

CHAPTER

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Deviance and Social Control

CHAPTER OUTLINE

• Deviance • Deviation Varies from Person to Person • Deviation and Culture • Deviation and Society • Deviation and Social Change
 • Deviation and Law • Causes of Deviance • Social Control • Types or Agencies of Social Control • Steps to Attain Social Control

DEVIANCE

INTRODUCTION

Deviance is violation of norms. Deviance is breaking the norms of society. Deviance is breaking social manners, social code of conduct in business and mutual agreements between the parties. It is against the social manners of family and marriage. It is the breaking of promise and breaking the law of state like committing crimes. Any violation of norm is Deviance. It is natural that man deviates from norms. This deviation when grows serious it is a problem. If it is ordinary there is no problem. Hundred percent control on behaviour of man is impossible.

Definitions:

Definitions of Deviance given by social scientists are given below.

Horton and Hunt define: "any failure to conform to customary norms is called Deviance".

Louise Weston says: "behaviour that is contrary to the standards of conduct or social expectations of a given group or society define as Deviance".

Ian Robertson mentioned Deviance as: "behaviour that violates significant social norms and is disapproved by large numbers of people as result".

The behaviour belonging to Deviance is called deviant behaviour. Violation of religious norms is also Deviance. Signals of road crossing broken by the driver is a deviant behaviour. General violation of social customs of marriage is also Deviance. Disobeying parents and being absent from duty in service are also deviant behaviors. Telling a lie, abusing other and breaking promise are also deviant behaviors.

Obedience to norms is conforming. People following norms from fear of punishment or for better life is called social control. Control is obedience to norms. Fulfillment of needs of people through institutions is social control. Getting protection, affection and need satisfaction in family, education from college, income from business and service creates social control among the people. The agencies of social control are police, court, jail, family, education and religious institutions.

DEVIATION VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON

All the people are not deviant equally. The degree of deviation varies from man to man. Some are more deviant than others. Some people get into high rate of deviation and become criminal. They are punished by courts and sentenced to imprisonment.

Delinquent behavior is not equally evident in all cases. Some cases are detected and reported to the police, some are detected but are let free after mild admonish and a large number of them remain hidden.

DEVIATION AND CULTURE

Deviation of norms is the violation of cultural ways of living. The customs, rituals and conventions of a culture are broken when there is deviation by the people.

DEVIATION AND SOCIETY

Deviation of norms happens in society. By this act the bonds of social groups are broken. The society faces disorganization which leads to disintegration and chaos. The function of institutions and groups is affected. Social problems of unrest among people develop. Social control is paralyzed and the social order loses balance. Deviation of norms creates a host of problems in a society.

DEVIATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Deviation is breaking of social norms. This creates social problems. The society attempts to solve these problems by changing laws according to the requirements of society. This process brings about social changes.

DEVIATION AND LAW

The nature and extent of deviation of norms depends upon the nature and extent of the laws. The type of law enforced gives us the type of crime on its violation. One hundred type of laws enforced in a society give one hundred type of crime at least.

On deviation of law the offenders are punished and mostly put in jails. Law is an engine of social control. On its deviation the social control is disrupted. There is disorganization in society.

The deviation of religious laws is called sin. The deviation of customs and rituals is called vice and the deviation of social laws is called crime. Theft, murder, abduction and forgery are crime, sin and vice as well.

CAUSES OF DEVIANCE

It is the failure of learning of norms which creates Deviance. Socializing institutions fail to perform their roles. The learning of norms is the basis of obedience to norms. The following are

institutions of socialization of norms in which the personality of individual develops. These are also the agencies of social control.

i. Broken Family and Improper Socialization: Family is the first institution teaching norms of social life. Parents play important role in this process. Siblings are the second to socialize their members of family. If both or one of the parents is absent by death or other reason, the child fails to get proper learning, required affection and needs satisfaction in the family. He becomes disturbed emotionally and seeks protection in the company of others outside the family. He learns anti-social activities like smoking, gambling, pick pocketing, abusing, telling lie and deceiving others in association of bad neighborhood. He gets into the habit of Deviance and becomes delinquent. Delinquency enters into his social life. He becomes criminal in adulthood and gets into the company of big criminals. Here the family fails in socializing its children.

