

**Media
misrepresentation of
the relationship
between violence and
mental disorder**



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Critically analyse the extent to which the media misrepresents the relationship between force and mental upset.

In the undermentioned assignment we will discourse the manner that media represent mental upset. Additionally, a brief description of the movie *Me, Myself & A ; Irene* will take topographic point in order to understand how the media misrepresent mental upset. Furthermore, we will seek to demo the existent relationship between force and mental upset and therefore, how accurate are media portraitures of this mental wellness job. Ultimately, we will explicate the impact of negative media representation on the mentally sick people and on the populace.

Mass media representation of mental upset is negative and describes mentally sick people as ‘ monsters ’ . Media ‘ s autonomous word pictures of mental wellness jobs appear to stress force, dangerousness and criminalism every bit long as. Hence, this inappropriate representation causes terrible stigma, moral terror, banishment, every bit good as favoritism and victimization of these persons this “ Poor, imbalanced imperativeness coverage of mental wellness issues fuels stigma and reduces the quality of life for sick persons, says a taking charity ” ([www. news. bbc. co. uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk)) .

Me, Myself & A ; Irene, is a comedy movie directed from the Farrelly brothers and was released in U. K on September 22, 2000. The secret plan of the film is about a mentally sick adult male, Charlie Baileygates, who is inactive and by and large peaceable. He has ‘ split ‘ personality and therefore his alter self-importance (Hank) is aggressive, foul-spoken and violent.

Charlie has been diagnosed with delusional schizophrenic disorder with nonvoluntary egotistic fury, and whenever Charlie does not take his medicine, Hank takes his topographic point doing several jobs because of his disruptive mental province. His behavior becomes obscene as he defecates on a neighbor ' s lawn and suckles from a alien ' s chest.

This uncontrolled fury makes Hank to do merriment of one adult male with albinism who explains that he killed his full household but was released early merely to do room for psychos. Both Charlie (good) and Hank (immorality) attempt to protect Irene from a pack of corrupt bulls who want her dead. Endangering Hank abuses and clouts about everyone he encounters.

The movie raised many quandaries about its inappropriate presentation of mental wellness jobs, since it is argued that it makes merriment of mentally sick people and perpetuates ugly stigmas about mental unwellness. *Me, Myself & A ; Irene* is a perfect illustration on how the media link force and mental upset, and as Thornicroft (2006) claims, schizophrenic disorder is frequently linked to force in movies and media. This nexus can be seen in *My, Myself and Irene*, when ' Hank ' assaults a group of people.

These alleged ' psycho media ' (www.mentalhealthstigma.com) , through biased intelligence, stereotype mental wellness jobs and take to the implied decision that all mentally sick people are violent and deranged (Hank starts to submerge a immature miss who has insulted him) . This stereotype, in bend, is argued to be true by the populace, since the media are powerful and so permeant in footings of their ability to make positions (Jewkes, 2004) .

Furthermore, the public misconception about mental wellness is besides fueled by the damaging linguistic communication within such films, since negative values towards mentally sick people are frequently attached (Irene apologises all the clip for Hanks behavior, explicating that he is a ' schizo ') .

Furthermore, it is believed that an knowing exclusion is besides obvious. This is to state, that even though the media can confute thisA harmful stereotype, yet it isA good hiddenA and concealed. To do affairs worse, the media make some kind of misdirecting generalisation since an unrepresentative population (violent mentally sick) is cited as a whole. However, this is unrealistic and as Wahl claims “ the great bulk of people who are presently disordereda^!are non violent ” (Wahl, 1997: 80) .

Finally the media persuade the populace to hold that mentally sick people are violent, through emotions (in our instance via humour-laugh) and non through logicA or facts. (www. mentalhealthstigma. com)

Concisely, these, Psycho Media, as explained, employ psycho film stereotypes and cleverlyA equate depraved and demented film characters like Hank as accurate word pictures of the mentally sick people. Therefore, whenever an article about mental wellness is reported in the intelligence the media will associate the narrative to force (www. mentalhealthstigma. com)

However, it is a fact that people collect most of the information from the telecasting, newspapers and wireless and as Thornicroft supports “ the bulk of people gather what they know about mental unwellnesss either from

personal experience and contact with people with such conditions, or from the mass media " (Thornicroft, 2007) .

