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Short Essay 1

 Common sense reasoning is the understanding and manipulation of everyday interactions. This information is gathered by everyday knowledge. In sociology we use qualitative methods that rely on observations, interviews, and archival data (Giddens et al. 2021). With this there is a lot of personal involvement. Common sense is what we pick up and what were taught from a young age. It can be the “right or wrong” decision that can be unspoken or unwritten. This thinking can stop people from making irrational decisions because they can imagine the consequences. Humans develop this over time but some more than others. Common example of common sense reasoning is not to leave a candle lit in the house when no one is home to prevent the event of a house fire. Or to look both ways when crossing a street, so that you don’t get run over by a car. What is common sense to everyone now may not be common sense in 10 years. For example, it was common sense for blacks to sit at the back of the bus in the 1960s. Sociology developed a research process to help ask and answer questions to better understand main concepts of research design.

 Science is very fact driven based on thorough research, problem solving and critical thinking. The scientific method gathers scientific and specific data to rigorously test theories (Giddens et al. 2021). This can mean not putting a hand in the fire because its hot and will burn you. Scientific reasoning may use the quantitative method, that deals with objective and statistical data, focusing on trends, comparing subgroups, and exploring correlations (Giddens et al. 2021). Scientific reasoning helps us to correct flawed common sense rules. A lot of people will blindly follow common sense and intuition but sometimes our intuition and perception of common sense will fail us. People’s opinions cannot just simply replace scientific reasoning found by sociological research because how can it be proved? Common sense to one individual might not at all be common sense to another and there must be a wall, a definitive line between science and opinion. If there wasn’t intensive research on topics, then anyone could say anything all the time and what would make something true or not?

 The research process helps us ask and answer societies questions. Personal experience and common sense about the world are easy staring point in sociological research (Giddens et al. 2021). There tends to be a lot of research on determining if something we have always been thinking or taught actually makes sense. The research process may fall in this line: defining the research problem, reviewing the literature, making the problem precise, working out a design, caring out the research, interpreting the result, and reporting the findings (Giddens et al. 2021:35). Three common methods used in sociological research are ethnography, surveys, and experiments. Ethnography generates more in-depth information but only typically on small groups of people. This method helps to better understand social processes. Surveys are efficient on large groups and allow for precise comparisons. With large groups it can lead to superficial material and responses of what people want to believe verses what they actually believe (Giddens et al. 2021:39).

 These two really go hand in hand, we base a lot of scientific research of off common sense ideologies. Everyone could be so use to doing a certain thing or act a particular way, but the sociological research process helps us ask important questions like “why are we thinking this way? Is this what we should be thinking or doing? Is this right?”.

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