

Understanding Neuro-Typicality

Neuro-typicality (non-autistic) is a pervasive developmental condition, probably present since birth, in which the affected person sees the world in a very strange manner. It is a puzzle; an enigma that traps those so affected in a lifelong struggle for social status and recognition. Neuro-Typical individuals almost invariably show a triad of impairments, consisting of the inability to think independently of the social group, marked impairment in the ability to think logically or critically, and an inability to form special interests (other than in social activity). The hope is, that this article will help us (Aspergians) understand the very different world of the Neuro-Typical.

Neuro-Typical individuals show difficulty in forming an individual identity, or in thinking outside of the bounds of the accepted norms of their social groups. It appears that each group that a Neuro-Typical belongs to will have its own set of “official” opinions, and each Neuro-Typical within that group is expected to adopt those beliefs. As strange as it sounds, they generally do so, very readily, and are not hesitant at all to help reinforce those beliefs and ensure group homogeneity in that manner, and their own innate opinions and desires are modified automatically to fit the group ideal. This bizarre lack of independence explains the tendency for Neuro-Typicals to engage in fads of various sorts, or for the existence of certain trends. Neuro-Typicals will change the way they talk or dress according to these trends, and other Neuro-Typicals will admire and imitate such “trendy” behaviour. As such, Neuro-Typicals are easy prey for TV commercials or other means of advertising that seek to portray the purchase or use various products as socially desirable or “cool”.

The need for Neuro-Typical individuals to “jump on” the latest trend is a function of their excessive level of concern of how they are perceived by others. Neuro-Typicals form their own self-image based at least as much on the opinions of their peers as they do on their own opinions. They do not perceive themselves as individuals in the manner as you or I do (AS); they see themselves as individual members of a group, but in practice, the opinions of others weigh heavily upon them, and there is a great drive to obtain the acceptance and admiration of others around them, including complete strangers. There is a built-in tendency for Neuro-Typicals to blend in, to become “one of the herd” so to speak. Most of them never realise how much their opinions are dictated by the group. They will want the things that the group deems desirable, and they internalise that desire so fully that it feels to them as if it was an internally motivated desire.

The overdeveloped social centres of the Neuro-Typical brain are also responsible for their odd, inefficient communication style. We’ve all seen the strange tendency Neuro-Typicals have to hide their true communicative intent beneath layers of often contradictory statements. They tend to state things implicitly rather than explicitly, and with a level of vagarity that often results in miscommunication. This appears to be an outgrowth of the Neuro-Typical person’s desire to maintain popularity and social status; they seem to believe that potentially annoying or offensive things indirectly, their popularity will be maintained. This obsessive concern with social standing makes communication with Neuro-Typicals very difficult at times. They are incapable of expressing things directly, in a manner that can be easily and

unambiguously interpreted by anyone that knows the language. They are also limited in their capacity to interpret statements directly without trying to find hidden meanings in them; they often misunderstand the most basic statements this way. Unfortunately they are never conscious that this is what they are doing all of the time.

People with Neuro-Typicality tend to communicate in a very vague manner. They make guesses as to the level of knowledge of the listener, and omit that the listener is presumed to know. It is very obvious that this guessing will often go wrong. Unfortunately, the listener that does not understand will generally not ask for clarification of such ambiguities, for fear of the speaker thinking that he is stupid or ignorant. As is usually the case with Neuro-Typicals, image and status is more important than effective communication and the truth in general. This makes communication between Neuro-Typicals very limited in this way, and the fear of being seen stupid prevents either party from verifying the content of the conversation. As such, most miscommunication goes undetected by at least one, if not all Neuro-Typicals that had engaged in such a conversation.

The Neuro-Typical individual typically has a very limited capacity for logical or rational thought. The most recent research on the topic suggests that Neuro-Typical people are not able to separate their emotions from their logic, and they often confuse the two. This is an obvious explanation for the sometimes appalling illogicality evidenced in Neuro-Typical behaviour. Neuro-Typicals typically exhibits very limited critical thought, and they are easily led to believe some rather illogical things. Sadly, most societal positions that require logic and rational thought are occupied by Neuro-Typicals, which is a function of their sheer numbers more than any fitness for the job. Such jobs include important functions like jurors, legislators, judges, voters, doctors, and many others. If their herd mentality did not result in excessive rates of reproduction, their numbers would be smaller, and they would be of more use in job titles like salesperson, receptionist, cashier, and others where rational thought is less emphasised than social interaction.

It appears that nearly all Neuro-Typicals share one singular interest, and that is socialising. This is the only activity that the person with Neuro-Typicality can engage in for more than short periods of time. The stereotyped mannerism of chatting, or communicating verbally with others even when no useful or relevant information is exchanged, is notable, and can be observed very often when they are engaged in this perseverative behaviour. This social interest is not terribly useful as far as society in general is concerned, and the Neuro-Typical is unlikely to be capable of significant innovation, or of fostering societal advancement.

Unfortunately, the Neuro-Typical herd mentality results in an excessive rate of birth of offspring that are genetically predisposed to be Neuro-Typical, and as such, the incidence of Neuro-Typicality remains frighteningly high. As long as the numbers remain so high, it is unlikely that they will allow us to institute any remedial efforts to help them overcome their disability!