

Do Now

Why would a teenage boy lock himself in his room and hide from society?

Does this type of behavior violate any societal norms?

Deviance

10-20-10


Agenda

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11. (if time) HW Time

Objectives

Content:

SWBAT

1. **Explain** the criteria sociologists use to label a person as a deviant
 2. **Explain** the social functions of deviance
 3. **Explain** how each of the three main sociological perspectives each explain deviance?
- 

Language:

By

1. **Note-taking** and **discussing** with a partner
2. **Note-taking** and **discussing** with a partner
3. **Note-taking** and **discussing** with a partner

Deviance: Big Ideas

Main Idea

Deviance, which is behavior that violates social norms, serves a purpose in society. Sociologists have many theories to explain deviant behavior.

Deviance

- Deviance is any behavior that violates significant social norms.
- Deviance can serve positive functions, such as clarifying norms, unifying the group, diffusing tension, promoting social change, and providing jobs.
- Functionalists, conflict theorists, and interactionists offer different theories to explain deviance.



Retreating from Society

**Why would a teenage boy
lock himself in his room and
hide from society?**

The Nature of Deviance

Deviance: (Behavior that violates significant social norms)

Violating Norms

- Some norms deal with fairly insignificant behaviors.
- Because there are so many norms, occasional violations are unavoidable.
- Behaviors deemed deviant differ across times, cultures, and situations.
 - What is considered deviant in one context may not be considered deviant in another
 - Ex: -killing someone vs. death penalizing someone ▼

The Label of Deviance

- To be labeled deviant:
 - Individuals must be repeatedly caught committing a deviant act and be stigmatized by society. ▼
 - A **stigma**: (a mark of social disgrace that sets the deviant apart from the rest of society).
 - Could be a physical mark (prison suit), but Sociologists usually refer to the negative social reactions from being labeled deviant.
 - Used to identify repeat offenders
- One may immediately be labeled “deviant” if they commit an extremely negative act
 - Ex: murder, rape, robbery, etc.

Reading Check

Analyze

1. **Explain** the criteria sociologists use to label a person as a deviant

Answer: *Sociologists label behavior as deviant after they have repeatedly committed deviant acts or immediately after they commit an extremely deviant act .*

Social Functions of Deviance (Deviance's Job in Society)

Deviance has some uses in society

- Serves to define the boundaries of acceptable behavior
 - Ex: someone steals (violates a norm) → they get caught → others learn stealing = unacceptable
- Punishment of deviance can prevent others from same deviance
 - Ex: I see someone get caught for stealing → I decide not to steal
- Draws lines of society and “outsiders”
 - Ex: I see someone dressed in a loin-cloth → I realize they are most likely not American
- Displays of minor deviance diffuse tensions and identify problems in society
 - Ex: I have a problem with the U.S. government, so I feel tension → I decide to protest (protest is a form of deviance) → my tension is gone
- Provides legitimate jobs such as lawyers and police
 - Ex: if there was no deviance → no one would be violating societies norms → no one needs to face sanctions from the cops or protect themselves from sanctions by hiring a lawyer

Reading Check

Summarize

Explain three different social function of deviance.

Answer: *It helps to clarify norms, unify the group, diffuse tension, and promote social change. It also creates jobs, defines the boundaries of acceptable behavior, and draws the line between conforming and nonconforming members of society.*

Explaining Deviance

The three sociological perspectives explain the causes and uses of deviance.

Functionalist Perspective

- **Strain theory (Robert K Merton):**
deviance is a natural and functional part of society
- Deviance results from pressure on individuals to meet expectations that they can't meet due to lack of resources
 - Ex: you must buy your own house but you lack the resource of Education and Money → you rob someone/sell drugs/do something else deviant to try to meet that expectation
- Five “modes of adaptation,” or reactions to societal norms

MERTON'S STRAIN THEORY OF DEVIANCE

**QUICK
FACTS**

Merton suggested five responses to the strain that individuals feel when they attempt to meet the cultural goal of economic success through the approved norm of hard work.

Mode of Adaptation	Method of Adaptation	Seeks Culture's Goals	Follows Culture's Norms
Conformity	Accepts cultural goals and pursues them through culturally approved ways	Yes	Yes
Innovation	Accepts cultural goals but uses disapproved ways of achieving them	Yes	No
Ritualism	Abandons cultural goals but continues to follow society's norms	No	Yes
Retreatism	Abandons cultural goals and the approved ways of achieving them	No	No
Rebellion	Challenges cultural goals and norms and substitutes new ones	No—tries to replace	No—tries to replace

Skills Focus **INTERPRETING CHARTS** Using the chart and what you've learned from your reading, identify the modes of adaptation represented in pictures A and B at right.



Conflict Perspective

- **Main idea:** Competition and inequality lead to deviance
- Sees social life as a struggle between the ruling classes and lower classes
- Says people commit deviant acts to gain or maintain power
- Ruling class deems any behavior that threatens its power as deviant

Interactionist Perspective

- **Main idea:** interaction amongst individuals influences deviance
- 3 major explanations:
 1. control theory
 2. cultural transmission theory
 3. labeling theory
- **Control theory:** states that deviance is normal and studies why people conform; states that people conform when they have strong ties to the community

Interactionist Perspective (continued)

- **2. Cultural transmission theory:**
 - deviance is a learned behavior;
 - deviants are socialized into deviant behavior instead of acceptable behavior
 - individuals will adopt the behavior and goals of whomever they are in contact with
 - **Differential association:** the relative closeness to deviant and non-deviant individuals
- **3. Labeling theory:** focuses on how people come to be labeled “deviant;” suggests there are two types of deviance
 - **Primary deviance:** occasional violation of norms; neither self nor society labels person “deviant”
 - **Secondary deviance:** deviance as a lifestyle; both self and society label person “deviant”

Perspectives on Deviance

Functionalist Perspective Deviance is a natural part of society. It serves positive functions, such as clarifying social norms, as well as negative ones. Deviance results from the strain of goals incompatible with the available means of achieving them.

Conflict Perspective Deviance is a result of competition and social inequality. People with power commit deviant acts to hold on to power. They also label as deviant behavior that threatens them. Those without power commit deviant acts to obtain economic rewards or to relieve their feelings of powerlessness.

Interactionist Perspective Interaction among individuals influences deviance. Control theory suggests that strong social bonds make people conform to norms and refrain from deviance. Cultural transmission theory proposes that deviance is a learned behavior. Labeling theory examines how individuals are identified as deviant.

Reading Check

Contrast

How do the sociological perspectives view deviance differently?

Answer: *Some focus on why individuals perform deviant acts, and others focus on how individuals come to be identified as deviants.*

Closing

Main Idea

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