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Download Free Unit 2 Crime And Deviance Mass Media Power Social Pdf File Free
Theories of crime and deviance in sociology involve the study of social deviance, which is any behavior that violates cultural norms in either formal or informal contexts. Social deviance is a phenomenon that has existed in all societies where there have been norms for social strain. Theorists have developed four main sociological theories of deviance: the first is the strain theory developed by Durkheim.

Chapter 7: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control

The concept of deviance and crime is learned from the environment and enforced or discouraged by those around us. The study of deviance is to understand the violation of cultural norms in either formal or informal contexts. Social deviance is a phenomenon that has existed in all societies where there have been norms for social strain.

Durkheim on deviance

Durkheim viewed deviance as a form of social control, and he proposed that the strain between the individual's desires and the society's norms can lead to deviant behavior. The strain theory suggests that people develop a sense of anomie, or normlessness, when the rules for behavior are unclear or inconsistent, which can lead to deviant behavior.

Labelling theory

Labelling theory suggests that deviance is a social construction, and that society's reactions to certain behaviors can transform them into deviant acts. According to this theory, deviance is not inherent in the act itself, but is defined by how society responds to it. The label of deviant can be self-fulfilling, as the person labeled as deviant may begin to adopt the behavior expected of them by society.

Self-control theory

The self-control theory suggests that deviance is caused by a lack of self-control, which can be developed or instilled by parents or caregivers. The theory proposes that individuals who were inadequate parents before the age of ten develop less self-control than individuals who have been adequately parented.

Social norms

Social norms are rules that are accepted and enforced by society. They can be formalized by laws or informalized through social pressure. Social norms can be violated by deviant behavior, which can be criminal or non-criminal. Violations of social norms can be punished by institutions such as the police, the justice system, prisons, and schools. The family and religion are also there to encourage conformity to social norms.

Primary deviance

Primary deviance is deviance that occurs before society's reaction and labeling of the individual engaging in the behavior. Examples of primary deviance include acting out or breaking norms before the labels of deviant or criminal have been applied.

Secondary deviance

Secondary deviance occurs as a response to society's reaction and labeling of the individual engaging in the deviant behavior. Secondary deviance can involve a range of behaviors, such as conforming to the deviant label, seeking to escape stigma, or attempting to restore a sense of normalcy.

Deviance and crime in society

Deviance and crime are intertwined in society, and understanding them requires an examination of both formal and informal norms. Social norms can be enforced by institutions, and deviant behavior can lead to sanctions from these institutions. On the other hand, informal norms can be enforced by peer pressure or social disapproval, and deviant behavior can lead to ostracization or rejection.

The dark figure of crime

The dark figure of crime refers to the amount of unreported or undiscovered crime. This gap between reported and unreported crimes can affect the accuracy of crime statistics and the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies.

Theories of deviance

There are several theories of deviance that have been developed by sociologists, including the strain theory, the labelling theory, and the self-control theory. Each theory offers a different perspective on why people engage in deviant behavior and how society responds to it.

Classical explanations

Classical explanations of deviance focus on the costs and benefits of deviant behavior. Punishment and avoidance of punishment can be factors that influence deviant behavior.

Social control theories

Social control theories suggest that deviant behavior is prevented by the fear of punishment and the desire for approval from others. These theories propose that deviant behavior is less likely when individuals perceive that the costs of deviance exceed the benefits.

Labeling theories

Labeling theories suggest that deviant behavior is defined by the social reactions to it. The label of deviant can be self-fulfilling, and the identity of the deviant may be shaped by society's reaction to the deviant behavior.

Sociocultural explanations

Sociocultural explanations of deviance focus on the role of culture and social context in shaping deviant behavior. These explanations propose that deviant behavior is more likely when cultural norms and social expectations are unclear or inconsistent.

Conclusion

Deviance and crime are complex phenomena that involve a range of individual, social, and cultural factors. Understanding deviance and crime requires an examination of both the causes and the consequences of deviant behavior, as well as the social reactions and responses to it.

Further reading

For more information on deviance and crime, I recommend reading works by Durkheim, Merton, and Goffman, as well as contemporary sociologists who study deviance and crime. Additionally, there are numerous resources available online, including articles, books, and academic journals that provide in-depth analyses of deviance and crime.

Resources


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