

Sociology

Deviance

Behaviors, actions, or conditions that violate the norms or expectations of a particular society or social group.

They are relative - not bad or wrong, depends on time and culture e.g., civil rights activist, drinking alcohol etc.

- **Deviance** is simply any violation of society's norms. Deviance can range from something minor, such as a traffic violation, something more complex.
- What is regarded as deviant can shift from time to time and place to place; normal behavior in one culture setting may be labelled deviant in another culture.
- Cheating, dishonesty, corruption, gambling, drunkenness, being late in class, wearing jeans in formal settings.

Deviance

- **What is deviant in one culture may be celebrated in another. For example- being fat is considered a mark of beauty. Part of coming-of-age calls for young girls to spend a month in 'fattening room'. Among Nigerians, being thin at this point in the life course is deviant.**

- ***Horton*** *and Hunt* ***define****: "It is any failure to conform to customary norms".*
- *Louise Weston says: "Behavior that is contrary to the standards of conduct or social expectations of a given group or society"*

Deviance

- Deviance varies according to cultural norms

Example: Cuba bans personal computers
Vietnam no meeting with foreigners
Malaysia does not allow women to wear tight-fitting jeans
Saudi Arabia bans the sale of red flowers on Valentine's Day and
Iran bans wearing makeup by women and forbids anyone from playing rap music (Chopra, 2008).

Deviance and Social Stigma

Society labels individual as socially unacceptable due to certain characteristics. Self-stigma is when stigmatized individual may internalize this negative label leading to shame or reduced self-worth.

- ***While deviance can include relatively minor day-of-day decisions about our personal behavior, in some cases it can be become a part of a person's identity. This process is called stigmatization.***
- ***Example: prevailing expectations about beauty and body shape may prevent people who are regarded as ugly or obese from advancing as rapidly as their ability permits.***

- ***Feminist sociologists have accurately noted that the beauty myth makes many women feel uncomfortable with themselves, men too lack confidence in their appearance.***

Deviance and Gender

In 2009, several women in Sudan were convicted of "dressing indecently." The punishment was imprisonment and, in several cases, ten lashes. The crime was wearing trousers (BBC, 2009).

Every society has stricter controls on women than on men.

Use different standards to judge the behaviour of females and males. In the past, at least, men who harassed or assaulted women were labelled only mildly deviant and sometimes escaped punishment entirely.

Deviance and technology

- ***Technological innovation has redefined social interaction and the standard of the behavior. Some deviants acts are beginning to provoke calls for the establishment of formal rules for online behavior. For example: policy maker have debated whether to regulate the content of Web sites featuring hate speech.***
- ***Downloading music from the internet which is typically protected by copyright accepted. But file sharing like pirating of CDs, and DVDs, has grown to the point that it is threatening the profits of the copyright owner.***

Deviance is a complex concept. Sometimes it is accepted by the societies and sometimes soundly rejected.

Technologies and Method of cybercrime

- ***Hacking and Internet Frud***
- ***Malware and Spooning***
- ***Denial od service(DoS) attacks***
- ***Phishing and Scam***
- ***Ransomware attack***
- ***Harassment and cyberstalking***
- ***Malicious distribution***
- ***Anonymous sharing***
- ***Revenge porn etc.***

Cyber crime in Bangladesh

Hacking of RAB, Police websites during Quota Reform Protest 2024; while law-wise a crime, it was accepted as positive deviance by the public.

According to Cyber Support for Women data, 12641 complaints were filed till October 2021 related to fake IDs, ID hacking, obscene content.

Bangladesh Bank cyber heist

RAB website hacked

Telegram based child pornography 'Pom Pom' group.

