

The Sociological Analysis of the Psycho-Social Paradox of Social Anomy and COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdowns

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ABSTRACT

This effort will suggest that the COVID Lockdown Mandates has had a negative dialectical effect on social civil behavior. Indeed, rather than slowing down the advancement of the disease, it created a new social outcome, the paradox of Social Anomie (Durkheim). Social Anomy defined can be seen as the social condition in which there is an absence of the norms and values that were previously found in an orderly civil society.

Keywords

COVID-19, *Organic Solidarity*, Social Anomy.

Introduction

Emile Durkheim's work centered around the study of human social integration, moral life, and the "Collective Conscience".

In The Division of Labor Durkheim argued that "moral life" should be evaluated through the scientific method in an effort to uncover the social consequences on Moral life in society. Durkheim viewed moral life as principles consisting of rules for social behavior within the collective Conscience. Furthermore, in The Division of Labor Durkheim using the Scientific method lays-out a moral bifurcation of Conscience Collectives, that of Mechanical and Organic Solidarities. Durkheim established four analytical tools for the study of the Conscience Collectives: 1) Volume, 2) Intensity, 3) Rigidity, and 4) Content of beliefs. *Volume* refers to the degree to which individuals hold identical attitudes, values, and beliefs; *Intensity* the extent to which there is an emotional, and intellectual hold (the stronger the intensity the more enveloping the collective conscience); *Rigidity* is the clarity of the moral definitions and beliefs associated with practices prescribed by the collective conscience e; and lastly, *Content* referring to the variable of social change altering beliefs and values.

Durkheim suggested that in *Mechanical Solidarity*, volume,

intensity, rigidity, and the content (religious with a strongly defined set of values and beliefs) is high. Punishment for members deviating from the rigid specified behavior codes is a repressive response to the transgression. Finally, in a Mechanical Solidarity every person is a microcosm of the collective type, with little or no opportunity to develop individuality. However, during social evolution Durkheim suggested that the formerly homogenic communities found in *Mechanical Solidarity* become linked over time into a single economic system, Durkheim labeled this social process Density. This social change modified the Moral-Life of Mechanical Solidarity by becoming more racial, and ethnically diverse. The accelerated growth of the Specialized Division of Labor is the final outcome of Density. Durkheim labeled this collective *Organic Solidarity*.

In Organic Solidity Moral-Life is based in occupational cooperation found in the *Specialized Division of Labor* leading to a new moral order, that of the "Cult of the Individual". Indeed, this new morality (Cult of the Individual), provides validation for the Individual, and social economic status of the individual. Indeed, the more specialized the division labor the more individualistic standing the individual possess in society. Hence, according to Durkheim Moral-Life in Organic Solidarity has a low sense of Volume, Intensity, Rigidity and Content is secular.

Aberrant Social Behaviors

As a result of Density, a low sense of Volume, Intensity, Rigidity and Content is formed, and a new form of social order Arises, that of Social Anomy. *Social Anomie* accounts for all social imbalances, confusion, lack of social norms, suicide and valuelessness found in a civil society, resulting in aberrant social behavior. This effort will suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic "Lock-Downs" created a 21-century social anomy in the USA in which suicide, murder, substance abuse, sexual assault, robbery, home invasion, teenage murders, and car jackings is the outcomes of the 21st Century Social Anomy.

The new Social Anomy consists of normlessness, lack of values, confusion, crime, and most importantly and frightening is suicide. Indeed, Durkheim suggested that there are four forms of suicide that can contribute to Social Anomy. 1) *Anomic suicide* signifies a socio-cultural absence of norms, values, and civility with a weak sense of solidarity and integration, causing disorientation, aggression, confusion, and disillusionment, 2) Fatalism is based in excessive regulations imposing limits on self-fulfillment and reciprocity by a Despot. All passions and aspirations are choked off, also with a weak sense of solidarity and integration, 3) Egoism is a state in which individualism is carried out to the extreme, and 4) Altruistic refers to a state of excessive community, where members lose sight of independent self, and rationality, in favor of total integration and enveloped into the system. Those who are not seen as the group are considered the "Stranger" (Georg Simmel).

Although Durkheim identified 4 types of suicide, this effort will suggest that only Anomic and fatalist suicide are responsible for the 21st Century Anomy. Anomic Suicide is based in social confusion, aggression and uncivil behavior. Fatalism by contrast is defined by excessive regulations placed on the population imposing social limits and personal freedoms. Indeed, according to USA/CDC in 2022 suicide became the leading causes of death for people ages 10-64, brought on by social confusion and social imbalances found in Social Anomy. The CDC also reported in 2021 that 130 people die each day due to drug Overdose Deaths (reaching 100,000 Annually). Violent crime data in 2022 indicated that the rate grew 12 percent greater in 2022 over 2010, culminating in 48 per 100,000 American murdered, and Gun murders has had a profound taking of teenage lives.

The National Center for Health Statistics Office of Communication, suggested that the level of psychological sickness has become a serious issue for many USA Citizens, especially the school age children and young adults. School closures, according to The McKinsey report entitled The Lingering Effects of Unfinished Learning 2021 suggested that Middle class student lost about 1-3

months of learning, and 3-5 months for the poor/ working class student (many schools had closed up to 2 years). Additionally, the effects of the COVID disease pandemic lockdowns have had a profound negative effect on children's lifestyles, creating high levels of anxiety. Indeed, in this sample group children stated that they experienced changes in terms of nutrition, sleep, television—internet user, social activity, coursework time, and school success due to the pandemic. Lastly, recent data suggested that this Student arrogated group will have lost up to \$28 Trillion of Human Capital over their life time. In "Compounding Educational Disabilities and COVID-19" it was argued that per individual in this cohort group, and over their life-time, will lose \$160,000. Additionally, this loss of Human Capital will have social issues such as unwanted pregnancies, incarcerations, homelessness, drug use, and suicide over their lifetimes.

Conclusion

This effort has suggested that the data are clear, the COVID-19 mandates lockdowns has had a profound Social Anomic effect on the population, specifically school age children, young adults and the Poor/ Working Class. At the negative core of the 21 Century is Social/Human isolation, confusion. The Pandemic Lock-Downs forced this group to take the COVID shot, and in many cases up to seven booster shots, limited access to their immediate and extended families, no access to hospitals where loved ones were on their death beds, limited access to family members during holidays and/or high-holy days, religious instructions closed, schools closed for 2 years all based in excessive unscientific regulations imposing little or no self-fulfillment and reciprocity. The end result, choking off all personal aspirations and freedoms. Therefore, this effort will conclude by suggesting that COVID-19 lockdown mandates created a *Dialectical Negative Twist, indeed a Paradox*, in which rather than slowing down the advancement of the *disease spread, the lockdowns created a negative social paradox consisting of normlessness, crime behavior, mayhem, suicide and alienation in short Durkheim's SOCIAL ANOMY*.

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