

Question.

'Suicide varies inversely with the degree of integration of the social group of which the individual forms a part', Discuss Durkheim's theory of suicide as egoistic, altruistic, anomic and fatalistic?

Introduction - Definition of Suicide:

"Suicide refers to every case of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative death performed by victim himself and which strives to produce this result" ~ Emile Durkheim

Suicide indicates the something which is disorganized in society or in individual. The victim also knows the consequences of the suicide. Durkheim has clearly mentioned the theory of suicide in his book named "Suicide".

Brief Evaluation of Theory of Suicide:

"It is a monumental work study in which conceptual theories and combined research theories combined in an imposing manner." ~ C.A. Moser.

Indication of Extreme form of Realism:
The real cause of death is social

Integration and social regulation.

Theory Based on Statistical Data:

Emile Durkheim collected statistical data for his research purpose because he thought that there is no real cause of death in psychological, economic conditions.

Example. If person is in depression and tried to attempt suicide then the cause of his death is social integration and social regulation. Psychological condition does not matter.

Ignore other Factors except Social Integration:

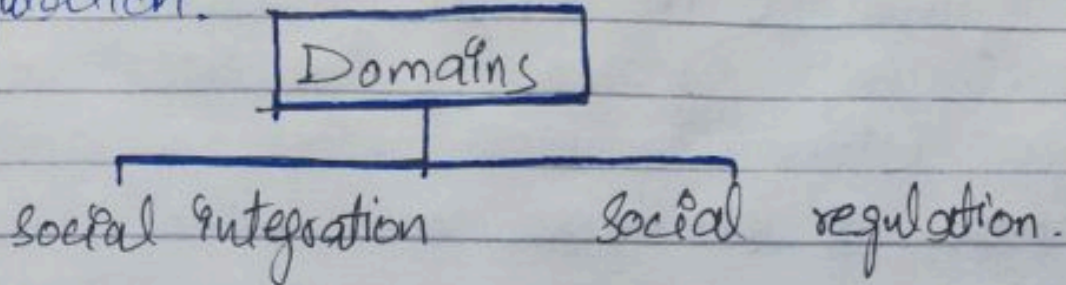
He did not consider psychological, climate, economic factors as a cause of suicide.

THEORY OF SUICIDE:

This theory was proposed by actual father of sociology Emile Durkheim. He first time introduced this theory in his book "Suicide". He also further categorize these this theory.

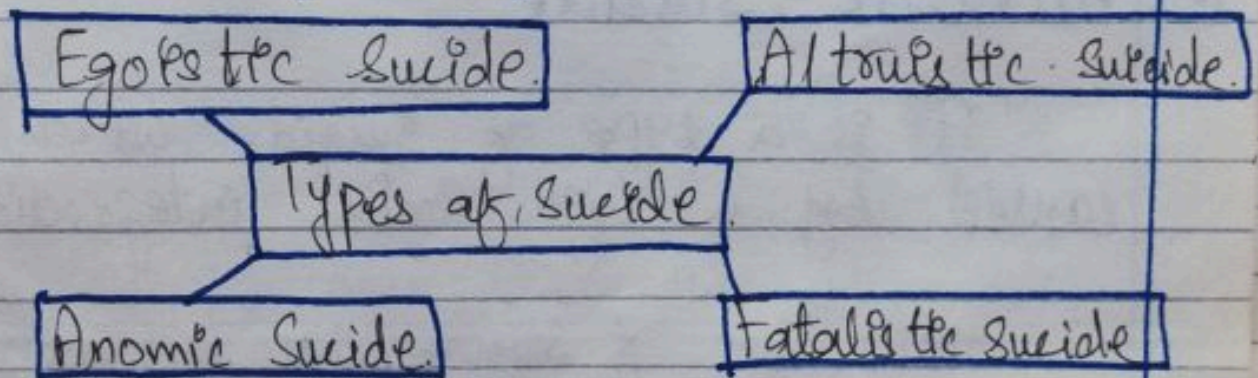
Domains of Theory of Suicide:

There are two domains on the basis of which Durkheim defines his theory: Social integration and Social regulation.



Types of Suicide:

According to Emile Durkheim, there are four types of suicides.



① Egoistic Suicide:

"It is a type of suicide which results from the less social integration"

Persons have weaker bond with their society. He hurts and ignores by the society. He does not take interest in social matters and always

remains socially isolated.

Causes of Egoistic Suicide.

- ① No interest in social matters.
- ② Hurt and ignored by the society.
- ③ No interaction with other person.
- ④ Sense of loneliness and socially isolated.

Example

Protestants attempt suicide in higher number as compared to Catholics.

② Altruistic Suicide

"It is a type of suicide which is caused by a high social integration."

Such type of suicide can be seen mostly in famous personalities. Bollywood and Hollywood stars are more socially connected to the world.

It is a form of suicide in which person ends his life by heroic means as to promote a cause or desire which is dear to him.

Example

- ① Self destruction in Navirana.

- ② - Satti in earlier Hindu culture.
- ③ - Harakiri in Japan, in which person kill him-self to maintain social unity.

Anomic Suicide:

"It is a type of suicide in which person is less regulated by the society and he became normless person to kill himself."

Causes of Anomic Suicide:

- ① Destruction and normlessness found in society.
- ② Sometime sudden prosperity and development also cause this type of suicide.
- ③ Natural disasters.
- ④ Economic and industrial ups and downs.

Example

Great depression of 1929 after a decade of world war I. In which there was an economic recession in all over the world. 25% of Americans were become jobless that's why people tried to attempt suicide.

