be measured from a scale from 1 to 10.

(c)

Another model I decided to make is to make whether the individual will finish it early or wait until last minute and whether the outcome of the task is good or bad as the response variables. For finish early or until last minute, we will set the last day before deadline as the cutoff, and for the quality of the task, we will set 80 points as the cutoff. In addition, the number of friends who like to wait until the last minute to finish their work, the level of pressure from family, the level of pressure from friends, and the level of pressure from school or work to be the explanatory variables.

(d)

For the first model, we are likely to have a prediction that the higher level of difficulty and length of the task, and the lower the love on the task will make the starting time more approach to the deadline of the task, since according to my first reason in part (a). If people do not like the task, and it is difficult and long, people are more likely to avoid doing it until the last minute. In addition, we can predict that the length of the finishing time will be positively proportional to the length of the task and the level of difficulty of the task, since the longer and harder the task is, the more time it needed to be done.

For the second model, we are likely to predict that people with less pressure from family, friends, and school/work, and less friends who like to wait until the last minute to finish the work tend to finish their task early, since people with less pressure and no surrounding environment affect him will become more willing to finish the work early with enjoyment. In addition, the second prediction is that people with high pressure will finish their tasks with high quality, since they have no choice and do not want to make their family and friends disappointed.