Week 2 Assignment – Sociological Imagination & Socialization

Name

Institution

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**Question Set 1: Social Causes of Homelessness Among Veterans**

Many veterans like Arty Fischel find themselves homeless due to an array of social forces, and sociological imagination can help in understanding their situations. 12.3% of all the homeless adults in the United States are veterans, a proportion that is relatively high, and, therefore, requires addressing (Tsai & Rosenheck, 2015). Therefore, are multiple social factors that may have contributed to Fischel’s situation. Firstly, the veteran may have found himself homeless due to intimate partner or family issues. Logan et al. (2016) argue that issues with family members or intimate partners tend to cause disorientation among people, and veterans’ cases of homelessness and suicidal thoughts are often associated with social isolation caused by the aforementioned issues.

Secondly, Fischel may have found himself homeless as a result of substance use disorder. Many veterans end up homeless as a result of heavy drinking or drug abuse, which are also associated with perceived difficulties in their lives (Tsai & Rosenheck, 2015). Last but not least, the veteran may have found himself homeless due to lack of social support for possible mental challenges. According to Tsai and Rosenheck, many veterans tend to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their encounters while on their tours. Sociological imagination, through various theories, can help understand that social forces such as issues with relationships and interactions can cause homelessness, and it also require such a perspective to help address the situation by improving connections and interactions.

**Question Set 2: Culture Shock, Ethnocentrism, and Cultural Relativism**

Cultural shock, cultural relativism, and ethnocentrism are some important concepts in sociology. Cultural shock is arguably the kind of surprise/shock that occurs among people who change cultural setting. Irwin (2007) defines cultural shock as the anxiety and depression that people who change cultural environment tend to experience. Cultural shock is important for learning about self, and it also fosters understanding diversity differences, particularly those that pertain to culture, among people (Furnham, 2010). An example the feeling that foreign students experience in their early days. Ethnocentrism describes the act of using preconceptions from one’s own culture to judge another culture (Bizumic, 2014). According to Bizumic, ethnocentrism is important for understanding other people’s cultural values thus, enhancing socialization. An example would be judging another person’s customs based on own custom values. Lastly, cultural relativism describes the notion that a person’s behaviors, values and beliefs can only be understood better by referring to his or her culture rather than that of another person (Li, 2009). It is important for building intercultural understanding that recognizes and respect other people cultural influences on their behaviors and practices; it promotes ethics in a multicultural society.

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