

Sociology Project Report

Crime and Deviance

Group Members:

Section: BCS - 4G

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|---------------------|----------|
| 1. Arzan-ul-Mairaj | 19K-0136 |
| 2. Ibadullah Shaikh | 19K-0259 |
| 3. Areez Arsalan | 19K-0362 |
| 4. Faisal Ahmed | 19K-0351 |
| 5. Shahzaib Khan | 19K-0273 |

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Introduction

All societies function by setting regulations through cultural expectations for the behavior of their members. Behavior has to be controlled as part of living with people; individuals cannot conduct courses of actions on free will. However, in certain situations, these rules can be violated by people and hence these people are punished by the social group and known as rule-breakers.

Deviance refers to any act that does not abide by the norms or cultural expectations of the social group. On the other hand, crime is a term referred to as acts that break a law set by the government or rulers.

What is Crime?

Crime is the infringement of criminal laws established by a territory, a state, or the central government. All crimes are made out of two components: the actual demonstration (or sometimes, the inability to do what the law requires) and criminal goal (in legitimate wording, men's rea, or "blameworthy brain"). Aim involves degree, going from stiff-necked direct to carelessness. Somebody who is careless doesn't purposely embark to hurt anybody yet acts (or neglects to act) such that outcomes in hurt. Investigators gauge the level of aim in choosing whether, for instance, to accuse somebody of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, or careless homicide. On the other hand, they may consider a murdering legitimate, as in self-protection.

Crime as a Social Problem

Crime is a social issue because it cannot exist without society. Society decides what actions are criminal and which are not. There will never be a society that is free from crime, simply because it would need everyone in the society to think in exactly the same way, believe on the exact same things and have exactly the same goals. Even in a homogenous society, this is not possible, hence, crime is not associated or limited to lower class but it can extend to privileged classes with wealth and power and such crimes can include sexual crimes, smuggling, black money business, illegal products and, environmental crimes. Experts believe that the root of the social crime must be addressed by supporting social programs to improve quality of life and have preventive initiative in order to restrict development of criminal behaviors.

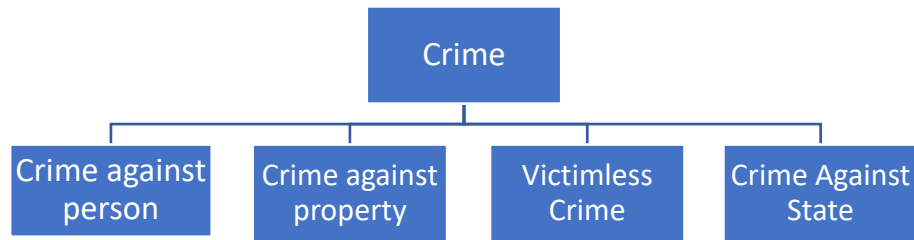
Views on Crime

Different sociologists have different views on crime and its root causes

- i. **Consensus View:** It is concerned with the maintenance or continuation of social order in society. Majority of the citizens in the society set their norms and values as laws through consensus and violation of these laws is known as crime. Pakistan being

- culturally inclined nation have majority of laws based on their cultural values including sexual relations between unmarried individuals is considered as criminal act and it is a consensus of the majority people who agreed upon as it is Pakistan's cultural values.
- ii. **Conflict View:** It was a theory presented by Karl Marx which discusses that power belongs to those who have authority of means of productions. It claims that society is in a perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources. It holds that social order is maintained by domination and power rather than consensus and conformity. Marxists argue that the official statistics are misleading because they only show what has been defined as a crime. The ruling class decides the laws and who should be punished for what crimes. Some actions of the working class are criminalized and the law is also selectively enforced so the powerful are less likely to have their actions defined as criminal. This is in the interests of the ruling class and supports the capitalist system.
 - iii. **Interactionist View:** This view states that the definition of crime reflects the preferences and opinions of people who holds social power in a society and are in command to make most of the rules and regulations.

