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Module: Psychology for Health and Social Care

Module code: BMHP4003

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Assignment Title: Case study report

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Introduction:

This report is to Aid the YOT (Youth Offenders Team) to understand the behaviour of 17 year old Gareth Jones and develop a support plan using Social Identity Theory , Theory of Planned Behaviour and Frustration Aggression Hypothesis. Good behaviour is a well demonstrated part of ones characters it is looked upon and observed in every person and is considered as a testament of a person's character.(Bandura, A.1969). In this day and age, a person's mannerism and the way they present themselves in the way they speak is looked at, also the way they communicate with other can be used to observe a person's character. In Gareth's case his behaviour is observed from his involvement with other individuals. It is generally agreed that identification refers to a process in which a person patterns his thoughts , feelings, or action after another person serves who serves as a model. This report

will be discussing Gareth's behaviour and the consequences of his actions which affect his social and personal life, and how it can be explained in many different theories and how it will better his future and his behaviour. In this report we will be looking at Gareth's psychological behaviour.

Social Identity Theory:

A new identity recognizing that the way we perceive others and ourselves on both our unique characteristic and our membership in various groups. Personal identity is about a person's character, appearance and personality, and a group's personality. In Gareth Jones's case he needs to fit in with the group as his self-esteem and confidence relies on his status within the group. After Gareth's board hearing he enrolled into a college course in automotive maintenance repair. Gareth's behaviour indicated he was extremely enthusiastic about this opportunity and was feeling positive towards it. Gareth's behaviour suggests he was looking forward to bettering himself as an individual. However, it is believed Gareth's perception of himself is a negative one where his self-worth is associated with the group. Social Identity Theory highlights that individuals categorize themselves with a group developing an 'us' versus 'them' mentality (Turner 1986). Perhaps Gareth perceives himself to be more aligned with the group as the emotional significance of the group is extremely compelling for Gareth, hence his lack of attendance in his enrolment course. (Tajfel and Turner, 2004) argues that an individual's behaviour can change and might even get activated automatically even with subtle stimuli. This is evident in Gareth's case as he was convicted with motoring offenses and now enrolled in a class associated with automotive maintenance and repairs. As Gareth enrolled in a class associated with motors this could have acted as a 'subtle stimuli' causing Gareth to associate with the individuals that he was involved with prior to his conviction. In Gareth's case he thinks leaving his college course and hanging around his group peers will encourage him to develop a social identity by building his self-esteem and self-worth associated with crime (Hogg, 2006). Henry Tajfel and John Turner in the 1970s studied behaviourism within groups, our desire to create a positive social identity within groups and individuals, this links between attitude and behaviour. (LaPiere 1934). 'Subsequent meta-analysis have found out attitudes significantly predicts future behaviour under certain conditions', in Gareth's case he started associating with individuals when he came out of the YOT and started seeing his former associates. Behaviour is mostly influenced by strong, specific attitudes. Subject norm, social pressure things that are not within our control, these factors combine to influence, guide intended behaviour, that said, other factors influence behaviour as well. For example, Gareth may not

have a positive role model in his life and struggles to seek shelter from social pressure and therefore gives in. As Gareth decided to make a positive decision headed (enrolment) highlighted his desire to change his behaviour for the better, however, as it seems he failed to find a safe haven as he ultimately gives into negative influence. As Hogg explains 'self-esteem and self-worth is associated with crime' there is always the possibility Gareth felt as if he could not perform well in his course, it is assume he had low self-esteem and a lack of confidence.

Theory of planned Behaviour (TPB)

Theory of Planned Behaviour suggests that Gareth has not developed a negative attitude towards his offences such as possession of drugs and criminal activities . The theory suggests that these activities are norm within the friendship group. A cause of Gareth's behaviour could be that he doesn't have a positive role model in his life that's why he views his action as a norms (Cohen and Felson 1979). Stavros Kiriakidis (2010) his paper examines young offenders intention and decisions to recommit crime as a result of lack of self-regulation, and he argues that this is the result of 'moral disengagement'(Kirirakidis , 2010). He explains 'Moral disengagement was significantly related to attitudes, perceived behavioural control and intentions to offend in the future' (Kiriakidis 2010).Gareth probably has a negative outlook in life that's why he keeps committing crimes and re offending. Gareth didn't want to get involved in crimes that's why he enrolled in the course doing automotive in maintenance. Moral disengagement suggests that his negative attitude in life makes him re-offend in the future. When Gareth was released from the Young Offenders institute he directly became involved in criminal activities because he was motivated by his association with individuals. Gareth is eager to join the group to make him think and look cool, he sees himself that he needs to fit in with his associate's to build self-esteem and be identified, give him security , protection, relationship and love (McLead,2018).

Frustration Aggression Hypothesis:

"Aggression can be defined in many number of ways , in Gareth's case before being released from the YOT he presented himself well and enrolled in a college course on automotive maintenance because he showed a passion for cars. During Gareth's routine probation visit by the team Gareth got verbally abusive and walked out. This theory explains why Gareth is aggressive and why he is frustrated, this is referred as 'displaced aggression'(Dollard et al., 1939). Gareth's encounter with the probation officers led him to be aggressive and frustration so he became verbally abusive and walked out. Gareth became aggressive and then became frustrated with the probation officers because he believes the

probation officers are blocking him from attaining his goals. For example him hanging out with his associates, which could be violating his probation rules. Perhaps Gareth believes his associates opinions of him matter to him. Psychologically he is thinking it is better for him now and his future. A frustrated mind set could lead to negative thinking in day to day aspects of life, in Gareth's case association with his associates. These associates might not be Gareth's friends they are probably just his street associates who wants to just hang around, and do stuff . (Lafayette Rivers quoted in Kotlowitz [1992: 55]). In Gareth's case he needs friends who he can trust, show him the right path and be a good influence on him. For example, whether it be a good influence for his personal development or future aspirations. Co- offending being a core criminological fact, locating suitable peers has many challenges. Given the risk of offending continuously Gareth has to stay away from his associates and move on to people he can trust.

Conclusion:

Social Identity is very vital in Gareth Jones case because he wants to be associated with his associates after leaving his Youth Offenders Programmes. His YOT have tried putting Gareth on a right path by enrolling him into a college course which Gareth was enthusiastic at first. This report suggests how Social Identity Theory , suggests that Gareth has low self-esteem and confidence. This links to Frustration Aggression Hypothesis because Gareth lashed out towards his probation officers and walked out thinking the probation officers are blocking him from doing criminal activities and associating with his associates , because Gareth is psychologically thinking criminal activities is the right path for him. Theory of planned behaviour suggest that Gareth and his associates behaviour with the group is an accepted social norm. It has been discussed how moral disengagement affects his outlook in life.

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