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Elliot Rodger

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Elliot Rodger

Elliot Rodger is one of the famous serial killers born in 1991 and died through suicide in 2014. On 23rd May 2014, Rodger killed six people and hurt fourteen others with a gun, stabbing and ramming into a vehicle in California besides the University, after which he committed murder. Before the incident, Rodger posted a 'retribution' video on YouTube, which indicated that he was revenging sexual and social rejection, which he thought deserved. The literature describes the type of violence Rodgers engaged, the risk factors that contributed to the behavior, and a behavior diagnosis.

Rodger engaged in mass murder type of significant violence as revenge for lacking love. In the clip he posted on YouTube, the serial killer aimed at the Alpha Phi sorority, a team that was considered the hottest in the University of California. His exact words were that he wanted revenge against the society that did not give him love and sex. Rodgers killed Cooper and Weiss in vengeance, who were members of another sorority other than the targeted. Besides, he also stabbed three men to death, who were his classmates. Afterwards, Rodger went firing out gunshots where fourteen people were injured, and one of them died. At the end of the manifesto, he claimed to be the real victim because he was the right person, but society treated him wrong. The words implied that Rodger did not see anything wrong with the mass murder because they deserved death while he was innocent.

Several risk factors contributed to Rodger's behavior, as explained above. He had a history of Narcissistic Personality Disorder, where he attended many counselling sessions to overcome it. It is a mental condition whereby an individual encounters challenges in showing care to other people. The victims only value the individuals making them feel good while avoiding the rest (Bartol & Bartol, 2014). It was a risk factor because Rodgers showed some signs of the condition. For example, he repeatedly referred to himself as the supreme gentleman and was harsh to the women, not giving him attention. Here, he developed an

exaggerated sense of self-importance, making him believe that everyone around needed to acknowledge him. Another risk factor was his inability to make friends due to poor social skills. Rodger had anger and jealous tendencies, making it hard to make friends because these skills make people dislike others. Besides, the serial killer had a considerable hatred for women, which is also a risk factor. He claimed that since the girls were not attracted to him, he would punish them for the behavior. It was a risk factor because causing harm was an alternative to 'punish' (Murray, 2017), which motivated him to murder them.

According to the above information, Rodger was both a psychopath and a sociopath. The psychopath is a disorder where one engages in antisocial behaviors such as impaired empathy and egotistic traits. A sociopath, on the other hand, is a term used to refer to an individual with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) in that they less understand others (Bartol & Bartol, 2014). Rodgers was a psychopath because he lacked empathy, evident by murdering the roommates and students. For example, he stabbed one of the victims fifteen times, a sign that the goal was to inflict pain until death. He was also a sociopath, considering how he treated the people around him. Instead of understanding that every girl was impossible to be loved, he became bitter, for he lacked attention and even planned to revenge by causing harm to them.

In summation, having described the type of violence Rodgers engaged, the risk factors that contributed to the behavior, and a behavior diagnosis, it is clear that Rodgers is categorized as a serial killer for murdering seven people and harming fourteen others, aiming for revenge for lacking love from society. Risk factors such as mental illness, inability to make friends, and an extreme hatred towards women are evident, as discussed in the paper, implying that he would probably not commit the crime if they were resolved. His thoughts expressed in YouTube clip and actions make him both a psychopath and a sociopath. As

explained, the serial killer did not consider others and lacked an understanding of others' thoughts and feelings.

References

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