Harmonizing to what it was observed by the movie *My, Myself & A* ; Irene, Hank erratically assaulted whoever was in forepart of him, doing unnatural motions and acting curiously (particularly during the personality alteration from good Charlie to villain Hank) . Such representations, it is assumed that force people to misconstrue mental upset, and this deceit appears to play a important function in determining and prolonging what mental unwellness means in our civilization (Tummey, Turner 2008: 191) .

Consequently, after careful consideration of the above facts and several personal life experiences with mentally sick people, it is believed that mass media portraitures of mental upset are in the huge bulk inaccurate, inappropriate, unfavorable and harmful to mentally sick people (Byrne, 2000) . Such humbling attitudes, which can impact important unwanted effects, can be seen while reading a newspaper, watching telecasting or a film to the film (Tummey, R. , Turner, T, 2008: 197) .

Mass media dainty mental upset as an object of ridicule, utilizing psychiatric nomenclature inaccurately, and to overdrive jargon-disrespectful footings for mental unwellness (Thornicroft, 2007) . One clear illustration of inaccurate nomenclature is Charlie ' s diagnosing with delusionary schizophrenic disorder with nonvoluntary egotistic fury.

Harmonizing to that, Britain ' s two largest mental wellness charities, Mind and National Schizophrenia Fellowship, have joined with the Royal College of

Psychiatrists and advised the populace that " people affected by
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schizophrenic disorder do n't exchange from soft to mental, as the hoarding advertizements say, but are more frequently withdrawn.

In fact, split personality is a wholly different status ; it is a dissociative upset instead than a psychotic unwellness ” . Furthermore, they argued that the behavior portrayed in the movie, has nil to make with schizophrenic disorder (Baron-Faust, 2000) .

Comedy portraitures tend to picture mental unwellnesss as chiefly affecting little more than specific oddnesss that the persons manifest repetitively. This impression of mental upset as a humourous oddness is conveyed in several films (American Psycho and so forth) , whatever their rubrics, continuously find ways to show mental unwellnesss as absurd and pathetic. The fact that the movie mentioned above has a good story secret plan which involves force, mental wellness, beautiful miss and bad cats runing good cats, succeeds to pull spectator ' s attending and involvement (Wahl, 1997) . This can be seen in our instance illustration, when for case Charlie is seeking to do Hank travel off.

Media images are emotionally eliciting, as they do non merely supply information, but they besides manipulate emotions in a deliberate, adept and effectual manner. Therefore, it is believed that it is really of import to be understood that films which are non about mental unwellnesss (our film is categorized as comedy) , they make viewing audiences to simply absorb what they see, and hence reenforce their prejudices and already inaccurate positions, without being peculiarly cognizant that they are larning about mental unwellness. In add-on to this, harmonizing to Wahl (1997) “

Comedies may be mindless, but that does not intend it is non impacting heads ” .

Society ‘ s deficiency of cognition, negative attitude and prejudiced behavior is one of the cardinal paradoxes, since presents up to half of all grownups will be diagnosed with mental upset in their life-time. Furthermore, up to three-fourthss of big population know person straight who has mental upset, and yet people act as if cipher knows anything (Thornicroft, 2006) . Therefore, it is really complex to understand why people who still feel threatened by it, let stigma to boom.

Mental upset deceit by the media besides poses important restrictions in the enterprises to normalise mental wellness services within the community and hence cut down harmful stigma. Harmonizing to that, many mentally sick people face bias and terrible favoritism when happens to populate following to ‘ healthy ‘ people “ ... Merely because I have a mental wellness job, I am now shunned, my life made even more hard to populate ” .

Given that, it is really of import to be mentioned that Maria is a adult female whose lone offense is to populate in an country in which a inn for people with mental wellness jobs is planned ” (Thornicroft-Shunned-2006) .

Public ‘ s perceptual experience of mental unwellness is one of fright and paranoia, surrounding on mass media as they frequently use words such as ‘ nutter ‘ , ‘ psycho ‘ and ‘ schizo ‘ . This can be seen in the movie Me, Myself & A ; Irene, when Irene used to apology for Hanks behavior, stating that he is a ‘ schizo ‘ .

Equally of import to be mentioned is that during the film, a deceit of mental upset took topographic point on Charlie/Hank but besides there was a permeant and relentless form to degrade mental upset through Whiteys portraiture that harmonizing to the secret plan, have killed his full household.

