

Group Psychology: Hysteric Representation of Human Perception

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Abstract: Present paper interrogates the human perception, endorsed by the groups whose perception is based on biased and lame rationales, which is considered universal. Group psychology which follows the logic of larger good however is based on the inferiority complex of the social subjects. The process itself is highly productive for the humanity and helped them to pass the “survival of the fittest” test and also turned them into the callous master of the colonial mindset. The humanity created the panopticon of imperial mindset that put them at the center of the discourse of signs and objectified the natural world and pretext of it exploited the human resource and thus not brought the catastrophe to itself but to the entire planet. Natural calamities are mostly the products of human deeds or mis-venture brought apocalypses and not only on the humanity but also on the animals. Natural subjects (termed as object by human discourses) have suffered silently or by screaming into the deaf ear. The paper question the relevance of such discourses that allow human to define everything from their lens.

Key Words: inferiority complex, hysteric representation, group psychology, human perception, discourse, objectification, social subjects

Introduction: Man termed as a social animal and being in this condition since time unknown has evolved into unprecedented directions. As a primitive being, man has faced the perils of being alone into harsh natural surrounding and survived the natural calamities that nature unleashed upon the earth. Man understood the harsh reality that being alone is not the solution and moved towards creating social groups and now we reached at a

stage where all world is united into being one and is committed towards finding the larger good. However, it does not mean that human has lost his interest in selfish ends; on the contrary, this formation of the group is to secure his own interests. Staying in groups for longer time and not being aware of living in any other way, without being termed as recluse or socially unfit, man has accepted this as reality and succumbed his many unruly desires to his condition.

Nature abhors the vacuum, so the absence of certain traits of individuality gave birth to certain traits of group behavior. This gave birth to share understanding and shared competence which is created through giving up certain arbitrary signs and molded everything into the system of language. R. Scott Tindale et al. states:

These shared meanings then become the cognitive context within which members of the collective communicate and coordinate their actions. Similar ideas have more recently been developed by Bar-Tal (1990) in relation to group beliefs and their impact on individual and collective behavior. (2)

As referred by Tindale the social cognition is driving force for the survival of any society and its flourishing. Following this norm for centuries, development of herd psychology is a mandate. This strategy helped man to survive for but is the survival only the reason of living is a question required to be answered.

Justification to the falsehood: Social cognition is equal to like mindedness in most of the cases has brought the human interest at forth and in doing so humanity together started the human imperialism and colonialism at forth. The result of this endeavor is that nature and natural habitants are marginalized and turned into objects and the subjectivity is self-adorned by the humanity to itself. Thus the earth is turned into the epicenter of humanity and humans are put into the center of the cosmos which they were yet to discover and realize its vastness. Human are born with inferiority complex and having the feeling of helpless accompanies to them since their birth. Brachefield states, “The feeling of inferiority accompanies the child from his birth; the tendency to dominate arises only from the inevitable diminution of his ego-feeling, of his .sense of being (56)”. The urge for domination is the product of the culture man-child born in and thus carry it throughout his life without able to scrutinizing the faulty rationale it stands on.

While this rationale based on the Biblical reference man is “made in the image of God” has no withstanding. The image may be true but the satanic seduction is not far away and the actions of human indicate toward this tendency. Man is fallen creature of greed and ingratitude; they know how to blame others and claiming what is not they have right upon since their genesis in Garden of Eden. Consciously or unconsciously, group behavior subscribes to such evil temptations and thus drenched into the sinful desire to have more than they deserve.

Herd Mentality and Hysteria: The herd-mentality and group hysteria are two parts of any group behavior. Whereas herd-mentality is the product of the attempts of an individual to safeguard itself by following the path already undertaken by other and thus minimizing the risk it poses; group hysteria is an attempt of social subjects to suppress their meekness and cowardliness by speaking out loud and screaming otherwise. Thus lead towards prototypes. As R. Scott Tindale et al states:

People in groups categorize themselves and others in terms of relevant ingroup or outgroup prototypes. Prototypes form according to the principle of metacontrast – they optimize the balance between minimization of differences among people in the same group and maximization of differences between ingroup and outgroup (or non-ingroup). (7)

Nick Haslam et al defines hysteria as:

Lacanian psychoanalysis, for instance, accounts for psychological conditions such as hysteria with abstract psychological structures that are defining, intrinsic, and causally potent; in short, psychological essences. (56)

The hysteria is psychological essence of such group behavior and in these hysteric outbursts of human cognition, society moved toward blind beliefs and familiarized otherwise unfamiliar world and thus lead towards.

Apocalypses: The mortality and short lividness are the two curses or blessings that the humanity lives with. This also results into myopic point of view to the society in general. It drags them to exploit the natural world for the shorter span of time; however theology and morality teach them otherwise but humanity has done only lip

services to such concepts of larger good or moral responsibility. So called natural calamities or apocalypses are the product of the society in general. It appears that humanity is on the mission of self-destruction and destruction of the planet. Both are interdependent. The moral fiber or the responsibility of being the higher species is something which is used for its advantage by the humanity to devoid other habitants from their just rights and we dragged them towards extinction or degradation. On the name of progress, we as societies have destroyed mother earth and has done very little for its benefits.

Partial Perception: We as a group believes in the order that is created and propagated by the humanity do not give it the authority of being true or the real. At the very best, it is hyper-real. The information that is supplied is an epidemic and it swallowed “the engines of critical thinking and understanding of the world order and the mining of conceptual understanding would be quarried out of an imaginary well of delusion and deception” (Balkar Singh and Vani Khurana 197). As referred this perception is based on prejudices and biases and group psychology here is the product of shared interests of evil designs.

Conclusion: The mass hysteria which is the product of these shared group interests has dangerous outcomes. This narcissism has already brought many dangers to us; recent outbreaks of epidemics, global warming, war fares and many more are the representation of the herd psychology and the outcome of such mentality is always dangerous. In the world of democracies, it is the right time to show our dissidence in favour of large good which not only contains the welfare of humanity but to the all species. Humans have claimed from the ancient time that they are the agents of God on earth and it is the time to believe in such ideals and work in this direction. The groups work best in the assent but in the dissidence to all that is not worth doing. The human perception should break the boundaries of myopic and self-centered group blindness and must work in direction to being responsible habitants of the earth.

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