Fatalistic Suicide:

"It is a type of suicide which results from the high social regulations."

Causes:

- ① Too strict rule and regulations.
- ② Person wants to escape from these strict regulations.
- ③ Person become fed up of this condition.
- ④ Less freedom.

Example:

There are strict rules for singers. In North Korea, Kim Young-ho was a Korean singer who attempted suicide to escape from these restrictions.

In 2020, an Indian actor Sushant Rajput also attempted a suicide due to societal pressure.

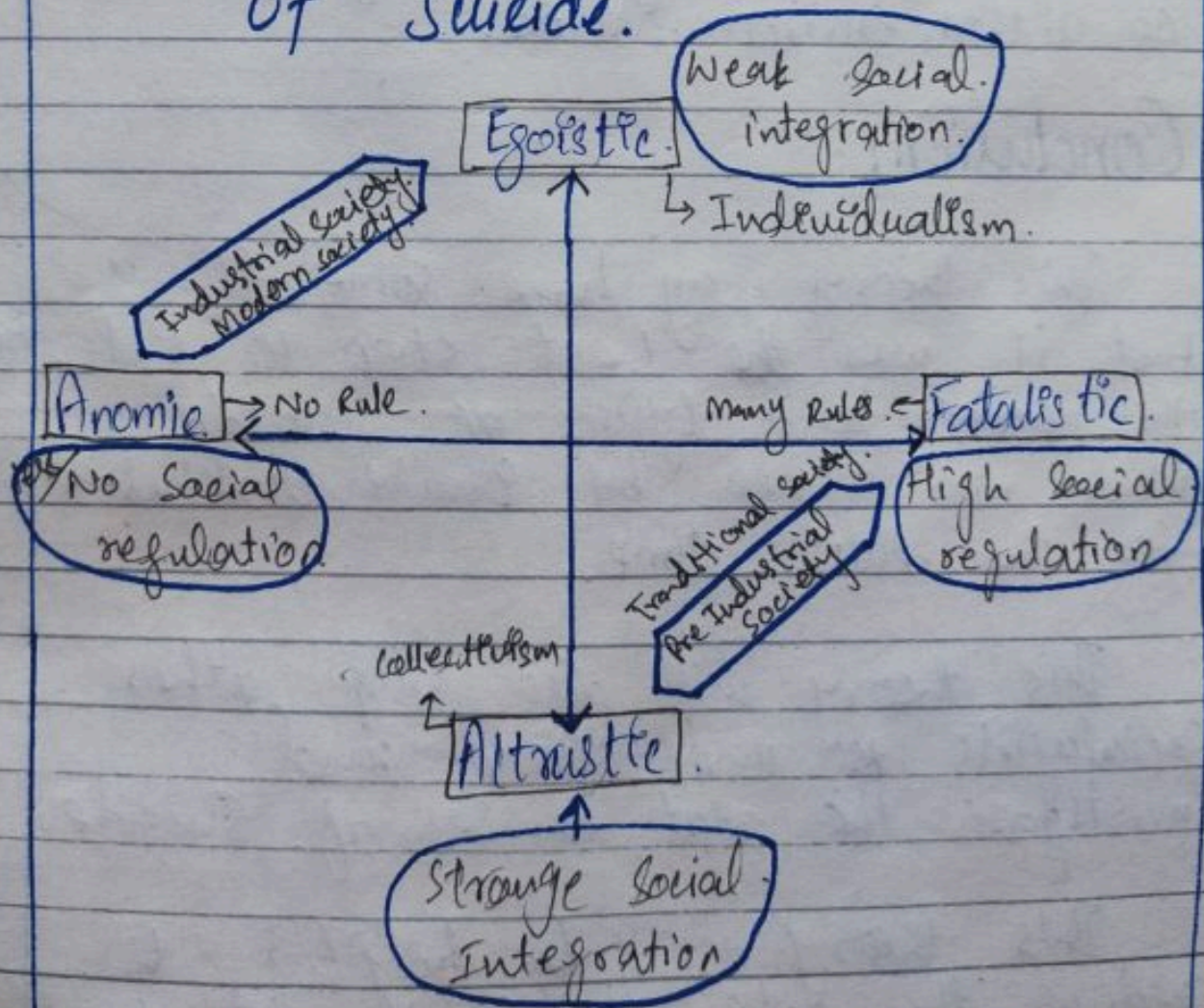
Similarities Between These Types: (causes)

- ① Depression and tension
- ② Social disorganizations.
- ③ Psychological stress.
- ④ Victim faces a loss in terms of economic, psychological or no sociological integration.

Differences Between These Types:

- ① Fatalistic Suicide caused by high regulation in the society.
- ② Anomic Suicide caused by low regulation.
- ③ Egoistic Suicide caused by less social integration.
- ④ Altruistic Suicide caused by high social integration.

Model (Representation) of the Theory of Suicide.



In Industrial Society, there are weak social integration and social regulations.

In Pre Industrial Society there are strong social integration and social regulations.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUICIDE THEORY

- ① This theory research on small sample data, so there is a possibility of error.
- ② Emile Durkheim did not consider the other factors which may lead to suicide such as climate, economy, psychological condition, environment etc.

Conclusion:

This theory may have some flaws but it was the best step to understand the causes and types of suicide which was taken by Emile Durkheim for the first time.

This theory will also help other socialists to understand and investigate the root causes of suicide.

This theory may be helpful to reduce the rate of suicide ~~it~~ from any society.