Sociological Imagination of Domestic Violence

Name

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Social structure, and its associated aspects, influence people’s behavior in society. This is the notion on which sociological imagination shades light, raising awareness that people’s behaviors tend to reflect impacts of social structure in society. Sociological imagination is focused on how people behave, and the behavior connects to the social setting of the society thus, it is sociologically imaginable that understanding social variables can help in recognizing, understanding, and addressing troubling behaviors in society. This essay discusses how sociological imagination can help to understand and address domestic problem as a problem.

Sociological imagination can competently help in understanding the issue of domestic violence. There are issues that people generally assume as personal or private matters; however, through screening issues such as domestic violence under the lens of sociological imagination depicts that some behavioral issues are due to society. Domestic violence is not an individual problem, but a public/social problem that occurs as a result of the trending social structure (Walby et al., 2014). According to Walby and the colleagues, domestic violence against women, for example, tend to occur as a result of some communities still holding on to sexist social culture that men should be in control over women. Therefore, in a society where social values still feature certain gender, age or class as distinguishing advantages, especially in families, violence become socially constructed. Results of domestic violence are also public concern; victims are usually left with reduced self-esteem, anxiety, issues of isolation, and depression, among many others (McElhinny, 2012). McElhinny argues that social battle for masculinity among family members often causes cases of family violence. Sociological imagination, which focuses on how society influence people’s behavior, therefore, helps in the understanding of how social settings, including the social meaning of certain genders and age, among others, contribute to domestic violence and its prevalence.

The research findings presented in the previous paragraph agrees to the textbook’s sociological imagination explanation of domestic violence. Referring to the issue as “family violence”, the textbook explains that many causes of domestic violence are associated to social values and trends within the family. Power relationship within a family, where some members expect to have certain level of control over others tend to result in conflicts and violence (Kendall, 2018). According to Kendall, “gender-based” socialization, for instance, tends to cause family violence in the way they dictate sex-roles, which eventually results in conflicts in the event that such socialization rules are broken. Just as the research revealed, the textbook explains that family/domestic violence is usually a result of kinds of socialization in which some parties feel superior, and expect acknowledgement of their power, over other members of the family. Social imagination therefore helps in the understanding of how socialization, which is usually guided by certain social values, norms and expectations in society, contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence. Differences between members of a family, which can be associated with varying social expectation between members of the family, can result in disputes, and further escalate to physical or verbal abuses in a household (Kendall, 2018). Therefore, the explanation that the textbook gives about domestic violence, and how sociological imagination helps understand the issue, is the same as what the research finds.

Sociological imagination helps in understanding issues that affect people and society. The perspective shades light on how the perceived normal social settings of society contribute to the occurrence of certain behavioral problems that people face. In this light, sociological imagination raises awareness that certain behavioral issues are the results of influences that society has on people. Domestic violence, for example, is a problem that is associated with various socialization practices between members of a family/household.

References

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