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PSYCHODYNAMIC INTERPRETATION OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

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Abstract:
The study of criminal behaviour supposes an ingression during the whole formation process shaped. The dynamics of the family relationships, inherently related to the dynamics of the society, on a social, cultural, economic and institutional level, denotes the psycho-behavioural development of the individual, vertiginously influencing his/her violent behaviour in society. The deviant behaviour should be understood from a pathological point of view, as being the product of deformation, disruption or inhibition of normal development, according to the conflicts occurred in certain life stages, and to their inadequate settlements.
Keywords: *criminal behaviour, dynamics, society, deviance, offender, personality.*

1. Introduction

Right from the moment of his/her birth, the individual is inherently subjected to some dynamic development processes based on growing up and education. While the growing up process has an absolute purpose, meaning that inevitably it leads to the final growing up, the education component aims at obtaining a cultural model adjusted to the dynamics of the social environment, according to the degree of availability that the human being has for the training process. In this regard, during the formation process starting at birth and lasting during the growing up process, the individual remains open to the training process offered by the social environment. The family environment, the educational structures, the cultural transformations and the social changes contribute to the formation process.

Therefore, the causes of deviance are many and varied: neuro-psychic, family-related, social, economic, and educational, and the list is open. This short presentation of images can significantly reflect the differences between normality and deviance at a psycho-behavioural level [1]. Finally, the individual becomes a normal, deviant or marginalized on, within a society which is in a continuous evolution and in a rampant change.

We witness now a dynamics of the family-state relationships, in terms of influence of the family-related, social-cultural, economic and institutional environment.

1. The family-related environment and education – the psycho-behavioural foundation of the individual

Undoubtedly, family represents the best environment for the development of the personality of the individual. It is the foundation of the community, thus contributing to laying the basis of a well-structured society where each individual can enjoy a safe and sound environment. Between family and society, an inseparable and interdependent relationship is created that should be assure, in a positive way, by generally promoting the human value. The society and family transformations give birth to challenges that the individual has to face. Within the psycho-behavioural construction of the individual, education embodies the dialectic function, as the family offers the first guiding marks on life, with all its patterns. The life environment is the one that influences the individual even since childhood when we learn how to live and how to adapt to society, and to immunize against it, as it is in a permanent change, imposing stereotype patterns of thinking and action. The society develops and along with it, the individual, too, and this perpetuum influences the individual's behaviour, including the deviant one.

The social formation of the individual is based on two main components which supplement each other, education and training, and the individual behaviour manifests itself in relation to the other members of the society, thus determining the social style of a group. Within a group, the fate of the group itself becomes the individual's fate. In other words, the individual is not born with a certain behavioural fate, he/she acquires a fate which is achieved in the group in which such individual is interposed, being exposed to the pressure of conflicts of the dominant place. On these criteria, the interpretation of deviance and delinquency is reported to family, school and society all the same. In this corollary, all these acquire a particular importance.

2. The pathological nature of deviant behaviour

The behaviour deviations should be regarded as mutations in the process of normal growing up, being a process of deformation, disruption or inhibition of such

behaviour. Such mutations occur as a result of the conflicts inevitably appearing during the process of the normal growing up of the individual, in certain life stages and which are not settled adequately by him/her. In this context, we have to notice the sources of impulse and of control reported rather to life experience and to the momentary situation, than to the biological construction [2].

Those manifesting a deviant or criminal behaviour show a series of features, even contradictory ones, in this regard, on one hand being the impulsive individuals and without a specific purpose in their daily behaviour, without perspectives and ideals, and on the other hand, organised individual, with perspectives, with a planned and controlled behaviour, having the same daily routine, constant and monotonous, but who sometimes act impulsively, inexplicably. This impulse to act, manifested in a certain social context, based on the existing circumstances, answers to the psychoanalytical conception according to which the tendency to deviate is inborn.

To understand the sources of impulse and control, we have to start with the psychoanalytical meanings of the human behaviour. Starting from the genetic inheritance, respectively those influences inherited by each individual and reflected in the composition of self, at the ego level, all the life experience of the individual is perceived, even from birth, as a result of the events that he/she has lived through his/her life, while at the super ego level, the information came from the other individuals is recorded. Therefore, the control will manifest by the intermediary of the ego and super ego, as functional structures interconnected at the personality level.

3. Psychoanalytical guiding marks in interpretation of criminal behaviour. The capacity of control over aggressive impulses

In the interpretation of personality, the self plays an important part. It is not learned, it simply exists in the human nature, being conceived as aggressive energies which render the impulsive behaviour. It is not a matter of thinking or reasoning, but of impulses which reveal beyond self-control. In the growing up process, the elements related to the development of personality and to socialisation play an important part, and with their help, impulses can be controlled from the level of self.

