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91876



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Psychology 2024

91876 Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice

Credits: Three

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice.	Analyse, in depth, a significant issue in psychological practice.	Comprehensively analyse a significant issue in psychological practice.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should attempt ALL parts of this task.

Pull out Resource Booklet 91876R from the centre of this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (/////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL 06

Page 1

Make sure you have the paper Resource Booklet 91876R.

INSTRUCTIONS

Planning space is available below.

You should attempt ALL parts of the task.

Select ONE case study from Resource Booklet 91876R: Case study A ▾

You should refer to your selected case study in ALL three parts of this assessment.

PLANNING

a

gender bias is demonstrated

systematic favouring of a certain group or perspective

diminishes the validity and reliability of the study

gender bias can occur when psychologists assume that the behaviour of men and women is either different or the same with no evidence to support the assumption

bias comes from preexisting beliefs, ideas, or experiences

psychology is typically androcentric (male focused) and can display alpha or beta bias

undermines the universality of the findings

universality means that the findings of a psychological study can be applied to the entire population

it is demonstrated because most research into ADHD is done on males so and females and males display different symptoms

this leads to underdiagnosis of ADHD in women which can have detrimental impacts on their mental health

bias can occur in all stages of psychological research

theory development

study design

sample selection

application of findings

b

this issue has impacted because it often leads to the women are commonly excluded from psychological research meaning that psychological findings that may only be true for men are applied to women leading to misdiagnosis of mental disorders, harmful ideas about women's roles in society, and the reinforcement of gender roles and stereotypes

beta bias

- Asch's conformity study, 1950s

testing whether people would conform in a group where everyone else is saying that an obviously incorrect answer was the right answer

performed only on men because Asch believed that this would make the findings more easily generalised to the whole population

- Milgram

testing if people would be willing to issue what they believed to be a lethal electric shock because they were being told to be an authority figure in the form of a scientist

- Kohlberg's theory of moral development, 1950s and 1960s

presented a young boys under the age of 16 with the Heinz Dilemma and analysed their reasoning for their answers and how it changed and developed over time

longitudinal study followed up every 3 years for 20 years

claimed that there were 6 stages of moral development progressing towards justice and ...

level 6 set of self-established moral guidelines that could and would be applied to everything

claimed that hardly anyone would get to level 6

and assumed that most women remain at the third stage because of his own personal bias

- Gilligan, 1970s and 1980s

challenged Kohlberg's findings

did her own study on women about the abortion decision and came up with her own 6 stages of moral development that she claimed women did

they were focused on progressing towards a balance of the needs of self and the needs of others

moralities of care vs morality of justice

this however displayed a slight alpha bias as she only studied women and her findings tended to overemphasise

the differences between men and women

perhaps playing into gender roles, women are more caring and considerate of the needs of others

alpha bias

Freud - 1890s

psychoanalytic theory

strong alpha bias claiming femininity was a failed form of masculinity

claimed that female development revolved around recovering from the injury it was to not have a penis

claimed that girls experience 'penis envy'

exaggerating the difference between males and females leading to the misdiagnosis of women and ignoring serious issues and writing it off as hysteria

Bowlby - 1940s

monotropic theory

interviewed 44 youth offenders

concluded that infants need to form a strong attachment to their mothers in order to develop normally

14 were affectionless psychopaths 12 of them had experienced maternal deprivation/abandonment

women leave workforce to be caregivers in future

unable to know the outcome of an infant being raised by its father or other non-mother caregivers - could be psycho

c

could be addressed by widening the sample group to be more representative of the population

addressing the personal biases of psychologists eg. ADHD tends to be dismissed because of psychologists not

acknowledging the differences men and women display symptoms, ADHD presents later in girls typically around

puberty so can be dismissed as changes related to puberty and hormone changes

changing the ways the findings of biased studies are applied to minimise harm done to women eg. ADHD misdiagnosis

could be minimised if more research is done into how it presents in women specifically and awareness is spread

TASK

(a) How has a significant issue in psychology been demonstrated in your selected case study?

B I U     

A significant issue in psychology that has been demonstrated in case study A is gender bias. Bias in psychology refers to the systematic favoring of a certain group or perspective. This is a significant issue because it can diminish the validity and reliability of a study or theory undermining the universality of its findings. Universality is extremely important in psychology because it means that theories or findings are generalisable to the entire population. Bias stems from preexisting beliefs, ideas, or experiences meaning that gender bias can occur in psychology when people assume that the behavior of men and women is either different or the same with no evidence to support the assumption. This is Alpha bias and Beta bias. Alpha bias occurs when the differences between men and women are overemphasized or exaggerated, seen in theories such as Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory and Bowlby's Monotropic Theory. Beta bias occurs when the differences between men and women are minimized or ignored, seen in Asch's conformity study and Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development. The bias demonstrated in case study A is an example of Beta bias as the differences in the ways that ADHD is displayed between men and women are minimized and often ignored leading to the under diagnosis of ADHD in women. Psychology is typically Androcentric, focusing on male behaviors and experiences, which is displayed perfectly by case study A as significant amounts of the research done surrounding ADHD only took into account the male experience and how symptoms present in men and boys. This lack of consideration of the female experience and research into ADHD in women has resulted in the severe under diagnosis of ADHD in women which can often have detrimental impacts on their mental health and general well-being. Bias can occur in all stages of psychological research and is detrimental regardless of whether it is present in theory development, study design, sample selection, or the applications of findings. The gender bias demonstrated in case study A is an extremely significant issue in psychology and has detrimental impacts on women around the world.

(b) Discuss how this significant issue has impacted psychological practice.

Your response should clearly link to the case study, and refer to any relevant area(s) of psychological practice, theory, and/or research you have studied.