Types of Crime



Crime against person:

It usually refers to a crime which is committed by direct physical harm or force being applied to another person. Following are the main types of crime against person:

- Date Rape: A rape that involves people who are in some form of courting relationship. In short, it is sexual assault of women by their dating partners
- Marital Rape: It is considered as a form of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Basically, it is the act of sexual intercourse without your spouse's mutual consent.
- Statutory Rape: It refers to forced or non-consensual sexual relations between an underage minor female and an adult male.
- Child Sexual Abuse: The exploitation of children through rape, incest and, molestation by adults.
- Assault: It is either attempted battery or intentionally frightening the victim by word or deed (touching is not involved)
- Hate Crime/Bias Crime: Violent acts directed towards a particular person or members of group merely because the targets share discernible, racial, ethnic, religious or gender characteristics.

Crime against property:

Crimes against property, also called property crimes, are crimes that involve theft of property belonging to others. Property crimes include burglary ("the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a [serious crime] or a theft"), larceny theft ("the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another"), auto theft ("the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle"), and arson ("any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn the personal property of another").

Crime against state:

There are three criminal activities that are directed against the existence of state:

- i. Treason: It is criminal disloyalty, typically to the state. It is the crime of betraying one's country especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the sovereign or the government.
- ii. Sedition: It is an over conduct or speech that incites people to rebel against the authority of a state.
- iii. Rebellion: It is a refusal of obedience or order of government or laws.

Victimless Crime:

A third category of offenses, not included in major crime indexes, is victimless crimes, violations of law in which there are no obvious victims. Also called crimes without complaint, they include illegal drug use, prostitution, and gambling. The term "victimless crime" is misleading, however. How victimless is a crime when young people steal to support a drug habit? What about a young pregnant woman who, by smoking crack, permanently harms her baby? Perhaps it is more correct to say that people who commit such crimes are both offenders and victims. Because public views of victimless crimes vary greatly, laws differ from place to place. In the United States, although gambling and prostitution are legal in only limited areas, both activities are common across the country.

Media and Crime

While watching brutal media pictures may have affected some fierce violations, obviously thousands watch these projects or play these computer games without proceeding to carry out criminal viciousness. Consequently, while it may impact individuals' conduct, it can't be the sole reason for the violations.

Some contend that, a long way from individuals being desensitized by fierce media, they are sharpened by it. In the event that individuals see the terrible outcomes of fierce conduct, they are more averse to act in a vicious manner.

Pluralist and post dash; modern sociologists contend that advanced crowds are considerably more dynamic than those depicted by the hypodermic needle model. They propose that crowds pick what to watch and how they wish to draw in with it.

There have been heaps of methodological reactions of Bandura's examination. Some contend that the youngsters only figured out how to play with the doll, and they knew that it was an innocuous movement. There was no motivation to expect they would act in comparable manners outside the research center and with something besides a doll.

Deviance

Deviance can be defined as any behavior, belief, or condition that violates significant social norms in the society or a group within which it occurs. It is recognized as violation of cultural norms which are virtual guidance for human activities. Thus, the term deviance refers to those behaviors which are not considered normal, at least, by the good majority of a society, community or social group.

Considering Pakistan as an example which is a culturally inclined nation and majority of its values lie in the majority's religion. Pakistani cultural frowns upon the act of prostitution which is legal in various countries but because Pakistani cultural norms consider this occupation as prohibited, the people who choose this as profession as considered deviated.

Positive Deviance

Deviance can be either positive or negative. Positive Deviance refers to a behavioral and social change which is premised on the observation that in any context, certain individuals confronting similar challenges, constraints, and resource deprivation to their successful behavior or strategies which enable them to find better solutions. Ideally there are certain behaviors which reflect positive deviance - altruism, charisma, innovation and, supra-conformity.

- i. **Altruism** includes saints and good neighbors, self-sacrificing heroes. It involves an act under-taken voluntarily to assist other people without expectations or rewards such as Edhi who brought initiative to assist people without expecting a reward in return.
- ii. **Charismatic Individual** are leaders particularly religious or political leaders including Quaid, Mandela who have extra qualities that forces followers or other people to be willing to obey their leadership.
- iii. Deviation which can bring about a new change is known as **Innovation** which includes people who are noble prize winners, creative figures, reformers. Innovation refers to combination of already existing cultural elements in a novel manner. Innovation transforms or updates or creates an invention.
- iv. Lastly, **Idealist Individuals** with exceptional intelligence such as A-Grade students, zealous weight lifters and runners and extreme moralist exemplify supra-conformity.

