

- 4 Evaluate Rosenhan (1973) and Sherif et al. (1954/1961) in terms of their practical issues in design and implementation.

(16)

Sherif aimed to investigate whether competition could lead to prejudice. There were 24 participants, all 11-12 year old ^{white} boys from the same middle class background. The Stage 1 of the procedure included formation of the group identities where the boys were split into 2 groups (unknowing of each other) and given team building exercises such as creating a flag & coming up with group names (Eagles & Rattlers). Stage 2 consisted of competition for limited resources. The groups were introduced to each other & expressed an interest in competing where they played games ~~for~~ with negative interdependence such as baseball & tug of war, which led to hostile behaviour, e.g. burning the Eagles' flag. The 3rd stage consisted of conflict resolution as researchers set up tasks with superordinate goals in order to improve group relations & reduce prejudice, e.g. fixing a water tank which improved relations between groups. Sherif found when competition was zero sum (only one winner) prejudice was worse & there was hostility but the introduction of superordinate goals led to reduced prejudice & the boys were more friendly, concluding that competition



on leads to prejudice.

This study was very practical as it had high ecological validity. This is because it was a field experiment meaning the boys were in a natural environment of a summer camp. This means the boys were more likely to behave realistically & show how they would behave in competition in real life allowing for an accurate representation on how competition ~~can~~ leads to prejudice. This high ecological validity means the study is very generalisable to real life since the boys' behaviour ^{in competition} was natural meaning the findings on prejudice as a result of competition is generalisable to real life scenarios, making it very practical.

However, a practical issue with this study is that it lacks internal validity due to it being a field experiment. The naturalistic element of being in an actual camp means that it was hard to control extraneous variables that may have influenced the boys' behaviour in competition. This means that ^{Sherr's} the study cannot be replicated due to no control and no standardised procedure leading to unreliable findings on the effect of competition on prejudice.

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Rosenhan aimed to investigate the reliability & validity of mental health diagnoses in hospitals. He used 8 pseudopatients (including himself) and instructed them to go to the doctor and claim to hear 'hollow voices.' All patients came from varied backgrounds & were completely healthy. Rosenhan included a selection of 12 hospitals from the East & West Coast, varying in funding (public/private) & staff. Once the pseudopatients were admitted into hospitals, they were told to behave as normally as possible to see if nurses noticed and they were told to record the behaviour of the nurses in the hospital. Rosenhan found that all patients were diagnosed with schizophrenia, except one, who was diagnosed with a different personality disorder. The length of stay at a mental health hospital varied from 7 to 51 days. Rosenhan found that majority of nurses ignored the patients when asked a question. He also found that nurses labelled the pseudopatient behaviour as deviant due to the SE label, e.g. was walking up & down was seen as nervousness even though it was due to boredom. Rosenhan also found that the real patients were able to identify the pseudopatients as fake unlike the nurses, concluding that the diagnoses are unreliable.



due to all doctors diagnosing majority of patients with SE but not valid as they were actually healthy.

A practical issue with this study is that it lacked population validity. Since Rosenhan's research was based on a small sample size of pseudopatients & focused on American culture of diagnoses. This means that what he found about the unreliability & invalidity of mental health diagnoses may not necessarily be applicable to other cultures, e.g. in India or China, ^{which} this is a practical issue as it reduces the generalisability of Rosenhan's validity & reliability findings.

However, Rosenhan's research could be seen as practical in the use of his field experience. This is because Rosenhan used ¹² real hospitals along the East & West coast of USA and doctors & nurses were unaware of their research meaning patients were able to record their truthful diagnoses & observe how nurses would actually act amongst real patients. Allowance for Rosenhan's findings on how nurses treat patients in the hospital & the invalid diagnoses applicable to real American life and allowing for helpful reforms in nurse behavior & reforms in the DSM to improve validity.

(Total for Question 4 = 16 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 24 MARKS

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