Harris Bowling for Columbine

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The starting sequence of the movie shows the destruction caused by bombardments, followed by attractive people with guns and rifles clustered in daily events. This all gives an introduction to the documentary. Actually, the documentary represents a critical, compelling, and anti-political background. The writer Michael Moore has been controversial in this regard. He thought that the film would work as an eye-opener for Americans and people across the world to control violence through guns. The movie is based on an unfortunate shooting massacre that took place in Columbine High School. This shooting was carried out by two students, Dylan Kiebold and Eric Harris; they both went to their former school and killed fifteen people. Also, twenty-one students suffered injuries. The film probes the weak law-and-order situation that gave rise to gun violence and weak regulation of gun possession. This analysis will cover three main questions:

1. How might Harris and Klebold's behaviors be explained using the frustration-aggression hypothesis?

2. How might Harris and Klebold's behavior be explained by the principles of social learning theory?

3. What role might growing up in Flint, Michigan, play in attitudes towards violence and guns? Would you expect to see the same kinds of influences in other parts of the country? Why or why not?

Answer to Q1. (Harris and Klebold's behavior in the light of the frustration-aggression method)

If there is something that blocks a person's way towards attaining his goal, it leads to frustration; this frustration then triggers violence, which is an evil (Myers et al.; 2017). When a person acts violently, he often ends up inflicting harm on others. Harris and Klebold were most likely bullied, which was pretty much evident in Harris's last journal entries. In some schools, bullying is uncontrolled, and the students who are bullied develop a revengeful attitude within themselves, which results in their or the community's destruction by any means. Harris's last journal entry read: "I hate you people for leaving me out of so many fun things. And no don't …". This reflects that hate was the factor that drove both of them to take such lethal steps. Harris's science partner in 8th grade revealed that Harris and Klebold were picked on constantly. People in their surroundings would throw ketchup on them, and then they would keep laughing at them, giving them bad names. The tragic thing is that it happened during the presence of teachers. Both of them couldn't retaliate there and then. They would spend

the whole day in school with ketchup stains on their shirts.

"*A lot of the tension in the school came from the class above us*" (Chad Laughlin). In April 1998, Harris started keeping a journal, a short time after the two of them were convicted of breaking into a van. As a result, they received juvenile community and counseling services in Jan 1998.

Harris's aim was to join the United States Marine Corps, but his application was rejected sometime before the shooting, as he was taking some medicines as a part of his therapy following the orders of the court about anger management. After the shooting, Peter Braggin claimed that the medicines that were prescribed to Harris for psychiatric treatment further fueled his aggression; this indicates that he was not given the right treatment.

According to one report, Harris had a mental disorder, while Klebold was under severe depression; these were the influencing factors for both of them. As it is said, excess of everything is bad. Similarly, too much depression with a feeling of being rejected and bullied caused that unfortunate shooting, which took the lives of more than eight people and injured more than 21. Harris was under the influence of sadism, while Klebold became very revengeful, and these behaviors brought devastation.

Answer to Q2 (Harris and Klebold's behavior in the light of social learning theory)

Both Harris and Klebold's behavior turned extremely negative towards society. When the depressed and revengeful minds worked together, they brought devastation to the school. Whatever they learned from society didn't turn out positively for them. Early media reports suggested that the shooting took place as revenge for bullying that they faced in the school. However, psychological analysis revealed that both Harris and Klebold had serious psychological issues that led to the disastrous shooting. Both of them learned violence and aggression from society. People of such a type do exist in our society, and it's the collective responsibility of society to address their issues so that, instead of going wayward, such psychiatric problems can be resolved. Such people can be rehabilitated. Harris, who launched the attack, was a psychopath, but he was also an intelligent person (Dave Cullen). Unfortunately, his intelligence couldn't be channeled, and he turned his approach into a negative force that took the lives of his schoolfellows. Harris's journal clearly demonstrated his hate; this hate was for society.

Answer to Q3

Michael Moore, through his documentary, gave a very positive message about anti-gun views. He rightly pointed out the loopholes in the law that allowed many to hold guns and rifles. This stance was appreciated on a large scale by viewers across the world. Moore also described the overall mindset of

Americans about guns. If everyone in society endorses this anti-gun and anti-violence stance, the youngsters who are growing up will further work on the betterment of society as a whole. If the message of anti-violence gets across the country, it'll effectively impact society. Yes, it'll have an influence on other parts of the country, too, because the message of anti-violence or anti-gun is very strong.

References

Myers, D.G., & Twenge, J.M (2017). Social Psychology (12th edition). New York: McGraw Hill.