

Social Events

The social events are usual happenings in the society that give either a positive or a negative impact. Such events range from a normal one to deadliest form. Social events may occur in an individual's life, environment as well as in a large social context. We consider an individual's case as a social event due to its relevance to the society. Environmental happenings are also a part of social events; as those happens due to the human activities; and affects the society.

As far as the social events in social context are concerned, it represents the over all values of human tolerance which are confined by the model of historical background, the society is privileged with. Social events vary in a wide range, due to the variations in human tendency and behavior. Analyzing the reason behind social events requires a psychological study of human behavior, as that strongly holds the ethics of religious, cultural and community values as its background. Matthew Desmond in his book analyzed the subjective facts of individual psychology of temptation and risk bearing factors. Fighting against the forest fire is a life taking job but the country boys, in their every efforts, tries to prove their braveness by accomplishing the challenging job. Every forest fires are followed by death, injuries and bone breaks; but they never give up fighting against it (Desmond).

Hence, the factor behind the human guts must be very personal; the responsibility they feel about rescuing forest from fire, to maintain their identity as a firefighter and also the inability to do the same would be a question to their masculinity. All the mentioned factors seem to have their connection with the psychological prospects of an individual with his ethical values. Psychological factors are equally responsible for the involvement of individual in any social events.

On this contrary Randall Collins, emphasizing on micro-sociological theory, gives stress on social violence as a result of the big shape of emotions in an individual, connected to several past

and present happening in his/her life. For example: poverty, race, and origins in divorce or single parent families etc. Human psychological condition of fear, insecurity and inferiority leads to the violence of different kinds. For example: mass murder, serial killing, revenge taking, sexual abuse and suicide. He insists on the use of the modern technology to give authentication to the findings. As per Collins, police normally uses the available data to confine the cause of the happening. But such empirical data are not liable to give psychological justification to the case. The use of micro analysis theory becomes a necessity, in such cases, as that can draw out the emotional involvement of the individual in a particular social event (Collins).

As these two frameworks, seem to have the similarities with the Comte's social theory of positivism and anti-positivism. Where, Collins views inclines more towards anti-positivists whereas Desmond towards positivists.

Giving stress to positivism, Durkheim maintained that the social sciences are a logical continuation of the natural ones into the realm of human activity, and insisted that they should retain the same objectivity, rationalism, and approach to causality. This approach eschews epistemological and metaphysical concerns such as the nature of social facts, in favor of methodological debates concerning clarity, reliability and validity (Wacquant).

Supporting anti-positivism, sociologist Max Weber argued that sociology may be loosely described as a science as it is able to identify causal relationships of human "social action", especially among "ideal types", or hypothetical simplifications of complex social phenomena. Karl Marx's methodology is borrowed from Hegelian dialecticism but also a rejection of positivism in favor of critical analysis, seeking to supplement the empirical acquisition of "facts" with the elimination of illusions. He maintained that appearances need to be critiqued rather than simply documented (Ashley & Orenstein).

As far as Matthew Desmond and Randall Collins's respective ideas on two different frameworks are concerned, both of them are correct in their respective field; but if we look at the roots of either case: violence or rescuing, we will find the relevance of either framework with

social emotions. As crimes are the outcome of the impaired emotions created due to the social factors. In the same way, forest fire rescuing tendency of fire fighters, to maintain their honor in the society is also a part of social emotion.

Social events have diverse forms: a suicide to a serial killing and a normal natural calamity to a deadliest one. Now, let us talk about how emotions of two different frameworks bear the relevance with each other. We have two different social events: violence and rescuing. Every time we need to rescue a violence to maintain peace in the society; more deadly the violence is, more perfect rescuing, we require to resolve it. We need strong and positive emotions, like the role of the firefighters to combat forest fire.

The only difference between the two frameworks is: Collins considers the outcome of negative psychological energy as the social events; whereas, for Desmond, the effect of a positive psychological energy is more influencing social event. However both the events bear equal risk factors. An individual with impaired emotions has poor expression ability. That results in a psychological isolation forcing him to drain his negative emotions in a violent way, resulting in a social violence such as murder, rape, robbery, and kidnapping etc., depending on the nature of mental tension he is going through.

There are several social factors giving shape to such mental imparities, such as:

1. Suppression in the society; in the form of discrimination by the superior class people.
2. Rigid social rules.
3. Extreme intention to secure one's ethnic values, race, community and religion.
4. Distraction in family relations.
5. Social refutation of incurable diseases.

All the above mentioned factors are created within the social system. An individual under the negative influence of these factors, trying to make a comfort zone out of it; would create a conflict

resulting in violent social events.

On the other hand, the firefighters willing to create a positive impact in the society by accomplishing the task of rescuing a natural calamity like forest fire holds equally important social factors, such as:

1. To fulfill the ethical responsibility given to them by the society.
2. To maintain their prevailing status in the society.
3. Desire to make an example of service to society.
4. To preserve the system of rescuing, made by the society.

Furthermore, the risk factor is equal in either kind of social events, as in both the case there are maximum chances of counter strike. A criminal committing a crime might face instant death or detention through police or public; on the other hand, the people rescuing the natural calamities also face death or brutal injuries due to the violent calamity.

Hence the frameworks set by both Matthew Desmond and Randall Collins, holds equal importance; they are like the two branches of same tree. Both the framework have social factors as their background along with the two forms of emotions, 'negative and positive' as their energy; one resulting in a violence and the other in rescuing a calamity. If we combine the two frameworks in one, it would be more effective and useful to understand both negative and positive sides of social events.

Works Cited

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