As mentioned before, mundane people are larning, from mundane beginnings, refering mental unwellnesss and it appears unfortunate that the bulk of those people learn about mental unwellness from what they see and hear in the mass media (Wahl, 1997: 88) .

However, even if the mass media are non entirely to fault for negative perceptual experiences, yet every clip programmes, articles or movie portrays a stereotype they fail to unclutter up a misinterpretation about mental upset and therefore, this helps to perpetuate the myths.

The undermentioned infusion taken from the book Media lunacy: public images of mental unwellness, is a clear illustration of how the fearful mass media with the bold headlines tend to belie mental upset. The instance is about a 30 twelvemonth old adult female who entered an simple school in Winnetka, Illinois in May 1988 and shot a figure of kids (Wahl, 1997: 27) .

“ .. Time ‘ s May 30, 1988, headline presenting the narrative of this tragic incident was ‘ One Lunatic, Three Guns ‘ . The event was genuinely tragic, and it is likely that mental unwellness was a conducive factor in the adult female ‘ s actions. Mentioning to the mentally sick individual involved as a ‘ lunatic ‘ , nevertheless, was both unneeded (Newsweek ‘ s article on the same incident was titled merely ‘ I Have Hurt Some Children: Nightmare in

Winnetka ') and inconsistent with criteria applied to other groups (Wahl, 1997: 27) .

If the Winnetka school violent death had been committed by person in a wheelchair, it is improbable that the Time ' s headline would hold read ' One Cripple, Three Guns ' . If the incident had involved a black adult female, the headline would non hold proclaimed ' One Nigger, Three Guns ' . There seems non to be the same hesitance about utilizing likewise disrespectful footings in mentioning to people with mental unwellness... ” (Wahl, 1997: 27) . Given that illustration, it is obvious that the mass media tend to belie mental unwellness with disrespectful forms, fueling public fright and allowing stigma to boom.

Stigma, in ancient Greece was bodily mark for those who were different. Stigmata were cut and fire onto these different people (most of the clip slaves) organic structures to tag them as different from the remainder population (www. rcpsych. ac. uk) . However, presents, mentally sick people are no longer physically mutilated, but still depreciation and hostile attitudes towards them can be merely every bit hurtful to them.

Persons with mental wellness jobs are stereotyped and stigmatized through the media as mad and violent, and therefore this stigma causes serious obstructions in their life. Shame, incrimination and secretiveness are taking topographic point as they are the “ black sheep of the household ” . Mentally sick people experience terrible stigma, favoritism, societal exclusion and therefore, isolation (Wahl, 1999: 59) .

Media represents mentally disordered as persons unsafe to the populace, unusual and unpredictable like Hank (after all, who would desire to populate following to person who parks a auto inside a store and battles a cow?) .

But, the relationship between force and mental upset is non what the mass media merely represents. It is a complex affair that needs farther consideration and critical thought. Therefore, in the undermentioned paragraphs it will be made an effort in order to understand the existent relationship between mental upset and force.

Having said that the representation of a phenomenon by the media reflect the frame in which a phenomenon is socially placed, it is considered indispensable at this point to advert that it is much more likely for people to go exploited from ‘ healthy ‘ wrongdoers than going a victim from a mentally disordered single (Friedman, 2006) .

The word picture of the mentally sick single as violent, unforeseen, unsafe and possible felon appears to be highly “ popular ” in the media ‘ s involvement. Furthermore, in the connexion between mental unwellness and force, schizophrenic disorder possesses a outstanding topographic point, chiefly because of its complexness.

Harmonizing to this, researches in Great Britain shows that the frame of force outclasses against other attacks in proportion 4: 1 and the persons with mental unwellness about ever are presented with negative manner, as violent, liquidators or rapers, or, in the better instance, as objects of leer (Wahl, 1997) .

Additionally, and as empirical grounds show us, really, the per centum of offenses of force that has been committed by persons with mental perturbation does not abstain noticeably from what is attributed to the general population) and the bulk of Acts of the Apostles of force that are committed by mental patients are located in instances of incomplete curative confrontation or even parallel usage of substances (Peay, 2007) .

However, this survey, and most of the surveys conducted until late, have focused on the rates of force among people with mental upset, based on those who were hospitalized (inmates) or on rates of mentally sick which were arrested, convicted or incarcerated for violent offenses.

