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Trump Effect on Student Behavior: Sociological Theories

A 2016 survey revealed that Trump's election had an adverse impact on the situation in many schools in the country. The study demonstrated that the negative features of the Trump Effect were two-fold (Cole). In numerous schools, students that are part of the marginalized communities were facing increased fear and anxiety. Conversely, in most schools in the country, teachers have realized a sharp incline in verbal abuse, incorporating the use of hateful language and slurs aimed at minority students (Cole). The educators believed Trump was a motivation for victimization and an emblem for fear/anxiety. There are three sociological concepts related to this event and they help to provide a comprehension of the dynamics of society.

The heightened bullying and bias documented by educators in the spring, shot up in the aftermath of the election. Reports showed that the Trump Effect was most evident in schools that had a majorly white student population (Cole). In the schools, the victims were LGBTQ students, immigrants, disabled children, Muslims, and Clinton fans with offensive and biased language. The focus on bullying in schools has risen in recent times, and there are doubts that the Trump Effect is just reasonable conduct by today's students.

Still, teachers in the country stated that what they witnessed is new and distressing. Educators claim that their observations signify a release of hatred they had not witnessed before. Some teachers said they heard openly racist statements and saw racially motivated harassment for the first time in their lengthy careers (Cole).

Additionally, the educators state that the behavior propelled by the statements of the president elect, had worsened already existing racial and class differences within schools. A teacher saw increased fighting in 10 weeks than in the previous decade (Cole).

Symbolic interaction surrounds sociologists' study of the details and symbols of daily life, their meanings, and human interaction (Crossman). The Trump Effect related to this concept in that the students attached meaning to the Trump image. Trump is a very disruptive figure and a somewhat larger than life symbol. These students were behaving in alignment with their personal understanding of the Trump image.

Conflict theory emphasizes on the adverse, disputed, and ever- changing nature of society (Crossman). The Trump Effect in the schools is associated with conflict theory in the sense that these schools had different groups with differing motives and values. This made them compete against one another for power.

Structural functionalism states that each facet of society is symbiotic and leads to society's functioning (Crossman). There is a connection between the Trump Effect and this theory in that across the country, white students had a consensus of inflicting their abuse on the marginalized communities.

In many ways, these three sociological concepts explain the phenomena that occur in the functioning of our society. Moreover, these theories are significant to understanding various events and their implications.

Works Cited

Cole, Nicki L. "Understanding the Two-Part Trump Effect on America's Schools: Increased Hate and Bias and Fear and Anxiety." *ThoughtCo.*, 2 March 2017, www.thoughtco.com/trump-affect-on-american-education-system-4118208.

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