

Article Critique 6: A Brief Functional Analysis of Aggressive and Alternative Behavior in an Outclinic Setting

PSYC 531

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Based on the previous research literature, self-injurious behavior (SIB) was proved that it “was consistently associated with a specific maintaining condition (Northup, et al., 1991, p. 509)”. The authors demonstrated that it is necessary to develop a shorter and more comprehensive functional assessment and establish an accurate replacement behavior corresponding to a specific function. In this study, different maintaining conditions of aggressive behavior were examined for each participant. The result illustrated that functional assessment is an essential step of understanding severe challenge behaviors and it can be generalized to an outclinic setting. However, the limitation is that some severe aversive behaviors happen in the natural environment. Additionally, “a decrease in an aggressive behavior” associated with “an increase in an alternative response. (p. 519 - 520)” What’s more, the aggressive behaviors can be removed by extinction “without the need for punishment(p. 520).”

The research makes me realize that different functions may be connected to the behavior which has the same topography. Before a BCBA starts any treatment plan for clients, a thorough assessment should be implemented. The study is a proof of the essentiality that behavior therapist provides differential reinforcement of alternative behavior, incompatible behavior, and other behavior. It also advises on parenting style to those caregivers without ASD kids. When

parents want to decrease an aversive behavior of their kids, they can give alternative response choices, explain the situation or ignore the behavior, instead of name-calling, or other verbal, corporal punishments.

Reference

Northup, J., Wacker, D., Sasso, G., Steege, M., Cigrand, K., Cook, J., & Deraad, A. (1991). A Brief Functional Analysis Of Aggressive And Alternative Behavior In An Outclinic Setting. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 24(3), 509–522. doi: 10.1901/jaba.1991.24-509