

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR SERIES-6

Lecture-6

(Duration : 1 hour)

UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR: AN APPRECIATION IN THE CHANGING MELIEU

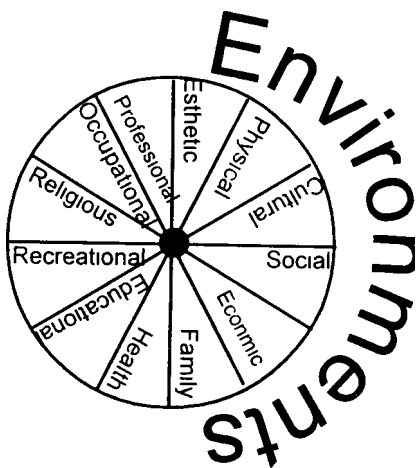
An individual behaves and how does he behave? Psychologists may say that (1) all human behaviour is caused, (2) there are multiple causes behind each human behaviour. It is not easy or possible to know all the causes behind one's behaviour, yet well trained police officer can know a lot about why a particular individual behaves in a manner he does.

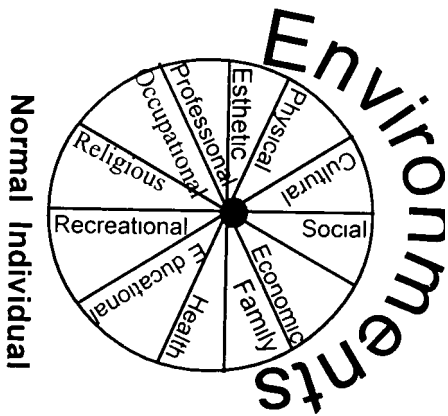
S- O- R AND THE POLICE

'S'- means the Stimulus, 'O'- means the Organism and 'R'- means the Response to the Stimulus. When a stimulus falls on an Organism the Organism responds to it.

For example:

While on patrol duty, the police man sees a man running away. Seeing the man running away, the policeman went after him and started questioning to know the reasons for running away. Many people who saw the same event did not respond to the stimulus the way the policeman did. Why? The response to a stimulus received depends upon several factors within and outside an individual. It is here one may learn the psychological factors that are found operative in an individual as well as the situational. Therefore, the simplest formulae to explain individual behaviour is





where S = IHB-Individual - Human Behaviour Situations
 I - Individual

IHB = $\frac{S}{I}$ In every individual behaviour, a person fights with an environment which is called the situation.

Example:

1. Unable to withstand the hunger-pang caused by starvation, a person stole some food to eat.
2. Seeing that the people are not prepared to listen to the orders of the police, they resorted to a lathy-

charge.

Here, the S means two things, i.e.,

1. pressures of the situation
2. weakness of the social order. And I means the inherited and acquired ego-strength of the individual

Hence, the formulae is-

1. If the pressures of the situation is more than the ego-strength of the individual to withstand the pressures, then he yields to the situations. In other words, the S wins over the I.

2. If the ego-strength is more to withstand the pressures of the situation, the individual wins over the situation- i.e. the I wins over S.

An individual may be surrounded by a number of environments and he has to find a harmonious adjustment to the environments which create the situation. If he is able to find out a harmonious adjustment to the situations in which he works, he is called a normal individual, otherwise he will be branded as abnormal.

(Fig:3)

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In A the person is able to make harmonious adjustment with his environment whereas in B, he cannot. The financial environment is very wide so much so that he fails to make harmonious adjustment. He may commit theft, borrow money, take loans, sell valuables etc. to make a harmonious adjustment with his environment, if he is not able to make harmonious adjustment, he breaks down and behaves like an abnormal man.

CASE- ILLUSTRATION

A person is brought to the police station and detained him with humiliating dress- i.e. a short lion cloth. He is kept in semi-starvation conditions. At times, he is called for interrogation and he is mentally and physically tortured. Unable to find out a harmonious adjustment with his environments in police station, he may attack the policeman or may commit suicide.

"No individual can have a perfect harmony with all his environments. This is the reason why people are seen sometimes happy and at other times sad, sometimes calm and collected and at other times disturbed and confused, sometimes pleasant and at others times violent or angry and so on. People are gloomy, fearful, sympathetic, considerate, indifferent, loving, hostile etc. with their environments."

WHAT AND WHY ASPECTS OF INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR

The policeman, is said to be concerned only with the what aspects of individual human behaviour. The allegation is that he

is not bothered about the why aspects of individual human behaviour.

