

Sociological Imagination

Name

Institution



### Defining Sociological Imagination

Sociological imagination refers to the determination of the connection and relationship between personal issues or challenges and the social issues at large. The sociological imagination was conceptualized by a sociologist called Wright Mills who provided a profound perspective on challenges affecting people at a personal level and their connection to larger social issues (Scott, 2013). In this framework, Mills identified two key elements including personal challenges and social issues, which are referred to as biography and history respectively. Fundamentally, the conceptualization of sociological imagination assists individuals in identifying the relationships and correlation between events affecting their personal lives known as biography and other events occurring in their society known as history.

#### Problem One

In 2000, John Doe married a beautiful from college. He provided his wife with everything she needed including taking vacations in expensive beaches. The increased provisions to his wife was an indication that his business was thriving. The couple lived happily without conflicts because John was able to satisfy all his wife's needs. Ten years later, John secured a loan to expand his business but a large portion of this money was spent to cater for the increasing needs of his wife and their two children. Specifically, they used a large portion of the money to provide themselves and their children with basic and secondary needs such as food, clothes, shelter, and education. Eventually, John was unable to pay the loan and his business was auctioned. He could not meet his family's basic and secondary needs. After struggling with life, the couple divorced and his wife went to her parents together with her two children. While John was listening to a radio, he heard that the standard of living was very high and the economy was experiencing a recession.

In the above scenario, the biography is the failure to sustain the marriage and ultimately a divorce. The biography represents the personal challenges faced by the actor, John Doe. Indeed, John Doe was unable to keep his marriage due to inability to provide his wife and children with basic needs. The social issues or history/structure that caused divorce were high standards of living and economic recession.

#### Problem Two

Mark was only ten years when he became a street child. His parents had died two years ago from a grisly road accident. His parents were beggars and had visual impairment. Mark eats food substances that people have disposed of along with trash. He wears ragged clothes and sleeps along the streets. Nobody stops even a single second to ask the young boy about his problems. Instead, people make fun of him to please their young ones. Mark hears that he has several aunts and uncles but he does not see them come to rescue him. His uncles, aunts, and relatives are also not well-up because they do manual jobs at an agricultural farm. Mark feels comfortable in the streets because he acknowledges that the cost of living is extremely high. Additionally, he acknowledges that there is an immense breakdown of extended family ties.

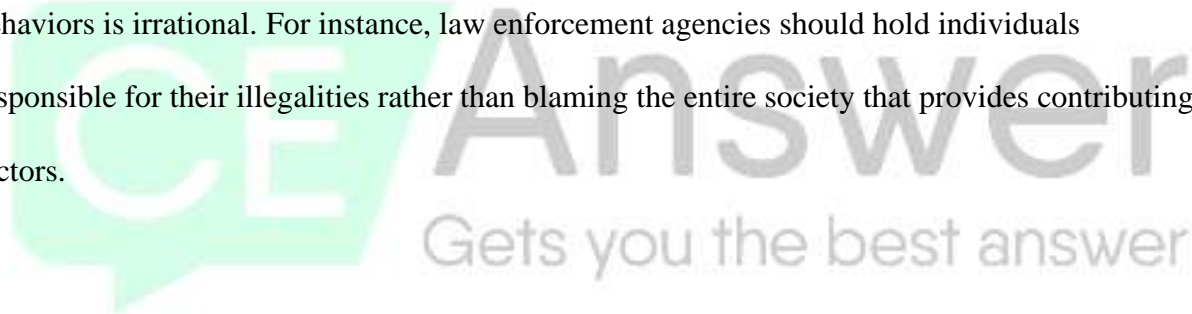
In the above scenario, the biography is living in the streets instead of a home. Other children whose parents are alive live in their homes, but Mark lives in the streets because his parents are deceased. The histories/structures that influence Mark to live in the street are disintegrations of extended family ties and high cost of living that leads to poverty.

#### Critical Thinking

Sociological imagination bears numerous benefits. Firstly, people are able to connect between personal troubles and social issues at large (Scott, 2013). Moreover, sociological imagination allows people to determine events and activities happening beyond the purview of

reality. Essentially, sociological imagination helps to identify the root causes of personal problems or challenges by thinking about their contributing factors or influencers in society. It is beneficial to consider structural roles in biography to provide insight about personal challenges. Furthermore, structural roles help people to understand how society is stratified according to various roles.

Employing the sociological imagination has some possible negative ramifications. Firstly, sociological imagination can potentially cause people to blame structural influences for every personal challenge. Hence, sociological imagination can bring about misconceptions that individuals should be exempted from their personal behaviors. Scott (2013) argues that some behaviors may not be influenced by social factors so exempting individuals from their awful behaviors is irrational. For instance, law enforcement agencies should hold individuals responsible for their illegalities rather than blaming the entire society that provides contributing factors.



References

Scott, J. (2013). *C. Wright Mills and the sociological imagination: Contemporary perspectives.*

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