

Reflection Task:

To what extent do our personal beliefs about what is normal, acceptable, tolerable or unacceptable mirror those of the community we are raised in?

In contemporary societies, it is an inevitable fact that the community we are raised in affects our perception of normal, acceptable, tolerable, or unacceptable. Although it is an undeniable fact that this situation is a situation that oppresses individuals in order to gain a sense of belonging in society, this essay will examine these three concepts sociopsychologically.

To begin with, while the circumstances that shape people's understanding of good and bad may be a philosophical question, society has a significant impact. The question here is: What shapes society? I believe the answer is actually simpler than one might think. While society is generally shaped by individuals within society, it is also shaped by specific individuals within society, sometimes those who are more dominant and dissenting from society. For example, when discussing laws, we shouldn't forget the individuals who write them. Cultures are actually very similar. While this isn't an acceptable notion for society, I believe religions operate in this same way. And religions also highlight individuals like prophets, and use these persons to make the concepts easier to understand because people are more prone to role-modelling. These factors shape the structure of good and bad in society. Also, if we imagine it as an inverse function, it will be easier for us to make inferences about society if we know what is good and bad. For example, if we know what percentage of a society is circumcised, we can make inferences about that society's religion. Similarly, if we know a person's religion, we can make inferences about that person's culture and their understanding of normal and abnormal.

However, it would be oversimplified, though, to say that our beliefs perfectly capture our society. Internalizing community norms is an active negotiation process rather than a passive assimilation process. Basic ideas from social psychology can help us comprehend this. We acquire the norms and values of our society through a lifelong process called socialization, which is mostly influenced by peer groups, education, and family. We develop a fundamental "social script" as a result of this process. Strong incentives are then created to follow these taught norms by mechanisms like conformity (changing our thoughts or behavior to meet a group standard) and the desire for social acceptance. Tolerating what is "unacceptable" in society comes at a personal cost because of the fear of being excluded.

In conclusion, while some people say that our personal beliefs about what is normal, acceptable, tolerable, or unacceptable mirror those of the community we are raised in. I firmly believe that it would be oversimplifying, but the most important question is what shapes a community. If we understand what shapes a community, we can understand the other concepts as well.

WORD COUNT : 451 WORDS