

Article Critique 7: FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND TREATMENT OF LOW RATE
PROBLEM BEHAVIOR IN INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PSYC 531

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Some low rate behaviors might be “highly destructive behaviors,” while assessors might ignore them due to that the amount of those behaviors is too limited (Tarbox, Wallace, Tarbox, Landaburu, & Williams, 2004, p.187). Many research focuses on the target behaviors that occur in every session, but pay less attention to low rate problem behaviors.

Two experiments were conducted in the study, 1) comparing standard functional analysis procedure to “low rate” modification procedure, 2) providing treatments based on the functions founded in experiment 1. The condition order of experiment 1 is: “two attention to one control and two demand to one control (p.190).” The result illustrates that with the low rate modification, the “problem behavior is not observed at sufficient rates” can suggest “a function in the standard procedure”(p.194). In experiment 2, NCT (Noncontingent reinforcement) and FCT (Functional Communication Training) were provided to compare with the baseline based on the function identified in experiment 1. It gives plausible support to experiment 1. Most of the limitation was discussed in the paper comprehensively.

I am interested in the result of further research that compares the other treatments that are not based on the assessment result of the low rate modification (experiment 1) on the same participants. It will evaluate and provide support to the outcome of low rate analysis from another side.

Reference

Tarbox, J., Wallace, M. D., Tarbox, R. S. F., Landaburu, H. J., & Williams, W. L. (2004).

Functional analysis and treatment of low- rate problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities. *Behavioral Interventions*, 19, 1-18.