Midterm Case Assessment

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**Research Methods**

Applied Behaviour Analysis is a scientific approach that refers to the set of principles of the operant behavior, taking into account the stance that branch off the behaviorism philosophical approach of behavior. (Dillenburger, et, al. 2009). There are certain interventions based on the underlying principles of applied behavior analysis. ABA is termed as one of the effective treatment for autism. ABA is not a therapy for autism; in fact, it is a collection of interventions that are used to treat the behavior of autism. There are three significant but related field associated with autism, behaviorism, experimental analysis of behaviorism and then the applied behavior analysis. (Dillenburger, et, al. 2009). Behaviorism is the understanding of patient's actions, taking into account that both a psychologist and a layman can understand it. In ABA, behavioral processes are treated as processes that have its own causes and rights. It is important to note that these causes are usually found in the external environment. Experimental analysis refers to the analysis of behavior that has undergone a 100 year evolution. It refers to the discovery of principles of behaviors such as operant conditioning and relational responding. The third stance, applied behavioral analysis refers to the implication of derived behavioral tactics to improve the social significance of behavior and experimentation that can be used as a tool behind the behavioral change. (Dillenburger, et, al. 2009).

It is significant to note that many of the assumptions are brought parallel to ABA. However, ABA is mistakenly treated as a therapy for autism rather than a science. It would not be wrong to say that ABA is a stance of knowledge that is gathered from three underlying principles. It has been highlighted that there is a difference between a technique and science. In the present time, there are about 3.500 BCBAs that are offering certifications regarding the training in behavior analysis. Today, these 3,500 BCBAs are termed as Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts that should have at least Bachelors Degree in the training of behaviorist analysts. (Dillenburger, et, al. 2009).

**Implication**

The article, “None of the As in ABA stands for autism: Dispelling the myths” has brought into insight the myths that are associated with ABA, in terms of treatment of autism. ABA is not a technique; in fact, it is an applied science that has evolved over 100 years of research. The stance of research has paved the way for interventions that adhered to evidence-based practice, taking into account that the science is associated with behavioral principles. It is inferred that ABA is a collection of science that can guide the development of techniques in the context of treatment of autism. In a nutshell, ABA is not associated with a particular application or program; in fact, it is a stance of response that is applied to an individual within a social context. It would not be wrong to say that the scientific approach applied to the study and analysis of individual’s behavior is accompanied by the stance of social backgrounds that is driven by scientific approaches and decision making approaches with respect to the procedures of data collection.

Reference

Dillenburger, K., & Keenan, M. (2009). None of the As in ABA stand for autism: Dispelling the myths. *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*, *34*(2), 193-195.

**Field of psychology**

Michelle Carter was found guilty of manslaughter that was turned involuntary, taking into account the fact that she urged her boyfriend to commit suicide by the media of text messaging and phone calls. According to judge Lawrence Moniz of Bristol, Ms. Carter is responsible for destroying two families, and it paves the way to question scope of legal responsibility. In a nutshell, the case was all about two troubled teenagers and the inline media that fataled the path of their relationship, leading to devastation.

**Research**

The case of Michele Carter is related to research because Hudhe Moniz affirmed that Mr. Roy has used research to know suicide methods. It is also asserted that he applied research methods that were researched such as, obtaining a generator, and using a water pump that he used to poison himself. Another aspect that could be related to research is the analysis of the behavior that has doomed and enforced Mr. Roy to attempt suicide, side by side. It is also significant to research that how can a person enforce suicide if he is not physically present and has not aided a suicide.

**Memory**

The article is related to memory, taking into account that it is the essence of memory that made Mr. Roy to attempt suicide. As per the information from the article, it has been inferred that Ms. Carter used to encourage him to attempt suicide usually using the medium of text messages. It is the potential of memory that made him a victim of social anxiety and ultimately urged him to attempt suicide. It would not be wrong to say that memory is also a cause of depression, one of the underlying stance that has caused the death of Mr. Roy.

**Learning**

One of the basic stances of learning can be traced from the fact that Mr. Roy learned the methods to attempt suicide from the internet. There is an evident example of learning that can be acknowledged by the use of text message and internet. The outcome of the incident is also an approach towards learning, highlighting that the incident is a source of learning taking into account that what are the measures one should take in order to cater to a patient of depression, the analysis of facts and figures of the use of social media and online media.

**Learning 3**

**Steps of preference assessment**

The steps of preference assessment differ with the scenario in which assessment is made. In order to plan out the preference assessment of Tom, there are certain steps to follow. As problematic behaviors are associated with screaming, hitting and throwing work materials, I should adopt preference assessment in each of the aspects. One of the attempts would be to make Tom face situations that are more towards making him scream. I will allow him to face all the situations, such as situation of a classroom, with a specific therapist and the material he is exposed to while he screams. I will assess behavior in terms of all the aspects to know what situations made him scream. I will make Tom stay intact with all the situations in which he is assumed to hit or the things that he throws one by one. I will assess his behavior in the situation and attitude with the things as well. In order to assess throwing work materials, I will place all the work materials. Firstly, I will wait for him to throw the material, the other time I will replace the materials he is more focused on, it will make him give attention to the disturbing material.

