

Social Conformity

Morgan Journal

When doing this project i learned that, there’s more to our minds that we won’t admit to ourselves. Social conformity is the change in belief or behavior to fit into a certain social group for example if your friends style their hair a certain way or dress in certain colors on different days. In normative conformity it is the desire to be liked by your group of friends, by liking the same things as them and informative conformity is the desire to be correct so you don’t look like a idiot in front of your friends or if you all answer the question wrong you all look like idiots, even though you knew the right answer. But you wouldn't say the right answer because then you're not fitting in this group, or at least that's how you would feel if you spoke your own opinion because it’s that chance that you might be wrong or seem smarter than the group and they might feel stupid around you.

Its that subconscious insecurities that holds us back and makes us feel like we need to fit in with our friends. Also there's a lot of peer pressure that follows that to explain our behavior and why we do what we do, like when our friends are drinking,smoking and they say to you come on have a drink loosen up. Well you are most likely to drink and smoke because if you don’t then on some level your friends might think you are boring and won’t want to hangout with you anymore. Scientists can use brain data to predict our behavior but they can’t figure out why we socially conform, Dr. Vasily Klucharev and his colleagues had said that social conformity is a reinforcement learning that causes a correct error in a group. In our conscious mind which we only use ten percent of the time we are learning in school or working at work we feed off of the people around us and when we hang out with our friends we convince yourself that everything you do is what you want to do not what your friends want to do. But in your subconscious mind we use thirty to forty of the time we know we are just doing things to fit in and that we do most of the things we do just to be liked or correct and we know why we do what we do we just don’t want to admit it because we don't want to seem like a bad person like we think we are or might be. Freud's theory is in this last paragraph its called the three levels of consciousness and what percentages we use of our conscious, subconscious and out unconscious mind. We use our unconscious mind fifty to sixty percent of the time and that's mostly when we sleep.

As we presented our project and did the presentation for our teacher and other students we noticed that there are few students that do their own thing and didn't care that what others think and they know that they are right and trust there own opinion to be right. Also as we presented i noticed that there was some social conformity happening all around us people would go with their friends and talk to their friends that were in my class and refused to talk to someone they didn't know even some teachers that came in went right to the project that caught their eye. I was surprises by the fact. That a few people that trusted their own opinion and don't worry what others thought.

We asked some of the teachers and they say that students are well behaved, they generally stay in the same seats and don't move all semester. They also said that students don't generally cheat but they ask for help on assignments for help and i think that's good that student are trying hard.

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By doing this project I’ve learned a whole bunch of interesting things from the basics of social conformity to the biology behind it. Nobody can really predict why we socially conform but they can monitor brain activity to see that it happens within the frontal cortex and that it’s a reinforcement type of learning.

Social conformity has two sub categories within the subject. Normative conformity is when you change little things about yourself to fit in with your peer group. Then there is informative conformity which is when you have the desire to be right all the time and have the fear of being wrong. Also social conformity ties into peer pressure which is the influence one has within your peer group. Peer pressure usually happens among close knit groups because smaller friend groups are more likely to feel pressured especially if one of the friends is very persuasive.

Sigmund Freud believed that adults shaped the way we behaved and so does our environment. For example if you grew up in a loving home with outgoing parents who were extremely nice, then you will most likely be outgoing and really nice. As opposed to if you grew up in a rough home with parents who didn’t care about you, then you will most likely feel down all the time, be more secluded and isolated as well as not liking people or doing illegal things.

Another thing I learned was also from Sigmund Freud who studied our different levels of consciousness. The first one is conscious which Freud stated that our bodies spend around ten percent in, it’s when we are awake and interacting with the world. Next is subconscious which our bodies spend fifty to sixty percent in, this is also when we are awake but we are daydreaming or thinking deeply about things. Lastly is unconscious which our bodies spend thirty to forty present in, this is when we are asleep and our minds are processing everything that we learned during the day.

To conclude, by doing the experiment with the class we learned that people will look to their friends to see what their answer is before answering themselves. If their friends didn’t raise their hands then they didn’t. However there were people who were confidante enough to go off their own opinions so not everyone socially conforms.