

Q. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton?

R.K. Merton (Neo functionalist) propounded theory of Reference Group ~~where~~ in which he explained Conformity and deviance.

- He explained reference group as -
- Membership to the group where individual aspire himself to be and act and behave like non-membership member which further motive him to act or achieve.

- He highlighted Membership & Non-Membership.

- Conformity → When cultural goal meets Institutional goals.

Conformity is a situation when individual is a member of a reference group. It leads to continuity in society fulfilling society's aspiration.

For exo → When a person is individual studies (cultural instituted) and

also get job (institutional goal).

② Person or individual preparing for IAS as cultural goal and achieve institutional goals.

Deviance → When cultural goal does not meet the institutional goals, creates conflict and social changes take place.

• It is a situation when individual aspire for Membership in a reference group but but ends up in Non-membership group.

This creates Deviance, letting individual neither in Membership nor in non-membership.

for ex → Love Marriage.

↳ lower ST & SC placement ^{rate} from IITs etc.

↳ Increasing no. of suicides in all IITs etc.

Despite criticism, R.K. Merton tried to explain how conformity motivates people or group. ~~W~~ Conformity to Constitution, motivating and aspiring every sect of citizen to achieve. Further by studying deviance, policy makers can make policies tackling various issues of society.

- Q What are the reactions of R.K. Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists? Bring on the limitation of latent functions.
- ✶ R.K. Merton refuted classical functionalist, Brownfield & Malinowski.
 - ✶ Acc. to classical functionalist, functions of society are universal and indispensable in nature and have positive consequences only.
 - ✶ R.K. Merton (neo-functionalism) refuted and propounded function & dysfunction theory.
He further classified functions as Manifest and Latent functions.

1) Manifest Functions ⇒ Are the functions that are Intended, Visible and expected social processes and actions.

for ex → a) School → Manifest function → Education

b) THOPI Tribe — Manifest function
↓
Dance for Rain

2) Latent function \Rightarrow Are the functions that are unintended, invisible and not expected social processes and actions.

Ex - School \rightarrow Latent function \rightarrow Gathering of large no. individual

Relationship \rightarrow Manifest function \rightarrow Companionship
 \hookrightarrow Latent function \rightarrow Creating a family.

But there also exist some limitation of latent function -

\rightarrow It is involved with subjectivity and biasness.

\rightarrow It is tough to always differentiate between latent and manifest function.

\rightarrow Latent functions involves different interpretation by different researcher.

Despite above criticism, R.K Merton provided insights into not only manifest function but also latent function, which are helpful in deeper understanding and different aspect of social action and processes.

Q Analyse the manifest and latent functions of 'security of the tenure of the bureaucrats' in the light of Merton's Theory.

Q R K Merton propounded manifest and latent functions of social action or processes refuting classical functionalist, ~~like~~ Brownfield and Malinowski.

Q Acc. to him, society as a functional have both functions and dysfunction.

Q He also throw light on functions of Bureaucracy, from the perspective of both manifest and latent functions.

Q The Manifest functions are as follows →

↳ Independence ⇒ free from political ^{influence} ~~affairs~~.

↳ Job Security

↳ Upholding Democratic ~~politics~~ values

↳ Policy making and implementation

↳ Coordination among diff. departments

are among the various manifest functions of bureaucracy.

↳ Latent functions

↳ Lack of Innovation and Improvisation

- ↳ Non-responsive to citizens sometimes
- ↳ Alienation from Masses
- ↳ Apathetic to large masses issues
- ↳ Conformity to superordinates for future opportunities.

Are the various latent functions of 'security of the tenure of the bureaucrats'.

From the above theory we can conclude that every ^{action} ~~functions~~ have both functions and dysfunctions at the same time, which can further make that action positive, recognise and valid but also unrecognised and unintended creating differing situations and scenerior.

RK Merton's theory can be useful for analyzing different aspects of particular action and deeper understanding.