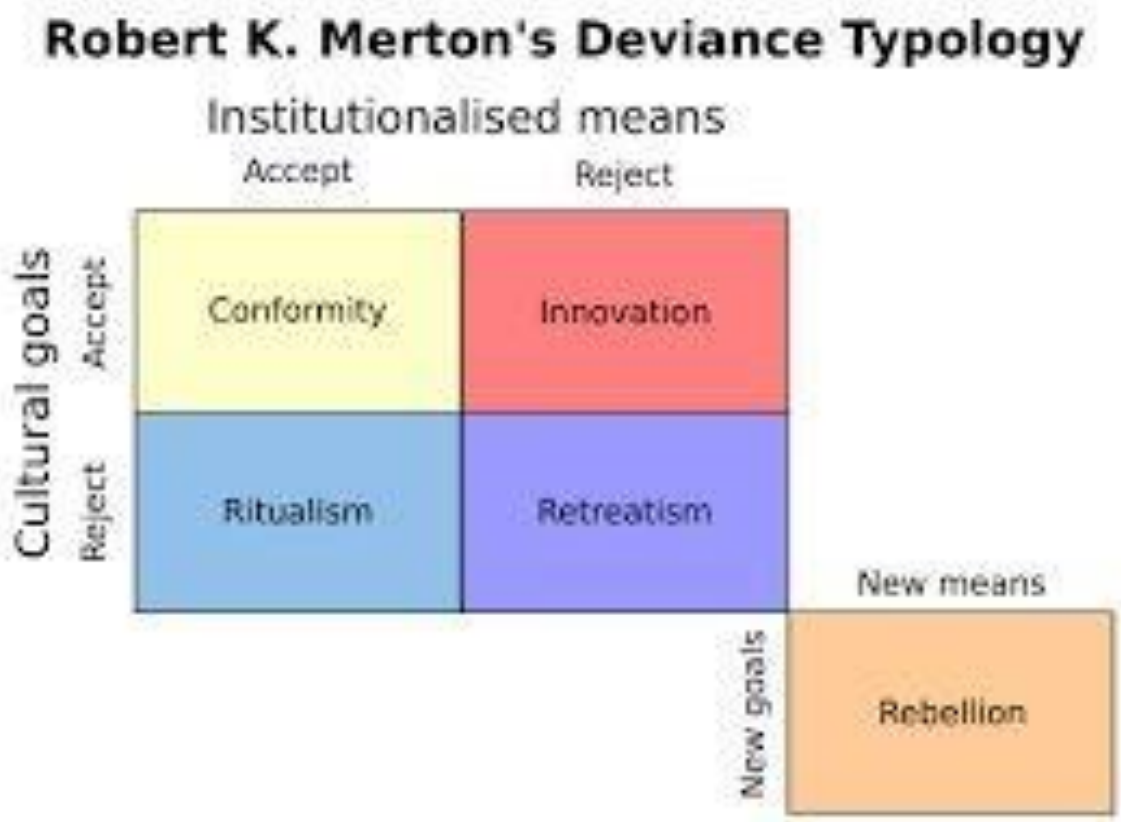
Anomie Theory

- Robert Merton's theory of anomie suggests:
  - Deviance arises when people striving to achieve culturally valued goals lack the legitimate means (ways) to attain these goals.
  - People who strive to attain a legitimate goal but are denied access to the legitimate means experience **anomie**.

Merton's Theory of Deviance

According to Merton, there are five types of deviance based on these criteria: **conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion**.

when society sets cultural goals (like wealth) but provides unequal means to achieve them, individuals may turn to deviance to meet these goals.


Robert K. Merton's Deviance Typology
Institutionalised means
Accept
Reject
Cultural goals
Accept
Reject
Conformity
Innovation
Ritualism
Retreatism
New means
New goals
Rebellion

Definitions

CRIME: behaviour that breaks the formal laws of a given society. The punishment of crime will be more severe than the punishment of deviance.

DEVIANCE: behaviour that deviates or moves or away from norms of society. It is considered abnormal. Deviant behaviour is considered unacceptable but depending on the context it may be viewed differently by some.

SOCIAL CONTROL: ensures people conform to social rules and societies accepted norms and values. Done through formal and informal agencies of social control.

SOCIAL ORDER: refers to the patterns and regularities in life.

Sociological definition

- A more comprehensive sociological definition of crime was offered by Julia and Herman Schwendinger (1975):
- **"Crime encompasses any harmful acts, including violations of fundamental prerequisites for well-being (such as food, shelter, clothing, medical service, challenging work and recreational experiences, as well as security from predatory individuals or repressive and imperialistic elites."**

DEVIANCE VERSUS CRIME

DEVIANCE	CRIME
Violation of social norms and standards	Violation of governmental criminal laws
Can be criminal or not criminal	Always punishable criminal offenses
Examples include marrying under age, prostitution, walking naked in the street	Examples include murder, robbery
Not punishable by law	Punishable by law
Deviant rules not written	Criminal laws well-documented
Not severe	Can be severe
Differs from one society to the other	Often the same between societies but penalties differ considerably

DifferenceBetween.net

Factors Facilities Crime and Deviance

- **Socialization**
- **Weak sanctions**
- **Poor enforcement**
- **Corruption enforcement**
- **Subculture support of deviance**
- **Sentiments of loyalty of deviant group**
- **Secrecy of the violation**
- **Thinking as rational**

Types of Crime

- ***Violent crime –crime against person***
- ***Property crime --- crime against property including burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, and arson.***
- ***Blue collar crime***
- ***White collar crime***
- ***Corporate crime***
- ***Organized crime***
- ***Cybercrime describes***
- ***Hate Crime***

White-collar and Corporate Crime

- ***White-collar and corporate crime refers to crimes carried out by those in the more affluent sectors of society.***
- ***The consequences of such crime can be more far reaching than petty crimes of the poor, but there is less attention paid to them by law enforcement.***
- ***Organized crime refers to institutionalized forms of criminal activity, in which many of the characteristics of orthodox organizations appear, but the activities engaged in are systematically illegal.***
- ***Cybercrime describes criminal activity that carried out with the help of information technology, such as electronic money-laundering and internet fraud.***

Modern Technologies and White Collar Crime (WCC)

 # Edwin Hardin Sutherland coined the term in 1939.
WCC criminals belong to upper socio-economic class who violate the rules and regulations of profession for economic gain.
 # Done by professionals.
 # It is not ancient type of crime.
 # Nonviolent crimes
 # Related to modernity and industrialization
 # Inherent characteristics of getting more than others
 # Different from BCC.