**Schedule of reinforcement**

In order to schedule a reinforcement plan of Tome, I would be using three reinforcement aspects.

**Direct Reinforcement**

In direct reinforcement, Tom will be made to get in touch with the identified or assumed reinforces. I will be noting his reactions and response. In case of knowing the stance, screaming, hitting and throwing, I will make him encounter the most suspected thing to know his response. It will allow me to confirm which stimuli act as reinforcement for Tom to perform certain behaviors.

**Concurrent schedule**

In the second step, I will be using a concurrent schedule of reinforcement. In this step, I will make Tom come in contact with two stimuli that would be placed against each other and response towards each of it would be analyzed. It will allow me to undergo an analysis of the fact that which of the stimuli is more towards enforcing a response. It will also help to determine the difference between the two different stimuli.

**Multiple Reinforcer assessments**

In this step, I will place a range of things and make Tom stay in contact with multiple things and I will asses which of the reinforces are feasible and which of the reinforcers are irritating. It will also help me to analyze which two reinforcers are stabilizing the impact of each other. It will also allow me to analyze which of the reinforcement is playing a major role in imparting an effect on Tom.

**Progressive-Ratio Schedule Reinforcer Assessment**

The fourth step of my reinforcement schedule is, ‘progressive ratio schedule reinforce assessment”. It will help me to know how preference changes with the passage of time. As I will make Tom come in contact with a variety of materials, I will remove the most preferred article one by one. It will help me to assess which objects are appealing for Tom, taking into account the absence of a prior object. This step will allow me to analyze a systematic increase in the response towards the material, until a stage of responding irritatingly is depicted and only towards a substance. It will facilitate the stance of a suitable environment for Tom.

All of these steps will help to analyze and critically examine the behavior of Tom, by adhering to his behavior about and towards an environment and the objects, paving the way to know the reinforcers of behaviors.

If the child displays the behavior, I will make him interact with the preferred situation and objects. Politeness and cooperation are the tools to address the behavior. In future, child should not be exposed to delicate or threatening material, attempts should be made to keep a child from negative reinforcement, and positive feedback should be used all the time. In order to prevent a punishment regarding throwing away materials, I will either take away the most preferred thing or increase the exposure of irritating object as a negative punishment while positive punishment would be a delayed response towards negative reinforcer.

**Memory**

**Article 1**

An incident troubled two families at a time, when a boy committed suicide on being enforced by her girlfriend. It has been brought into insight that it was girls' text messages that made the boy commit suicide. The girl Mrs. Carter and the boy Mr. Roy, both were a victim of social anxiety. The moment, Mr. Roy committed suicide, the only person that was in contact with Mr. Roy was Carter. (Jess, et, al. 2014)

It was also brought into insight that the boy committed suicide by searching different suicide methods and Ms. Carter has enforced Mr. Roy to die many times. An exegetical analysis reveals that it was girl's enforcement that killed the boy. (Jess, et, al. 2014). It was the result of depression the boy was suffering from and social anxiety of a girl that does not stop him. It is the impact of Alzheimer disease that made the boy surrender in the form of continuous enforcement, knowing it is harmful. (Jess, et, al. 2014)

One of the preventive measures is the analysis of thoughts and enforcement. The patient of Alzheimer should be treated with positive thoughts. It is necessary to analyze the impact situations can have on the patient. Anti-anxiety therapies are the best tool to prevent and mitigate the influence of Alzheimer disease.

**Article 2**

A case was reported that highlighted a stance in which Ms. Carter and Mr. Roy were brought into the limelight of legislation. It has been inferred that the words of a girl were weapons that killed the boy. Mr. Roy attempted suicide in accordance with instructions of Ms. Carter. Moreover, Ms. Carter did not inform anyone, nor she did anything herself to save Mr. Roy. (Katharine, et, al. 2014)

The decision from the jury inferred that Ms. Carter enforced suicide by misdirecting and forcing Mr. Roy to attempt suicide. It was inferred that she had asked Mr. Roy to opt for suicide many times before as well. Mobile phone was treated as a tool for suicide. As Mr. Roy was suffering from depression, it was a clear stance towards the Alzheimers disease. (Katharine, et, al. 2014). As Alzheimer’s hampers memory by molding negative aspects into practice, another aspect infers that there is an open end of the case taking into account the underlying aspects. It was argued that social media could not be a tool to impart life penalty, taking into account that there is no physical existence of the criminal or Ms. Carter. (Katharine, et, al. 2014)

A preventive measure for Alzheimer's is increased quality of life. It refers to a positive approach towards life by taking into account the catering to depression that can mold the thoughts of a patient towards positive things, and it could be a major tool to prevent Alzheimer's disease. Anti-depression therapies are a great tool to be treated as a preventive measure, taking into account that it can resolve the negative impacts and memory hamperings.

References

*Guilty Verdict for Young Woman Who Urged Friend to Kill Himself*. (2019). *Nytimes.com*. Retrieved 10 March 2019, from https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/us/suicide-texting-trial-michelle-carter-conrad-roy.html

#### *Michelle Carter Gets 15-Month Jail Term in Texting Suicide Case*. (2019). *Nytimes.com*. Retrieved 10 March 2019, from https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/03/us/texting-suicide-sentence.html