Factors of Deviance

Social Factors

- i. **Family:** Family considering as the basic institution becomes a central place for a child to learn from surroundings. Everything a child inherits – language, religion, manners, culture and traditions, is part of the ascribed status that an individual achieves. Family's behavior plays a strong role in shaping child's exposure to deviance. For instance, children raised in potentially harsh environment are likely to become subject of conduct problems, substance abuse, depression and deviant behaviors.
- ii. **Peer Group:** Peer group relations have powerful impact on human conduct and can dramatically influence decision making and behavior choices. Having prosocial friends who are committed to conventional success may help shield kids from deviant acts while others may sustain anti-social trends.
- iii. **Politics:** Political deviance can be carried us by those in power, in the name of state or individually or by those struggling to effect social change. Influence of political leaders can drastically increase the rate of deviant acts in a society. The cases of feudal harassment and how political influences assist criminals in getting bailed for harassment, substance abuse and smuggling cases.
- iv. **Education** has an important role in influencing an individual's opportunity for success in society. Non-participation in school level education is a risk factor for later delinquency and criminal activity.
- v. **Religion:** People who are closer to religious beliefs are less likely to engage in antisocial behavior than those who do not.

Economic Factors

Economic Factors: Poor economic conditions in any country are known root causes for deviance.

- i. **Inflation:** The prices of basic necessities are sky high in Pakistan due to which people are turning towards deviant acts such as robbery, theft also bringing negative innovation such as picking pockets to survive, in order to survive in the economy
- ii. **Poverty:** Lack of basic necessities is called poverty. Poverty often theorized as cause of deviant behavior. The poor have limited resources with restricted income to satisfy their desires and needs. The urge to fulfill their dream can take them towards deviant acts. Poverty can also cause retreatism, rejecting both cultural goals and conventional means so that a person in effect “drops out”. Some alcoholics, drug addicts, and street people can be described as retreatants. The deviance of retreatants lies in their unconventional lifestyle and also in what seems to be their willingness to live this way
- iii. **Illiteracy:** High cost of education and unavailability of institutions can cause high rates of illiteracy leading to limited employment opportunities making it difficult for the individual to survive and can also lead to poverty.

Difference between Crime and Deviance

Deviance	Crime
Violation of social norms of a society is called deviance	Violation of state criminal law is called crime
It is prohibited by society	It is prohibited by law
Deviance varies from society to society	Crime varies from state to state
Deviance is not severe in nature	Crime is severe in nature
Rules are not written down	Rules are documented
Society has no power to impose punishments	Law has power to impose punishment
Agents of control from deviance are societal pressure or fear of God	Agents of control from crime are police and judiciary and other law enforcement agencies

Conclusion

- Crime is a breach of rules, or Deviant behavior that violates prevailing norms.
- Types of Crime include; Crime against Person, Crime against Property, Crime against State, Media and Crime.
- Deviance is a behavior which does not conform to society's norms, or it is a violation of formally enacted laws.
- Positive Deviance; Altruism, Charisma, Innovation, Supra-conformity.
- Two factors; Social and Economic that can effect deviance.
- Social factors include; Family, Peer Group, Politics, Education & Religion.
- Economic factors contain; Inflation, Poverty & Illiteracy.
- Crime is severe while Deviance is not.
- Rules are written in crime, while not written in Deviance.
- Deviance is not prohibited, while crime is highly prohibited.

Strategies to Prevent Crime

1. Target Hardening:

- ✓ Making your property harder for an offender to access.
- ✓ Upgrading the locks on your doors, windows, sheds and outbuildings, fitting sash jammers to vulnerable doors and windows.

2. Target Removal:

- ✓ Ensuring that a potential target is out of view, not leaving items on view through your windows – i.e. laptops, phones, keys, bags
- ✓ Putting your vehicle in the garage.

3. Increase the Chances of Being Caught:

- ✓ Increasing the likelihood that an offender will be caught to prevent crime occurring, using good quality CCTV and/or alarm systems, especially on commercial sites and public places.
- ✓ Upgrading security to delay an offender, meaning they have to spend more time to gain access

4. Reducing the Mean:

- ✓ Removing items that may help commit an offence.
- ✓ Not leaving tools and ladders in the garden
- ✓ Keeping wheelie bins out of reach, as they may be a climbing aid or help transport items.

THANK YOU.