Deviance and Society

Bardia (First M. Last)

School or Institution Name (University at Place or Town, State)

The assignment requires violating a folkway in public deliberately and examining the outcome. Folkway is a type of norms in sociology which can be described as the most accepted way of doing things. These are the habits and customs not explicitly thought about but practice in society (Sumner, 2013). Folkways provide the need of the life of all the time (Sumner, 2002)

The folkway violation was carried out a train station. The folkway which was violated for the sake of this assignment was standing in the queue at the train station. The general behavior that is expected of an individual in to stand in a queue and wait for his turn. It is a common folkway which is practiced in most of the western societies. The aim was to break the queue and surpass individuals by breaking the queue deliberately and showing it as well. This attempt was taken at a train station which was quite busy that day. Every individual was standing in the queue, I went and entered the queue in between pushing the persons behind. There was no room for a person to fix in hence I pushed the person backward and entered the queue making room for myself.

The folkway usually is to stand at the last and wait for a turn; my action disturbed the rest of the queue. The person shouted, “What are you trying to do?” I said nothing and ignored him. His comment made everyone attentive towards me. At the spur of the moment, I noticed the expressions of disgust on the face of that individual and three people standing behind. It seemed like they wanted to scold me for my action and teach me the general folkway of not breaking the queue and disrupt others. Rest of the people were looking with enquiring eyes as they wanted to know what happened here.

Whenever I go to a train station while going to college, the general practice I follow is to stand in a queue and wait for the train to come. I had to prepare myself for this unusual act, and I did it on the other terminal different than the one I take daily. I did not need to practice the act of pushing someone behind; it was an easy task. I just had to prepare myself on the reaction of people, and I just realized the person I was pushing behind. I was aware that I do not have to push a female or an elder person. But the difficulty was to handle the response of the people surrounding me. The hatred and disgust in their eyes made me realize that I did the wrong thing, but I was ready to face that. I kept on standing and observing the reactions of people around me and felt the negatives vibes. At the moment realized that I never broke a folkway or a norm and this is the reaction of people for someone who does that.

After doing this field study I learned that though standing is not an official requirement it is a practice in American society which everyone follows and it is the indication of the civilized environment. Waiting in line is an informal social norm which must be followed (Fagundes, 2016). After breaking this very common practice I realized that I was being judged as uncivilized that I did not follow the general practice which everyone was doing. These customary habits that we have developed make us civilized persons in society and those who break them are considered as uncivilized. Breaking the customary habits such as standing in a queue, giving personal space to other and opening door for others, leave a negative impression of a person. waiting in line is a simple norm everyone can follow (“Now we know: Why we stand in queues | Pursuit by The University of Melbourne,” n.d.). As a civilized member of the society we have to follow these folkways and mores, and this is what is expected of us.

# References

Fagundes, D. (2016). The Social Norms of Waiting in Line. *Law & Social Inquiry (42)*, 1179-1207.

Now we know: Why we stand in queues | Pursuit by The University of Melbourne. (n.d.). Retrieved January 29, 2019, from https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/now-we-know-why-we-stand-in-queues

Sumner, W. G. (2002). *Folkways: A study of mores, manners, customs and morals*. Courier Corporation.

Sumner, W. G. (2013). *Folkways-A Study Of The Sociological Importance Of Usages, Manners, Customs, Mores And Morals*. Read Books Ltd.