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Gender bias in psychology has had significant negative impacts on psychological practice and is present in many well-known psychological theories and studies. Women are commonly excluded from psychological research meaning that psychological findings that may only be true for men are often applied to women which can lead to misdiagnosis of mental disorders, harmful ideas about the roles of women in society, and the reinforcement of gender roles and stereotypes. Psychological practice tends to be extremely androcentric because historically psychologists were commonly men who often only studied men which created many significant issues for women. One example of this is Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development which displayed a strong Beta bias. Developed during the 1950s and 1960s this theory of moral development was extremely influential. Kohlberg conducted a longitudinal study to investigate how moral reasoning developed with age. He did this by studying a group of young boys, who at the time the study began were all under 16, and following up with them every 3 years for 20 years. Presenting these boys with a moral dilemma known as the Heinz dilemma he used the reasoning for their answers to create what he believed were the 6 stages of moral development. He claimed people progressed through these stages with age, developing more complex moral reasoning as they grew, however he believed that very few people would make it to the final stage of moral superiority. Beta bias is extremely prevalent in this theory as Kohlberg believed it applied to men and women alike despite doing no research involving women. Due to his own personal bias Kohlberg also claimed that most women would tend to remain at the third stage unable to develop more complex moral reasoning. This bias created many issues for women as the belief that they were unable to develop complex moral reasoning would remain present in society for a long time impacting their ability to gain leadership positions in fields such as law and politics where complex moral reasoning is required. Kohlberg's study was criticized for its lack of female participants by Carol Gilligan in the 1970s. Conducting her own research into the moral reasoning of women she found that women were focused on progressing towards a balance of the needs of self and the needs of others when considering moral dilemmas. However this finding displayed a slight alpha bias as she only studied women and her findings tended to overemphasize the differences between men and women proposing that women developed morality of care while men developed morality of justice. This finding also created issues in psychology as it often played into gender stereotypes, claiming women are more caring and considerate of the needs of others. Beta Bias can also be seen demonstrated in Asch's conformity study. This study investigated how likely people were to go against a group when asked a question with an obviously correct answer. His findings found that 75% of participants would conform at least one time. However, the participants of this study were exclusively men because Asch believed that this would make the results of the study more applicable to the general population. Asch ignored the possibility of differences in the ways that men and women would conform, displaying a beta bias. This impacted psychological practice as these beliefs about conformity were applied to women despite the lack of evidence of their relevance for women.

Alpha bias is also significantly impactful in psychological practice as the exaggeration of the differences between men and women can lead to discrimination and untrue assumptions about women's mental and physical health. Alpha bias is displayed strongly in Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory. Freud often exaggerated the differences between men and women claiming that femininity was a failed form of masculinity, and that female development revolved around recovering from the injury it was to not have a penis. Freud had many beliefs about women that were not backed up by evidence and were extremely detrimental to women often leading to the misdiagnosis of women and ignoring serious issues being dismissed as female hysteria. This Alpha bias was extremely significant to the psychological field as Freud's ideas were highly respected and the basis of many significant psychological theories. Another significant example of Alpha Bias in the psychological practice was Bowlby's Monotropic theory. This theory claimed that it was crucial for infants to form a strong attachment to their mother in order to develop normally. Bowlby concluded this after interviewing 44 youth offenders and finding that a significant number of them experienced a lack of strong parental attachment in their early years. Due to his personal bias Bowlby failed to consider the involvement of fathers or other primary caregivers when developing this theory placing sole responsibility on mothers. This had significant impacts on psychological practice as it was believed that children of single fathers, or other non-maternal caregivers, would not develop normally and were more at risk of developing what Bowlby referred to as affectionless psychopathy. This significantly impacted women leaving them reluctant to leave their children while working and thus leaving the workforce.

Gender bias is an extremely significant issue and has had lasting impacts on psychological practice influencing the way women are considered commonly resulting in a severe lack of knowledge surrounding psychological issues in women as displayed by case study A.

(c) In what ways could this significant issue be addressed? Refer to any relevant psychological theories, concepts, and / or studies from published works.

B *I* U     

There are many ways that the issue of gender bias could be addressed in psychological practice reducing situations such as that seen in case study A. One impactful way that gender bias could be addressed is the widening of sample groups to be more representative of the population. This could be implemented in research into ADHD by including women of a range of ages, races, and cultures in studies. This would allow psychologists to better understand how symptoms of ADHD that are typical in women impact their lives and develop better understanding of how to treat them. ADHD in women tends to be dismissed because of psychologists not acknowledging the differences in how men and women display symptoms. Because ADHD commonly presents later in girls, typically around puberty, often symptoms can be dismissed as normal behaviors related to puberty and hormone changes. Research into ADHD that included women or primarily focused on women would significantly improve this issue reducing the number of women that suffer from undiagnosed ADHD.

Another way that gender bias could be addressed is changing the ways the findings of studies that are known to be biased are applied to minimize harm done to women. Reducing how often misinformation surrounding women's health and well being is applied to real life situations would be significantly impactful. For example misdiagnosis of ADHD in women could be minimized if research specific to women is taken into account and male focused research is not applied to women without evidence of its relevance. Addressing the personal biases of psychologists and psychiatrists such as the one mentioned in case study A would also be significantly influential in addressing this issue of gender bias. This could be done through better education surrounding issues that commonly impact women. Gender bias is a deeply significant issue in psychological practice and there are many why that it could be addressed to reduce the harm it does, particularly to women.

Merit

Subject: Psychology

Standard: 91876

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	M6	The candidate provides a detailed explanation of gender bias in psychological practice, using specific details from case study A. They describe, in detail, how gender bias is evident across a range of psychological studies. The candidate suggests strategies to address gender bias, particularly in relation to the case study. However, these lack sufficient detail and psychological evidence for Excellence.