CASE- ILLUSTRATIONS

1. A juvenile was found to have involved in the commission of a crime. The policeman apprehends

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him and initiates action against him. As it is, the policeman is not worried about the precipitating or pre-disposing factors behind his delinquency.

2. While settling family problems, the policeman looks into what is wrong with the family members. He may not be interested to study the caused behind the eruption of such family problems.
3. A policeman feels sympathy with a woman who was attacked by he husband. He does not know why he feels sympathy, yet it is a fact that he feels sympathy towards the victim of domestic violence.

INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR OF POLICE

The policeman evaluates individual behaviours and responds to them in a way he likes to or he is expected to. If he behaves in the way he likes to, then it may receive social disapproval . On the contrary, if he deals with it in the way, he is expected to do, then he way receive social acceptance, approval and recognition. There should not be a conflict between the individual behaviour of policeman as he does and as he expected to. The Central Committee on Police Training give clear cut directions as to how a policeman should behave as he is expected by the Society.

They are:

1. Loyalty to the Constitution, commitment to the goals of the nation and the concepts of an egalitarian society and the need for national integration.
2. Awareness of the problems that arise in the wake of the development of the development process, including conflicts, social disorganisation, regional imbalances etc.
3. A deep social awareness for comprehending and reacting to complex situations.

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4. Development of analytical and innovative skills, since situations will continue to change and no ready made solutions can be prescribed.
5. A new orientation in dealing with the masses, who come from various strata of society, divided among many contours such as religious, caste, region and income as may lead to the correct response in individual cases.

6. The need for the application of scientific, techniques, management concepts and skills and constructive attitudes and values in police work.

These are the golden rules by the help of which each police officer should try to appreciate the behaviour not only of the police officers themselves but also of the people with whom they come into contact.

A fair assessment of human behaviour basing on the principles set for the above will surely guarantee better police - public relations. The people should understand that the police are evaluating human behaviour in the way they should. Indiscriminate use of force basing on false assessment of human behaviour, excessive use of police authority to quell violence, unsympathetic attitude to the public especially to the members of the weaker sections, unwillingness or half hearted attempts to implement legitimate things etc. show that the policemen lack capacity to appreciate human behaviour in the way they should.

APPRECIATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR IN THE CHANGING SOCIAL MELIEU

Policemen have to behave with all kinds of people from all walks of life. Hearing petitioners, questioning informants, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, managing subordinates, dealing with the members of the public etc. do require a proper evaluation and appreciation of the

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environments/ situations/milieu in which each individual works. A lack of knowledge about the background in which people behave will surely put the police officers/ men in difficulty. Any society which is constantly undergoing change will demand a police which respond to the situations in which people work and behave.

CLASS ROOM EXERCISES

1. Discuss the special social and political situations in which the policeman has to work. Explain , how well he can find out a harmonious adjustment with his work environments/ situations.
2. Make an appraisal of the following behavioural patterns of police and find out the reasons for such behavioural patterns. Decide whether or not the police behaviour is normal or abnormal in the given situations. Explain the reasons for such behavioural patterns .

POLICE BEHAVIOUR

- 1 Quick response to delayed response to public complaints complaints

- 2 Sympathetic attitude to Indifferent attitude to the poor
the poor and the needy and the needy
- 3 Considerate outlook Hostile outlook
- 4 Courteous behaviour Aggressive behaviour
- 5 Polite dealings Indecent language
- 6 Just and fair treatment Discourteous treatment
- 7 Responsible actions unjust dealings
- 8 Industrious activities unjustifiable activities
- 9 Selfless services partisan services
- 10 Honest transactions Irresponsible actions
- 11 Firm decisions Corrupt practices
- 12 Courteous dealings Timid approaches
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- 13 Noble looks
- 14 Tolerant interactions
- 15 Helping nature
- 16 Service orientation
- 17 Respectful dealings
- 18 Pleading manners
- 19 Welcoming approaches
- 20 Sincere advice
- 21 Dignified countenance

DISCUSSION

Illegal transactions
Coercive tactics
Discriminatory treatment
Self fish procedure
Contemptuous expressions
Susceptibility to
considerations
Misuse of authority
Brutal activities
Dishonest and dreadful eyes

NOTE

1. James Vadachumhery and John Kattakayam, Human Behaviour and law Enforcement. Ashish, New Delhi, 1995.