ii. Lack of interest in Education: School and college are the next socializing institutions of education. If he does not take interest in study, it means his attention has been diverted toward anti-social activities. His associates are not good citizens. The family training has not been effective upon him. He needs correction by persuasion and by force.

iii. Lack of Religious education and morality: Mosque, religious education of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah create moral values in the individual. Manners of social life based on good and bad, right and wrong develop during social relations in these institutions. Norms of good conduct forbid man from wrong doings. Delinquency is hated by the one who acts upon the norms of these religious teachings. Failure to seek religious education paves way toward delinquency. Door of moral value closes opens the door to delinquency. If morality fails to direct toward normative way of life the way to delinquent behaviour becomes easy. Failure of religious and moral values is the main cause of immoral behaviour and delinquency.

iv. Rejection by Neighborhood: Neighborhood consists of a number of houses adjoining together to meet the needs of collective living. It is great socializing institution by frankly living with security and service together. A cluster of families in street line provide social education to the members of neighborhood. All live an informal life. What was to be learnt in this settlement if remains without learning creates a gap in socialization and the personality. This gap leaves defects in the learning process of the individual. Socialization of social norms remains incomplete with the result of abnormal activities. Such actions are deviant with a violation of social norms.

v. Lack of basic facilities: Humans strive for attaining peace and ease in social life. This objective is achieved through having basic facilities i.e. electricity, gas, telephone, air condition, better health opportunity, schooling of children etc. There are many who use wrong ways like crime, robbery, theft, dacoit, selling of drugs just to have access to modern facilities. This desire to have facilities at any cost cause social deviance.

vi. Declining moral and religious values: Rapid modern industrialization has reduced importance of moral and religious values in the eyes of the people. And economics at the cost of morality and values have become normative. This situation caused social deviance specially in youth.

vii. Desire of Accumulation of Wealth: Desire to have accumulation of wealth by hook or by crook is also one of the main cause of social deviance. People with out any fear join illegal

profession like drug selling, land grabbing, smuggling and taking bribe which are deviant and criminal acts.

viii. **Parentless child:** Absence of parents is chaotic for children. Parentless children are vulnerable by four corners. Their needs like education, food, socializations are not properly met and hence they become deviant.

ix. **Mass Media:** Mass media is the main force of making public opinion and socializing people. We get guidance from it in every walks of life. Negative use of it is harmful for youth and specially for teenagers. Usually, those teens and youth who misuse it are found in drug addiction, immoral and unethical activities. Teenagers learn new techniques of crime from movies, dramas and other related programs.

x. **Urban slums:** Criminologists in their researches have proved that urban slums and narrow gorges are also sanctuaries of social deviance and crime.

SOCIAL CONTROL

INTRODUCTION

Deviance needs to be controlled specially the heinous offences like murder, abduction, dacoit, robbery, terrorism, theft, and women dishonor. Minor crimes also require control. Social customs, rituals, ceremonies and good manners when broken, create disturbance in social life. Control on this violation is also an aim of society.

Definitions

Social control is defined hereunder:

Bruce J. Cohen and Terri L. Orbuch define: "all means and methods used to induce a person to conform to expectations of a group or society is called social control".

According to C.N. Shankar Rao social control: "refers to various means by which a group or society attempts to achieve social order".

TYPES OR AGENCIES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

Social Control can be classified into two major types on the basis of the *means* of social control that are employed.

(i) **Formal control**, and

(ii) **Informal control**.

(i) **Formal Control.** The state makes use of *law, legislation, military force, police force, administrative devices, etc.*, for the purpose of social control. Similarly, different political, religious, economic, cultural and other associations and institutions also institute formal control over the behaviour of the members. Formal control is deliberately created. Various rules are laid down to make it specific. The necessity of following formal control or rules is clearly stated by associations and institutions. Violators of formal control are given punishments depending upon the nature and type of violation. The organization that makes use of formal control may even create a body of officials vested with power to enforce control as we find it in the case of state which has

established the police, military force, etc. In brief, an association, whether it is a state or a bank, or an army, or a factory or any thing has its own norms through which it controls the behaviour of the members. All these come under formal control. Formal control has become a necessity in the modern complex societies in which interaction is mostly impersonal in nature.

