

*Suicide, Homicide, and the Effects of Socialization*

D. Lester. Suicide, Homicide, and the Effects of Socialization. Jn. of Personality and Soc. Psychol. 1967, 5 (4), 466-468. p.466

Q 11

Henry and Short<sup>1</sup> suggested that different techniques of punishment lead children to express their aggression in different ways, and that these styles of expression persist into later life. In particular, children whose punishment involved love-oriented techniques would tend to inhibit aggression and to manifest more self-directed aggression, whereas children who had experienced more physical punishment would have less inhibition of aggression and tend more to direct their aggression outward.

1. Henry, A.F., & Short, J.E. Suicide and homicide: Some economic, sociological and psychological aspects of aggression. Glencoe, Ill: Free Press 1954. -----

----- Personality and Soc. Psychol. 1967, 5(4), 466-468. p.466

Gold<sup>1</sup> assumed that females would have experienced more psychological punishment than males, officers more than enlistees, whites more than Negroes, and urban inhabitants more than rural inhabitants. Therefore, as a result of this differential experience of punishment, males, enlistees, Negroes, and rural inhabitants should manifest less inward-directed aggression than females, officers, whites, and urban inhabitants, respectively. Gold extended his argument to the aggressive behaviors of suicide and homicide. To support his predictions Gold did not use crude suicide and homicide rates, but argued that a more meaningful measure would be the ratio of the suicide rate to the combined suicide and homicide rate. His predictions were confirmed for sex, race, urban-rural inhabitance, and army personnel.

1. Gold, M. Suicide, homicide and the socialization of aggression. Amer. Jn. of Sociology, 1958, : 62 651-661.

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The associations between the ratings of the importance of love-oriented techniques of discipline and the measures of suicidal and homicidal behaviors in the 33 societies were not significant in any of the comparisons.....

Whatever the cause of these negative results, they cast a doubt upon the generality and the interpretation of Gold's results. A cursory glance at Gold's groups indicates that differences in status could also predict the observed differences. It appears, therefore, that the causes of the differences in the suicide and homicide rates in these societies may lie elsewhere than in the techniques of socialization.

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