

Psycho-Dynamics ~~(continued)~~

Research in this area has variously stressed constitutional deficiencies, the early learning of antisocial beh. as a coping style, & the influence of part. family & community patterns.

1. Neuropsychology & conditionability -

Several investigators have suggested that an imbalance betⁿ inhibitory & excitatory processes in the nervous system is basic to the etiological pattern. Stolt gave evidence indicating that congenital injuries may impair the higher inhibitory centers in the N.S., thus making the psychopath more vulnerable to the breakdown of inner controls under stressful conditions.

Eysenck (1960) concluded that the psychopath has a slower rate of conditioning than the normal indiv. & so is likely to be deficient in conscious dev. Hare (1968) & others have reported similar findings.

2. Stimulation seeking :- In his study of criminal psychopaths, Hare (1968) reported that these individuals operate at a low level of arousal & are deficient in autonomic variability. They have a "relative immunity" to stimulation that is likely to make the psychopath seek stimulation & thrills as ends in themselves. In a study comparing psychopaths and normals, Fenz (1971) similarly found that psychopaths seem to have an insatiable need for stimulation.

3. Early sociocultural deprivation - Early dep. associated with a lack of maternal care, warm interpersonal relships, & other normal socializing experiences, can lead to character issues that are typical of the psy. personality. Other investigators have found that early deprivation is associated with an inability to delay immediate gratification, slow cons. dev., disregard for the approval of others, inability to pursue long term goals, confused self-identity, & impaired capacity to give and receive love.

4. Faulty models & learning - A no. of investigators have emphasized the role of faulty parent-child & family interactions in the origin of psychopathic personality. Heaver (1943) has emphasized the influence exerted by faulty parental models. Some parents who seek the admiration of the community, maintain an illusion of a happy family by concealing all evidence of bickering. Their children learn that appearances are more impt. than reality.

Buss (1966) has concluded that two types of parental beh. foster psychopathy. In the 1st, parents are cold & distant toward the child & allow no close relship to develop. Likewise the child also develops. The 2nd type of parental beh. involves inconsistency, in which parents are capricious in supplying affection, rewards & punishments. They are inconsistent in their own rel. enactments. So the child lacks a stable model to imitate &

fails to develop a clear-cut sense of self identity. The life style of the psychopath seems especially resistant to change, since it is intermittently reinforced by short term gains and by the avoidance of punishment or other noxious situations.

5. Anomie & alienation - Social conditions also produce their share of psychopaths. An environ. characterized by the breakdown of social norms and regulations, disorganization, undesirable peer models, and a climate of alienation from and hostility toward the broader society appears to produce a type of psy. personality that is recognizable by inadequate cons. dev., lack of concern for others, & destructive antisocial beh. On a family level, the picture is often aggravated by broken homes, parental rejection and inconsistent discipline.

Thus antisocial personalities are a mixed group of individuals who have certain char. in common. They are poorly socialized, emotionally immature, impulsive, irresponsible, unethical & unable to make constructive social adjustments.

Treatment :-

Robins (1966) found that it was necessary to modify the psychopath's life style because of the long developmental background of anti-social beh. Traditional psychotherapeutic techniques have not proven effective. Behaviour therapists have dealt successfully with specific antisocial behaviours.

Bandura (1969) has cited 3 steps for effecting changes in antisocial beh. through the application of learning principles:

(a) Modeling - rewarding the psychopath for imitating desired beh.

(b) Gradual transfer of evaluative & reinforcement functions to the antisocial indiv. himself, so that eventually he evaluates his own beh. and rewards himself accordingly.

(c) Reduction of material incentives & rewards as the indiv.'s beh. is brought under the control of self-administered, symbolic rewards. The main objective is to help the antisocial indiv. to develop internalized controls that will minimize the need for external constraints and rewards.