For illustration, one national study showed that the life-time hazard of schizophrenic disorder was 5 % among people convicted for homicide, a prevalence that is much higher than any published rate of schizophrenic disorder in the general population (proposing the relationship between schizophrenic disorder and homicide) (Friedman, 2006)

These surveys, nevertheless, have many restrictions as they merely refer to persons who were arrested, hospitalized or incarcerated which are by definition more likely to be violent or really sick and therefore are not accurate representative of mentally ill in the general population.

However, harmonizing to a survey conducted by NIMH Epidemiology Catchment Area it was found that mentally sick patients enduring from serious mental upsets such as schizophrenic disorder, bipolar upset or major depression were two to three times every bit likely as " healthy " people to

be attacking (Friedman, 2006) . Furthermore, NIMH noted that non all mental unwellnesss are linked to force.

For illustration, anxiousness upsets do non increase the hazard of force. However, although the overpowering bulk of mentally ill with major depression, schizophrenic disorder and bipolar upset do non bring forth condemnable behavior, the presence of such upsets is significantly linked to an increased hazard of force.

Furthermore, this survey which had representative sample of 17. 803 topics, showed that people with no mental wellness jobs who abuse intoxicant and drugs are seven times every bit likely to describe a violent behavior as those without substance maltreatment whereas, mentally sick with substance maltreatment compounds the increased hazard of force (intoxicant and substance maltreatment far outweigh mental upset in lending force) (Friedman, 2006) .

Given that, it is good understood that terrible mental upset links to violence when intoxicant ingestion takes topographic point (Tummey, R. , Turner, T, 2008: 191) . This is to state, that mental upset without intoxicant ingestion is non in itself violent. Hence, this correlativity between mental wellness jobs and force is non an idle topic and therefore, needs farther consideration.

As a consequence, the populace should follow the thought that most people who are violent are non mentally ill, and most people who are mentally sick are non violent. A expression at the broader image is indispensable,

therefore even though the media represents dramatic statistics in order to

underline their instances, mass media consumers should cognize that <https://assignbuster.com/media-misrepresentation-of-the-relationship-between-violence-and-mental-disorder-2/>

serious mental unwellness is rather rare and really contributes small to the overall rate of force in the general population (Friedman, 2006) .

Furthermore, it is important for us to understand that, most of people who are violent do not endure from mental unwellness. More specifically, mentally sick are more likely to be the victims, instead than the culprits of force “ current research shows that people with major mental unwellness are 2.5 times more likely to be the victims of force than other members of society ” ([hypertext transfer protocol: //www. cmha. ca](http://www.cmha.ca)) .

Furthermore, a 1996 Health Canada reappraisal of scientific articles found that the strongest forecaster of force and condemnable behavior is not major to mental unwellness, but past history of force and criminalism ([hypertext transfer protocol: //www. cmha. ca](http://www.cmha.ca)) .

To reason, and every bit mentioned before, mental upset plays no portion in the bulk of violent offenses committed in our society. However, mentally sick people who live in a nerve-racking, unpredictable environment with small household or community support may be at hazard high hazard of going violent (in relation to our instance, Charlie/Hank was off from his household and chased across the state by corrupt bulls) .

However, mental upset deceit by the media continues and it is not difficult to understand why. Pamela Kalbfleisch claims, that “ a^nothing sells like an insane, unpredictable, undetected, glory slayer on the loose who has caused a great trade of hurting and torment to the friends and relations of the victim ” (Wahl, 1997) .

To the inquiry why are people with mental upset depicted systematically from the media in such inaccurate and inappropriate manner (unsafe, different) the reply would be for net income. There is no inquiry that mass media choice of what to show to the populace is based on fiscal factors. Mass media operate for net income and wants to carry through the populace ' s thirst and exhilaration for force related to mental upset, and therefore should show what the populace will purchase (Wahl, 1997: 110) .

Therefore, it was considered indispensable for the movies dawdler to demo Charlie explicating that he suffers from delusionary schizophrenic disorder with nonvoluntary egotistic fury so that, pull viewing audiences attending.

