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Normality and Abnormality

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Abnormal Behavior

Abnormality and normality are two complex terms that can be characterized differently relying upon the individual and circumstance. Since each individual is distinctive, his/her view on what is viewed as ordinary or strange will differ from one individual to another. Abnormal behavior is a behavior that veers off from what is normal and expected. Abnormal behavior was once seen as a shame to society. The individuals who experienced or showed a strange behavior were ignored and laughed by the society. Today abnormal behavior is seen in an unexpected way. These behaviors are based on server deferent behavior norms such as cultural norm, social norm, statistical rarity, or evolution norms. These norms provide order in the human society because human beings need their norms to guide them and understand each other’s action. This essay will further discuss the cause of the abnormal behaviors I have experienced with the past week and how it is diagnosed.

One of the abnormal behavior I observed was last week in one of my lectures. One student was sitting in the class just like everyone else while the professor was giving a lecture. The content of the lecture was pretty boring, and several students were struggling to pay attention and keeping up with the professor. A majority of the students at least pretended to be listing to the professor, but not that one student. He was tapping his fingers on the desk loudly, and groaning and rolling his eyes when the professor goes off on a tangent. Eventually, he pulls his phone out and started listening to music and started humming quietly to the music only he can here in the middle of the lecture. I think that when that student starts listening to music and humming in the middle of the class, he is displaying abnormal behavior because that is not something that most students would do if they get bored in the lecture. Most students pretend to be pay attention or show some kind of interest even though the lecture material is boring. I think this abnormal behavior links to statistical rarity norm. Students are not expected to behave randomly but to behave in a certain way in certain situations. There are very rare cases where students start listening to music in the middle of the lecture. Another example of statistical rarity would be a person with low IQ score. Since there is an only small percentage of the low IQ people, it is considered abnormal. My feelings about this abnormal behavior were based on personal reasons and some moral considerations. Moral considerations provide us with an expected idea of how to behave or act in a particulate place. For example, professor expects their students to goes to the lecture on time and pay attention so we as students can do better on the exam and learn. The idea of norms provides a key to understating social influence. And for personal reason, if I am teaching a class, I want all the students to pay attention. Because if they are not then I would feel little disrespectful. A student, who is listening to music, is an also a clear version of maladaptive behavior because such actions could lead his professor to lower his grade or him failing the exam.

Another abnormal behavior I noticed recently was when I and my friends went to Buffalo wild wings. Everyone ordered the food that they regular order, except one of my friend, who is vegetarian, ordered chicken wings for the first time. I think his behavior was abnormal because a person who has been vegetarian his whole life, ate meat for the fist time. This behavior can be considered as statistical rarity my friend’s behavior is rare or statistical unusual. I also feel that the behavior is a social norm because he might have thought that he is missing out and try something different. And peer pressure probably played a significant role in making the decision to order mean instead of a vegetarian dish. My feelings were based on the cultural norm because his family is very religious and everyone in his family is vegetarian. So when he ordered meat all of my other friends and me were shocked. My feelings were also based on the social norm because we don't anticipate that individuals will act randomly yet to act in certain ways specifically circumstances. Every social circumstance involves its own specific arrangement of assumptions about the "correct" approach to carrying on. Such desires can differ from group to group. One way in which these desires get to be distinctly evident is the point at which we take a gander at the parts that individuals play in the society. Social roles are the part individuals play as members of a social group. With every social role you embrace, your behavior changes to fit the desires both you and others have of that role. Social standards give people a normal thought of how to carry on specifically group role. I think when my friend ordered meat he was just to get along with the rest of us.

Another abnormal behavior I noticed in the past week was at the bus stop. When I was waiting at the bus stop alongside my friend, I noticed one person was wearing slides and shorts in the snow. It was really freezing outside and he was wearing cloths meant for summer of indoors. I was really shocked to see a person wearing shorts and slippers in the snow. And that’s what made me think his action was abnormal because it violates my moral consideration and cultural norm. The media and the way of life around the United States advance diverse sorts of apparel for the distinctive climate conditions. Majority of individuals would agree or accept the way of culture's appropriate dress clothing for not just fashion but also for comfort. I think it was very foolish to wear shorts and slides when it is less then 30 degrees and snow on the road. Also slides do not have strong grip as shoes at the bottom so one can easily slip on the snow. I find this clothing exceptionally irregular on the grounds that the typical clothing for this sort of climate is that one would wear sneakers or boots and pants or sweatpants that would completely cover one's feet and keep them warm.

All of these encounters I have were abnormal to me based on different perspectives. One of the reason I found their experiences abnormal is because it violated statistical norm because the action taken by a person was something that I see very rarely. And some of the experiences seem abnormal to me because it violated cultural norms, social norms, and moral considerations because they were very different from what the normal standards are. However, some of these experience may not be abnormal for another individual because everyone has their own view about the stuff they see and experience.