

Ch. 8 CRIM 251 Group work

Criminal thinking- Criminal thinking refers to Cognitive processes and content that Facilitate that initiation and maintenance of offending behaviour. The thinking determines our behaviour, so we need to appraise criminal thinking.

The Criminal personality highlighted cognition's role in criminal behaviour. There are 52 criminal thinking errors and behavioural patterns. **Walters and white** identified eight cognitive error associated with criminality:

- 1) Mollification- The process of rationalizing criminal behaviour and avoiding responsibility by blaming it on other external factors or perceived injustices.
2. Cut-off- A psychological mechanism for ignoring the fear and anxiety associated with offending that might otherwise serve as a deterrent. A cut-off can be internal, such as a stated phrase (e.g. "Nothing risked, nothing gained"), or external, such as the use of an intoxicating substance prior to committing an offence.
- 3) Entitlement-The belief that the usual rules do not apply and that one has the right to do or take anything.
- 4) Power orientation- The view that the world can be divided into people who exert power and control over others and those who are powerless and submissive.
- 5)Sentimentality- An emphasis on one's positive attributes and actions as a means of overshadowing and justifying the negative and harmful things one has done.
- 6)Super optimism- An overly confident and optimistic view of one's abilities, especially the ability to avoid the undesirable consequences of one's law-breaking.
- 7)Cognitive indolence -Lazy and uncritical thought processes and the tendency to be easily bored
- 8)Discontinuity- A lack of commitment and general failure to follow through on things one starts.

Criminal thinking styles:

Environment and early life experience which leads to belief system then it ends up behavioural choices and cognitive errors and then entrenched criminal lifestyle.

Excitation transfer:

The theory claims that emotional and psychological arousal carries over from one situation to another. Arousal from one situation I mistakenly attributed to another situation. For example, if you have an intense fear of heights and you're standing in a suspension bridge that is extremely high and you see an attractive person, the fear you feel may be perceived as attraction.

Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis

Frustration aggression hypothesis describes that every individual has some goals and due to financial, economical or societal circumstances, he or she is unable to achieve those goals and that result in an individual as performing aggressive behaviour. When a person is behaving aggressively, there are less chance that he or she will do physical violence but because of the higher level of aggression and with the passage of time, a person start taking out his anger through physical violence and that can lead to criminal activities in the coming time period.

Aggressive behaviour depend on many factors and some of the factors are such as learning history(some have bad experiences in past), response to frustration (mostly people behave aggressively in frustration), interpretation of event (sometimes people use aggression to show something of their own) and presence of aggression-eliciting stimuli.(and stimuli that resulted in an individual to get angry and behave in aggressive manner)

Crime of Obedience

Obedience is the action of complying with the directions or commands of a higher authority figure (Welsh and Lyon 190). Therefore, crime of obedience is any act preformed in response to orders from an authority figure that is illegal or immoral by the community (Kelman & Hamilton, 1989, p.46). A study of obedience that illustrates crime of obedience is the Milgram experiment that investigated the degree in which ordinary people complied with commands given by the authority figure to inflict pain on another person. The study entailed that if the learner made a mistake the teacher would administer a shock and the shocks would increase in strength with each incorrect answer. The study concluded that the learner's and authority figures proximity influenced the level of the teacher's obedience. This study illustrates crime of obedience because it shows how people preformed an act in response to orders

form an authority figure that was immoral by the community. Additionally, in the Abu Gharib case study convicted military personnel claimed that they were following orders which illustrates obedience because the military personnel were complying with directions from a higher authority (Welsh and Lyon 190). The low ranking military personnel were convicted of perpetrating the abusers because they were complying with commands from an authority figure (Welsh and Lyon 192). Therefore, emphasizing crime of obedience because the military personnel were performing acts in response to orders from an authority and the acts were considered immoral and illegal by the community.

Welsh, David R. Lyon; A. The Psychology of Criminal and Violent Behaviour. Oxford University Press Academic Canada, 20161207. [VitalSource Bookshelf].

Ques: Social Information Processing theories?

Answer: SIP stands for Social Information processing theories. It is a communication theory and related to media. In simple words, the theories mean that how in different situations an individual behave and react or decide to react as there are four different process from which it can be depicted such as:

- a. Encoding process
- b. Interpretation process
- c. Response search process

d. Response evaluation process

As explained below:

- a. Encoding process: it is a process in which an individual perceives and encode cues in a situation.
- b. Interpretation process: it means from perceived cues an individual tries to understand a situation.
- c. Response search process: in this process an individual tries to retrieve a memory or an answer that relates to the situation to answer.
- d. Response evaluation process: in the evaluation process the organized answer to the situation is accurate or not.
- e. in the evaluation process the organized answer to the situation is accurate or not.

Hostile attribution bias, is simply the tendency to label other's normal behaviour as aggressive behaviour, which is a type of antisocial cognition associated with the tendency to engage in aggressive behaviour. In simpler words, it suggests how the decisions of psychopaths are influenced by faulty thinking processes that tend to interpret ambiguous behaviours of others in a hostile manner.

To depict this in a real-life setting, if a person is a target of aggression, the person who is in front of the aggressor will react violently towards the perceived and antagonist.

Deindividuation: the feeling of being anonymous, loss of self-control and identity. It usually happens in large groups of people where if a part of that group participates in anti-social behavior, the rest of the group are more likely to follow because they feel less responsibility on their end to act according to social conduct. This concept was developed by the social psychologist Leon Festinger.

A very good a recent example of this idea is the BLACK LIVES MATTER that occurred last month in the United States. People at first started protesting for something beneficial and that mattered to the world. however, because of they all decided to wear the same color and masks were mandatory due to the pandemic, antisocial groups felt anonymous and started acting delinquently. Stealing cars, shoplifting, destroying properties and generally causing chaos. As the protest continues even more people joined this groups which shows that most people lost their identity and self-awareness. Therefore, taking the group's identity and bahvor.