(ii) Informal Control. Informal Control includes *gossip, slander, resentment, public opinion, sympathy, sense of justice, folkways, mores, customs, religion, morality* and such other agents. These are not purposefully created. Nothing could be said with certainty regarding their origin. They arise on their own way and in course of time gain currency and popularity. They become deep-rooted with people in their practices. No specific punishment would be given to the violators of informal control. Still they are more effective than the formal control. They do not require any extra staff to enforce them as it is so in the case of formal control. They do not have the physical force to enforce conformity to them. Hence, people may not observe them or go against them without being physically punished for the same. Faith in religion, moral convictions, public opinion, artistic standard, and the general state of enlightenment are found to be more important in informal control.

Informal control is more effective in primary social groups such as family, neighborhood, tribe, rural community where interaction takes place on a personal basis. Whenever the group or the society becomes larger (in terms of population) and more complex, the informal devices of control become less effective. Simple gossip and slander and censure can correct an erring ruralite but not an urban citizen. The anonymity of city life which has added to the confidence of the individual that he could commit an offence without being noticed or caught by others who are mostly engaged in their own business, contributes to the non-effectiveness of informal control. Hence informal methods have given place to the formal ones such as law, education, coercion and codes, though less effective informal control also functions along with formal control in urban areas in regulating people's activities.

STEPS TO ATTAIN SOCIAL CONTROL

Some of the important steps to increase social control on individuals are as hereunder.

i. Socialization of parents: Parents must be trained for better enforcement of social norms. Importance of social norms should be sensitized to the parents, so that they could enforce these to their children more effectively and forcefully.

ii. Model orphanage homes: Parentless children are at stake and are most vulnerable group. Model orphanage must be developed for boarding and lodging to the orphans. Religious and technical education should be given to them under one roof. Government of Punjab has set up a "Child Protection and Welfare Bureau" in this regard. Main objective of this bureau is to discourage professional children beggars and rehabilitate them socially and economically. Such steps should be taken more effectively.

iii. Protection of lost and kidnapped children: Lost and kidnapped children must be protected and brought to their concerning agencies and then to their parents. For this, proper and effective mechanism should be established. *Negehban*, an institution of *Social Welfare Department* is fulfilling the purpose. This model should be replicated in all the districts with dedication and

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commitment.

iv. Socialization of beggars and unemployed: Beggars and unemployed should be given technical education and training for setting up small business. For this, small and soft loan should be given to them on long term basis. It is very much important because researches have proved that beggary and unemployment are the major causes of crime and deviance.

v. Recreational activities: Recreational activities for the people should be given. Parks, business centers and family play land should be constructed so that people could spend their free time and socializes their children in proper manner.

vi. Education: People should be educated about importance of norms. For this, effective media campaign should be initiated. Illiterate should be given formal education along with technical education.

vii. Correction of Offenders: Criminals who are under trial and convicted in jail should be corrected by initiating correctional and rehabilitative programs. Religious and technical education along with character building should be given to them.

viii. Religious education: Religious education should be given to the masses. Importance of religious norms, tolerance and patience should be encouraged by the government.

ix. Role of media: Media is the only source which can change thinking direction of the people. To reduce social deviance and increase social control, this should be used by starting an effective campaign related to the objective.



SHORT QUESTIONS EXERCISES

1. How sociologists define social deviance?
2. Do you think that deviance is a social problem?
3. What are the socio-cultural causes of deviance in Pakistan?
4. What do you mean by social control?
5. Differentiate between formal and informal social control.
6. What are types of social control? Briefly explain.
7. Suggest some measures to attain social control.

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

1. What is Deviance? Explain its causes.
2. How Deviance is a social problem of Pakistan? Suggest its solution.
3. What is social control? Describe its formal and informal agencies briefly.

