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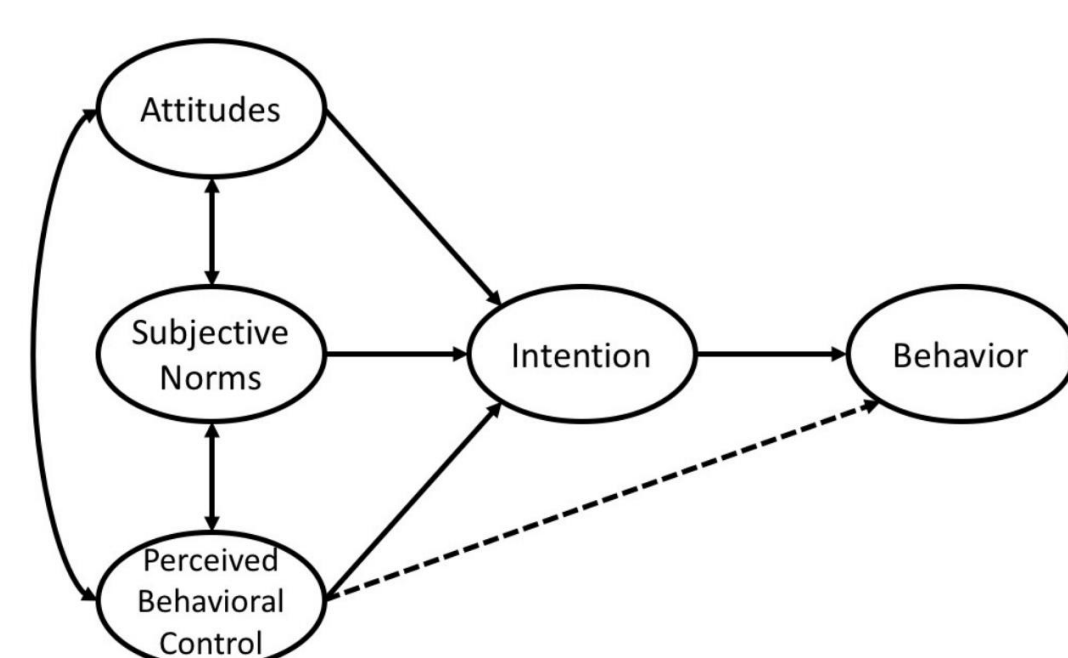
INTRODUCTION

Studies have shown the impacts of disasters on individuals or communities due to age, income, gender, or race. Despite these studies, there is a dearth of research demonstrating the impacts of disasters on disabled individuals or communities. In these studies, it has been found that those with disabilities were less likely to evacuate, believing that shelters did not have proper accommodations. This was especially true for those with assistance dogs. The lack of evacuation by disabled individuals with assistance animals can be seen through the lens of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). Attitudes is one of the four constructs of TPB. In the TPB, attitudes are one's "favorable or unfavorable evaluation" of a behavior, such as evacuation. We also know that beliefs toward objects can influence attitudes. However, TPB represents attitudes toward behavior. Thus, TPB lacks the representations of beliefs toward objects which can influence attitudes toward a behavior. To compensate for this gap, the authors propose the Behavior of Extended-Self Theory (BEST), which combines TPB and the Extended-Self Theory (EST). The EST states that "our possessions are a major contributor to and reflection of our identities," which then become the extended-self. In this way, an assistance animal becomes a disabled person's extended-self. In the BEST, attitudes refer to a person's favorable or unfavorable evaluation of a particular behavior as influenced by the extended-self.

THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR

Four components:

- Attitudes: a person's favorable or unfavorable evaluation of a behavior;
- Subjective norms: perceived social pressures to perform or not to perform the specific behavior;
- Perceived behavioral control: perceived ease or difficulty of performing the behavior;
- Intentions: the amount of effort individuals plan to exert to perform the behavior.



The more favorable the attitude and subjective norm with respect to a behavior, and the greater the perceived behavioral control, the stronger an individual's intention will be to perform the behavior under consideration.

Attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control act as separate determinants of intentions. In addition, perceived behavioral control can have a direct effect on behavior as well as being mediated by intentions.

GAP IN THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR

We form beliefs about an object by associating it with events.

Beliefs toward objects can influence attitudes.

