

Individual Personality

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

### **Individual Personality**

Many factors would lead to prisoners attributing guard brutality to the guard's disposition or character. Similarly, people attributing actions to individual personality over environmental factors is common practice (Borkenau et al., 2006). These include, but not limited to:

- If the guard is known to behave similarly or is guilty of such actions in the past. Past behavior largely informs perceptions.
- If the situation does not warrant such behavior and the normal reaction would have been different.
- If the people involved in the situation are known not to have a bad record and therefore, normal rules of judgment seem not to have been followed.
- If prisoners believe that guards tend to behave differently in some situations but the guards behave contrary to expectations.
- If the guard does not follow known rules and policies within the correction facility.

Society often judges people based on their character in many situations rather than evaluating the environmental factors at play during the said action. These judgments are usually based on pre-conceptions, biases, stereotypes, and beliefs (Alang et al., 2017). For instance, if a certain group of people has a stereotype of being aggressive, a case in which a suspect of aggression happens to come from that group will probably see them pre-judged to be guilty before the environmental factors are taken into consideration. For instance, many cases of people being judged based on their color are a common issue around the world and recent fights against racism is a clear indication of the magnitude of such bias and stereotypes.

The consequences of such stances are dire and unfortunate. The person being judged often unfairly ends on the receiving end of judgment (Alang et al., 2017). Due to this, numerous people have suffered wrongful imprisonment, wrongful judgments based on their history despite them being truly innocent.

## References

- Alang, S., McAlpine, D., McCreedy, E., & Hardeman, R. (2017). Police brutality and black health: Setting the agenda for public health scholars. *American journal of public health, 107*(5), 662-665.
- Borkenau, P., Riemann, R., Spinath, F. M., & Angleitner, A. (2006). Genetic and environmental influences on person× situation profiles. *Journal of Personality, 74*(5), 1451-1480.