In the psycho-dynamic interpretation of criminality and of deviance, they start from premises related to the capacity or incapacity to overcome conflicts, as energies existing in the structure of personality. Such an analysis in focused on the neutralization of the feeling of guilt, and on the construction of those instances responsible with thinking and moral consciousness, i.e. Ego and Super Ego. Basically, the controls are made by means of the Ego and of the Super Ego, as structures which begin to differentiate during growing up, at a certain period of time after birth.

While the Self is inherited, the Ego is acquired, made up of experiences, sensations, personal experience. The Ego is practically what results from the relationships of the individual with the environment in which he/she lives, being the expression itself of all the social relationships developed personally by the individual during the growing up process. Thus, he/she learns and gets used to the way in which he/she has to manifest in relation to the social environment. That is why, the Ego is created in time, as part of the individual's personality. Compared to the functions of the Ego, there occur the moral functions transmitted to the level of Super Ego, reflecting the ideals and expectations in relation to the other individuals and with the community in its whole. For example, the Ego manifests itself from early childhood, when any child gets into contact with the surrounding environment and, to a certain extent, to exercise a certain control over it, but such perceptions occur before shaping any moral principle. At grown-ups, the Ego is more complex, meaning that it will express itself in terms of multilateral development of the individual, as personality and as degree of socialization: expectations, desires, interests, convictions, curiosities, constraints etc. According to all these elements by which it is identified with. The Ego has to manage those conflicts occurred as a result of impulses from the level of Self in relation to the moral functions from the level of Super Ego. In the absence of such mediation, the Ego cannot manifest itself within the usual activities, and its role is only to think and reason some behaviour, especially self-defence against the impulses from the level of self.

If the Ego is shaped and starts to manifest itself relatively shortly after birth, at early ages, the delimitation of Super Ego will occur in a natural way, at a certain moment after the shaping of the Ego, according to the degree of psycho-intellectual and affective development of each child. The Super Ego manifests itself as a differentiated structure,

containing all the moral functions of the personality: approval or disapproval of actions, according the honesty criterion, the critical self-preservation, self-punishment, the need to repair a bad deed or the need to regret it, according to the guilty feeling criterion and self-respect or self-love [3]. Most of the functions of the super ego are instinctive.

According to these three instances, the individual wavers between rational and irrational, consciousness and unconsciousness. A weak Ego or an absent Super Ego leaves the place to an out-of-control Self, thus leading to the repression of aggressive energies.

The whole behaviour of the individual subsumes to his/her actions which manifest at interpersonal level. We see a dynamics regarding the individual's needs and objectives. According to these guiding marks, the self evolves, which requires energy to be controlled.

4. The free will and the psycho-behavioural motivations

To understand the actions of the individual, we have to start from his/her interpersonal behaviour, trying to put ourselves in his/her place and to discover the motivations of his/her actions and choices: why choose and action and reject another or why keep on doing the same action, beyond stigma, reprobation, rejection or even sanction?

Thus, the component of personality should be regarded in relation to the behaviour adopted by the individual both as an answer to certain momentary external stimuli, and according to those stable features or predispositions which generate specific typologies, such as the extrovert or the introvert, as Jung classified them.

From his notes, they reached the conclusion that the individuals act, during their lives, as determined by certain interests of theirs, and others react as a result of their inner being [4]. With regard to the criminal typology, the extrovert manifests a criminal-related predisposition more acute than the introvert [5]. The psychoanalytical studies shows that the character is what sets out the psychic structure of man, according to which the "man's fate" itself is set out" [6]. And the character is not inherited, but occurs as a result of the interaction between the genetic background and the environment. However,

the factors of personality, mostly inherited, are mainly responsible for the antisocial behaviour.

Obviously, the crime-related action should be interpreted as being a product of some determined causes. Is the individual aware of what is good and what is bad and,, at the same time, is he/she capable of choosing between the two actions? Certainly, each human action, being determined by several factors, can be based on some unconscious processes that would overcome the conscious motivations and decisions, no matter if we talk about a normal or a criminal individual. And the consciousness is the one that transmits the individual to behave correctly and morally, according to social regulations. It appears as a result of a long process of conditioning; and the absence of conditioning is perhaps one of the main causes leading to confrontation with the law and with the social practices in general [7]. Following this reasoning, the extroverts have a higher criminal-related coefficient, because they condition themselves less, thus having a weaker consciousness than the introverts.

Conclusions

The nature and evolution of the self is the main source of concern in the psycho-behavioural dynamism. The self develops gradually, and an excessive preoccupation of the individual regarding self-defence can influence his/her behaviour, finally leading to the loss of his/her own identity, to the loss of self. It is considered as the source of approximately the whole behaviour that we call bad, and during growing up, if the development of personality and socialization are successfully achieved, they learn to control the impulses of the Self.

As criminality and predisposition to offences can be explained only in relation to society, criminality should be analysed and observed in the context of social interaction. Although heredity has a significant percentage, we do not have to deny the importance of the influences of environment, learning and social experience contributing to understanding criminality in its whole.

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