

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Course

Date

## Sociology Theories

### Part One

During the lifetime of an individual, there are various life stages which we pass through and each stage is associated with a certain problem as suggested by Gubrium et al. (196). For instance, it is during the middle and high school period that most young people tend to avoid attending school. The school avoidance has been mainly due to peer influence, addiction to harmful substances such as alcohol and drugs or through developing of school phobia as a result of having a harsh learning environment. Most students have developed reluctance of going to school due to the morbid dread brought about by the school situation's aspect. The fear may be a result of fearing the teacher, janitor or the fellow students who may be bullying an individual most of the times.

In this particular scenario where the student is avoiding school due to the fear, mostly the parents may come in to help their children so that they can continue going to school. The other parents may use force to drive their children to school without considering their views regarding why they are avoiding school. In this particular scenario, two sociology theories namely; functionalism and utilitarianism can define well the situation and address why the two parties are behaving this regarding the present situation.

In addressing the mentioned life stage problem, I must apply the knowledge derived from the two theories where I will first use them to understand why the two parties are behaving in a particular manner. The parent is forcing the child to go back to school because he wants his child to be stable in future. Most parents believe that it is through learning that will make their children achieve their future goals when they get relevant skills to do a particular job. According to the functionalist theory, as pinpointed by Hoogvelt (55), social institutions of the society, in this case, the school perform vital functions in ensuring that there is social stability. It is through school that makes the students have a favorable environment to have social integration and adequate socialization which are vital in achieving social stability. The theory of utilitarianism outlines that the individuals mostly act in maximizing their merits in the given situation while reducing their disadvantages as suggested by Hare, (34). In this case, the student is avoiding the school because of getting bullied, waking up early and having no freedom, which are disadvantages to him, while the only advantage may be learning to brighten one's future. The student, in this case, may avoid the school in order to minimize disadvantages while maximizing the advantages such as getting adequate sleep, having peace and freedom.

## **Part Two**

The two theories are crucial in helping to understand the situation which is selected in that; functionalism theory helps me understand that the parents want their children to be stable in future and that is why they will use all tactics to make sure their children are attending school while they guide them regarding disadvantages of avoiding school as pinpointed by Wells, (429). On the other hand, utilitarianism theory is crucial in helping me understand why the student is avoiding the school due to the outweighed disadvantages and few advantages derived from school at that particular moment. The student, in this case, perceives that disadvantages are

outweighing the benefits and thus opt to stop the interaction that has already begun. On the parents' side, they perceive that they can address the situation through reporting about bullying in order to make their children comfortable in school because they believe that going to school has benefits that outweigh the disadvantages.

### **Part Three**

According to Kramp and Lee Humphreys (12), self-concept, self-awareness and emotional intelligence continue to be vital during our lifetime. It is through learning this particular topic that has made me weigh the given situations in life to realize which have more benefits than demerits in order to forego some situation for the others. The topic has enabled me to dwell on numerous events which are unpleasant and pleasant having more confidence and comfort while accepting every event in life's irrespective of whether it gives bad or good experience. In three weeks of learning this particular topic, I have got the opportunity of looking back and analyzing the events which will shape my life in future. It is through this learning that has enabled me in objectively revisiting most events which were frequent and painful in facing. As a learner, I have developed the mind of being interested in becoming stable in future and thus concentrating on things which will brighten my future as I make the surrounding environment to be comfortable in deriving a better future.

Works Cited

Gubrium, Jaber F., et al. "Social Problems in Everyday Life: Studies of Social Problems Work." *Contemporary Sociology*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2016, p. 196.

Hare, R. M. "Ethical theory, and utilitarianism." *Utilitarianism and beyond*, pp. 23-38.

Hoogvelt, Ankie M. "Neo-evolutionary Theory, Structural Functionalism and Modernisation Theories." *The Sociology of Developing Societies*, 2014, pp. 50-62`.

Kramp, Mary K., and W. Lee Humphreys. "Narrative, self-assessment, and the habit of reflection." *Assessment Update*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2015, pp. 10-13.

Wells, Alan. "Conflict Theory and Functionalism: Introductory Sociology Textbooks, 1928-2015" *Teaching Sociology*, vol. 8, no. 6, 2016, p. 429.