Common WWC in Bangladesh

- ***Fraud***
- ***Blackmail***
- ***Bribery***
- ***Embezzlement***
- ***Counterfeiting***
- ***Forgery***
- ***Tax invasion***
- ***Adulteration***
- ***Money laundering***

Impacts of WCC

1. Dangerous to society
2. Economic misbalance
3. Adverse effects on future generation

Causes of WCC in Bangladesh

1. ***Not understandable/realizable***
2. ***Unawareness of people***
3. ***For Greediness***
4. ***Necessity***
5. ***For Social and economic changes***
6. ***Family pressure***
7. ***Passiveness of government etc…***

Impacts of technologies in Crime and Deviance

New technologies create the path of new opportunities for crime.

Dual impacts: Both positive and negative

Cybercrime, Fraud, Cyberstalking, harassment, cyber attacks

Example: The Internet has huge information– criminals can collect information for weapons, drugs etc.

ATM card—scam

Banking sector—illegal transactions-hacker etc.

Positive impacts of modern technologies in crime and deviance

1. Surveillance cameras
2. Tracing the callers easily
3. Electronic monitoring
4. Introduction of emergency/ hotline number for help.
5.Mobile Apps
6.Biometric and crime database
7. Forensic analysis

Steps for reducing deviance and crime

- ***Awareness build-up program for cybercrime***
- ***Education***
- ***Reduce social inequality and poverty***
- ***Law enforcement***
- ***Community-based strategies***
- ***CCTV***

Functionalist theory of Crime and Deviance

- ***Functionalist theories see crime and deviance as produced by structural tensions and lack of moral regulations within society.***
- ***Durkheim introduced the term 'anomie' to refer to a feeling of anxiety and disorientation that comes with the breakdown of traditional life in modern society.***
- ***Durkheim made the remarkable assertion that there is nothing abnormal about deviance, in fact, it fact it supports the operation of society in four ways.***

Functionalist theory of Crime and Deviance

1. ***Deviance affirms cultural value and norms*:** ***Deviance is indispensable to the process of generating and sustaining morality.*** there is nothing abnormal about deviance. No good without evil, no justice without crime
2. ***Responding to deviance clarifies moral boundaries:*** ***By defining people as deviant, people draw a social boundary between right and wrong.*** : For example, a college marks the line between academic honesty and cheating by disciplining students who cheat on exams.

Functionalist theory of Crime and Deviance

3. Responding to deviance promotes social unity: ***People typically react to serious deviance with collective outrange.*** they reaffirm the moral ties that bind them.

4.Deviance encourages social change: ***Today's deviance sometimes become tomorrow's morality.*** Today's deviance, declared Durkheim, can become tomorrow's morality (1964b:71, orig. 1895). For example, rock-and-roll, hip -hop became a multibillion-dollar industry now.

Deviance is thus not a matter of a few "bad apples" but a necessary condition of "good" social living.

Conflict theory

- ***Conflict theories demonstrate how deviance reflects social inequality. It analyses crime and deviance in terms of society, competing interest between social groups, and the preservation of power among elites. It links deviance in three ways.***

1. ***The norms especially the laws of any society generally reflects the interests of the rich and powerful. People who threaten the wealthy either by seizing their property or by advocating a more egalitarian society, come to tagged as 'common thieves' or 'political radicals'. Marx argued that the law tends to support the interest of rich. Richard Quinney said, 'Capitalist justice is by the capitalist class, for the capitalist class, and against the working class."***

Conflict theory

2.The powerful have the resources to resist deviant labels. Corporate executives who order the dumping of hazardous wastes are rarely held personally accountable for these acts.

3.We may condemn the unequal application of the law but give little thought to whether the laws themselves are inherently fair.

Conflict theory

People become deviant as others define them that way. How societies set norms and how they define rule-breaking both involve social power

Example: powerful people protect their interests by law. A homeless person Vs mayoral candidate during an election campaign

Deviance is political: People with little power are at high risk of being labeled deviant.

Social welfare and criminal justice systems blame individuals, not the system, for social problems

the ways societies regulate individual behavior to maintain order and conformity to social norms.

Social Control

- To **Ogburn** and **Nimkoff** “the patterns of pressure which a society exerts to maintain order and established rules” is social control. ... In fact, social control may be defined as any influence which the society exerts upon its members for the purpose of providing the welfare of the group as a whole.

Types of Social Control

Informal Social Controls

- everyday expectations
- -ie: stares, talk, ridicule, threats

Formal Social Controls

- actions violate important social values and threaten social order and well-being.
- written down in Canada's Criminal Code
- -ie: law courts, prisons, psychiatric hospitals, sports rules, school rules

Agents of Social Control

- *Control by law*
- *Control by education*
- *Control by the public opinion*
- *Control by coercion*
- *Controls by customs and miscellaneous norms*
- *Control by religion*
- *Control by morality*
- *Control by sanction*

References

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