However, mental upset produces net incomes (the movie grossed \$ 83 million in the USA harmonizing to The Guardian, July 28, 2000) , (hypertext transfer protocol: //pb. rcpsych. org) . Phenomena that are dramatic and perplexing have ever been attractive to the populace. Therefore, what is more buy-able than a ' funny ' and unannounced character moving like ' mad ' .

Mental unwellness is hence, transformed into lunacy, and madness related to merriment is even more ' fascinating ' . Media representation of serious mental upset, challenge populace ' s appetency for rousing and exhilaration as narratives about violent offense linked to mental unwellness provide titillation (Wahl, 1997: 111) .

However, the most of import thing during the film is that there was an inappropriate and inaccurate word picture that whenever a mentally sick

person does non take the medicine becomes villain (Hank wanted to <https://assignbuster.com/media-misrepresentation-of-the-relationship-between-violence-and-mental-disorder-2/>

contend a 10-year-old male child, he vanished a cow, about drowned a immature miss) . Therefore, this deceit contains an expressed message that the public needs argus-eyed protection from mental patients.

Consequently, when viewing audiences see such deceit of mental upset taking topographic point, they become fearful that those ‘ different ‘ people are extremely likely to do physical injury to other people. In other words, this permeant portray of mentally sick as violent and highly unsafe, will merely take media consumers to a general belief that mentally sick persons will assail and therefore harm their community. Such belief will, in bend, make moral terror, and fright in the presence of mentally sick, thereby excepting and weakening the patient ‘ s belief in his ability to alter (self-efficacy) (Lloyd, 2010: 69)

After all, and as antecedently expressed, who would experience safe following to person who parks a auto inside a store? Harmonizing to this, and as many believe that homelessness is closely related to mental upset, moral panic lead to a random onslaught on a homeless adult male with schizophrenic disorder in Toronto June 4, 2000 “ ... Fillmore was attacked as he lay kiping in a coach shelter last June: he was stabbed and bled to decease ” (hypertext transfer protocol: //pb. rcpsych. org) .

Merely imagine that one time patients leave psychiatric infirmaries and hence eager for support and credence, are alternatively treated with intuition and fright. This deceit will fuel terror and increase the bias and fright (Tummey, R. , Turner, T, 2008: 10) , and will do people to traverse the

street or issue coaches or travel off when they happen to be following of mentally sick.

Furthermore, it is extremely likely that people who are persuaded by the media to disregard and fear of mentally sick, to go mentally sick. This, in bend, via self-fulfilling prognostication will take them to self-loathing as they now know that they have become violent, unsafe and so forth (Wahl, 1999: 139) .

Additionally, mentally sick are bombarded with unfavorable information about them and hence perceived as ‘ threat ’ (self-stigma) and therefore, these attitudes towards them have lay waste toing consequence on their relationships, employment, lodging and societal operation (Lloyd, 2010: 75) .

The favoritism and stigma, excludes them from any societal activity and the issue of employment as good ([hypertext transfer protocol: //bjp. rcpsych. org](http://bjp.rcpsych.org)) . Harmonizing to this, it is believed that the most of import measure to recovery is to work, because of employment offers a societal web, path out of poorness (Lloyd, 2010: 75) .

To reason, I would wish to advert that this deceit of mental upset, inevitable generates public fright, exclusion and hence atomization among the communities. Furthermore, I have concluded that the mass media fuel public fright by generalising all mental unwellnesss and pigeonholing its patients as ‘ different ’ . Hence, that stigma and the favoritism against mentally sick are both common and terrible.

Ultimately, I suggest that all the wrong beliefs of old coevals should not be going on to new. The stigmatizing and know-aparting attitudes towards mentally ill people have been traveling on for a long clip and it is clip to halt as I am a truster that the manner our society behaves the mentally sick, is not merely an issue of mental wellness attention but human rights issue. Harmonizing to this, I would wish to reason with the undermentioned words written by a relation of one mentally sick patient.

“ For me stigma means fright, ensuing in a deficiency of assurance. Stigma is loss, ensuing in unsolved bereavement issues. Stigma is non holding entree to resources... Stigma is being unseeable or being reviled, ensuing in struggle. Stigma is lowered household regard and intense shame, ensuing in reduced dignity. Stigma is secrecy... Stigma is anger, ensuing in distance. Most significantly, stigma is hopelessness, ensuing in weakness. ”

([hypertext transfer protocol: //apt. rcpsych. org](http://apt.rcpsych.org)) .

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