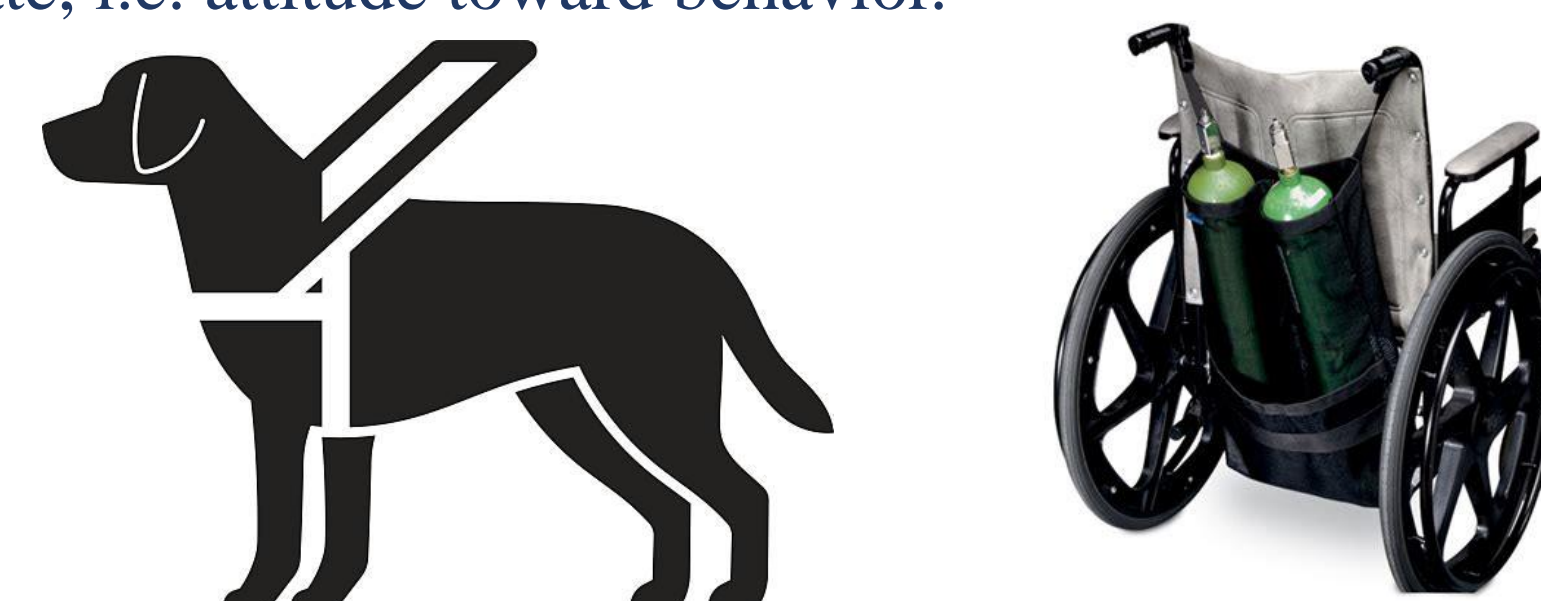
However, TPB mainly represents attitudes toward behavior.

Thus, TPB lacks the representations of beliefs toward objects which can, in turn, influence attitudes toward an action or behavior.

DP/EM EXAMPLE OF THE TPB GAP

During a disaster:

Individuals who have a favorable attitude toward evacuation will evacuate, i.e. attitude toward behavior.



Those who have a service animal/pet and/or medical/disability-related equipment that they want to take with them to a shelter but (believe that they) cannot, and who otherwise have a favorable attitude toward evacuation, will not evacuate, i.e. attitude toward object supersedes attitude toward behavior.

EXTENDED SELF THEORY

Cannot differentiate between me and mine

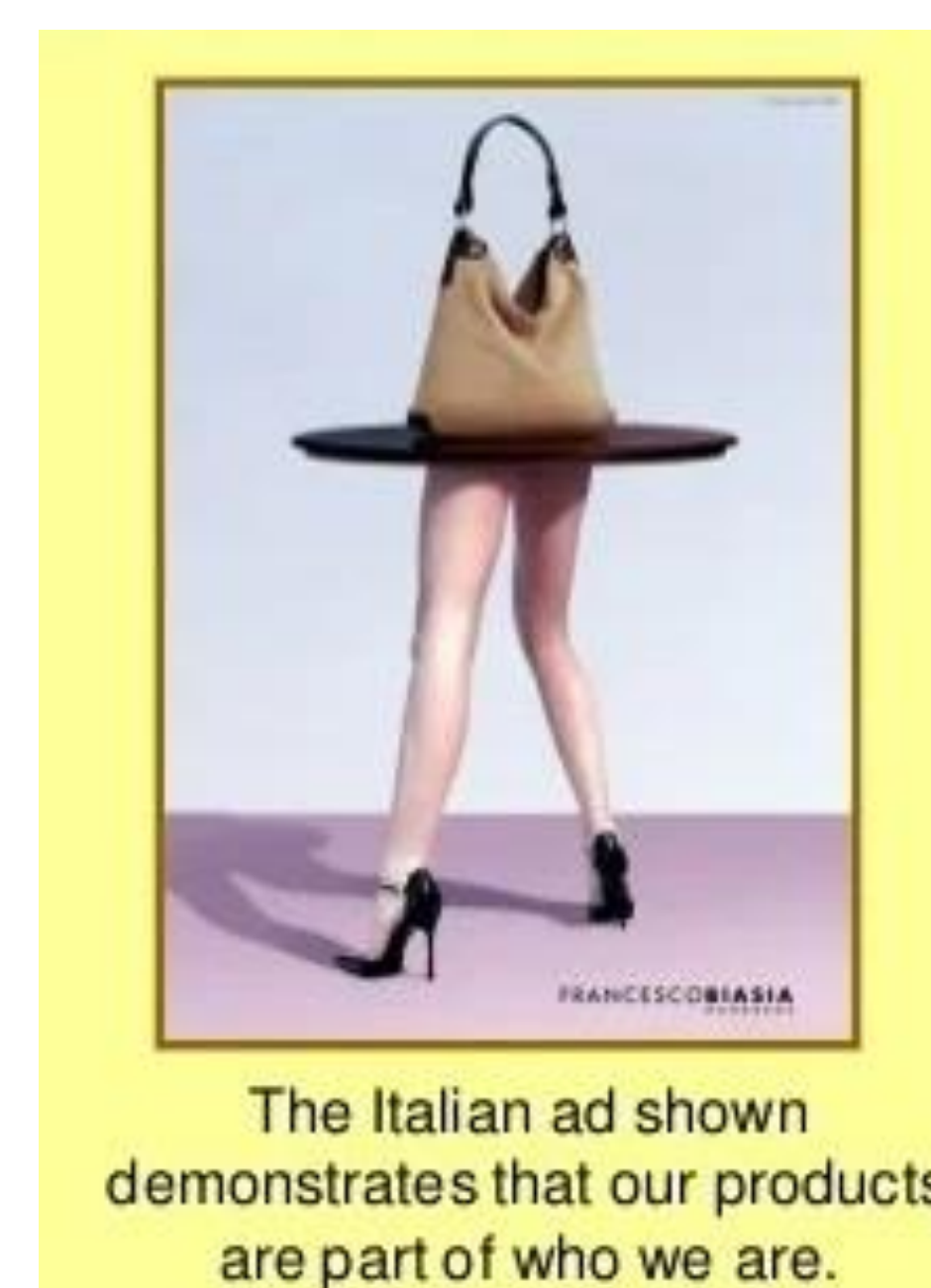
A product or thing becomes a part of personal well-being and it gets attached to emotions, sentiments, later becoming a part of one's personality

External objects that consumers consider a part of themselves

Four levels:

1. Individual level:
Personal possessions
2. Family level:
Residence and furnishings
3. Community level:
Neighborhood or town one is from
4. Group level: Social groups

A consumer may also feel that landmarks, monuments or sports teams are part of the extended self.



EXTENDED SELF THEORY ADDRESSES THE GAP IN THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR

As previously noted, the Theory of Planned Behavior lacks the representations of beliefs toward objects which can, in turn, influence attitudes toward an action or behavior.

The Extended Self Theory notes that objects, such as service animals and pets, become a part of an individual's identity.

Therefore, the Extended Self Theory aids the Theory of Planned Behavior by covering objects, not just behavior alone.

In this way, the individual's attitudes would be toward both objects and behaviors could be taken into account.

PROPOSED NEW THEORY COMBINES THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR WITH THE EXTENDED SELF THEORY: THE BEHAVIOR OF EXTENDED SELF THEORY (BEST)



There are five constructs to the BEST: (1) intentions; (2) subjective norms; (3) perceived behavioral control; (4) extended-self; and (5) redefined attitudes.

The extended-self states that "our possessions, including our pets, are a major contributor to and reflection of our identities".

This concept or belief can also apply to working dogs. This belief (e.g. about the extended-self), can positively or negatively influence attitudes.

For the BEST, the belief of extended-self is the major component of attitudes. Therefore, attitudes refer to a person's favorable or unfavorable evaluation of a particular behavior as influenced by the extended-self.

The remaining constructs, "intentions," "subjective norms" and "perceived behavioral control" originate from the Theory of Planned Behavior and have previously been described.

Therefore, attitudes refer to a person's favorable or unfavorable evaluation of a particular behavior as influenced by the extended self, or object that is part of one's identity.

IMPLICATIONS

Understand needs of those with service animals or pets;

Write EOPs including sections for service animals and pets

- Train and exercise;

Communicate with those with service animals or pets throughout the disaster cycle;

During the response phase, coordinate efforts of those providing services to individuals with service animals or pets.



CONCLUSION

The BEST demonstrates that those with service animals and pets who cannot take them to shelters will not evacuate, even though they have a favorable attitude toward evacuation.

In using BEST, Emergency Managers can begin to understand the reasons why some individuals will not evacuate.

From here, EMs can take steps to improve attitudes of community members with service animals or pets toward evacuation.

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