

# Criminology.

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Q2. Define and discuss the concept of Crime in Criminology. How does crime differ from deviance, and why is the study of crime and its causes essential for understanding social dynamics.

## 1. Introduction.

In our daily lives we experience and face expectations and rules, some of these rules are codified in law and some of the expectations are codified in the social fabric of our society. But have we ever thought on what happens if we go against the social expectations or the rules of law, are we criminals or are we deviant? these concepts of crime and deviance create the essence of criminology where crime is studied through the lens of ~~consensus~~ <sup>consensus</sup> or conflict. Then the types of crime are codified into Mala in se or Mala Prohibita. However the study of crime its causes - be that biological factors or sociological factors - helps us understand the social dynamics as we get to know the roots of crime, how to treat crime and lets us understand how crime and deviance is understood.

## 2. The Concept of Crime.

### a. Defining Crime.

Crime is the violation of codified laws, enacted by the state and punishable by its designated sanctions. As according

Paul Tappan (1947) crime is  
"an intentional violation of the criminal  
law committed without defence or  
excuse, and penalized by the state."  
These laws look after the collective  
good of the society and tries to  
safeguard the interests of citizens  
and their legal rights.

b. Types of Crime in legal terms.

(i) Mala in se;

mala in se are the criminal acts  
that are inherently wrong. These acts  
are universally condemned regardless  
of the cultural or time boundaries.  
for instance theft is condemned by everyone  
around the globe as it is taking the  
property or belonging of someone without  
compensating them.

(ii) Mala prohibita;

Mala prohibita are the acts that  
are only wrong by the virtue of legal  
perspective, showing social regulation  
rather than universal moral principles.  
For instance gambling is a crime in Pakistan  
but legal in Las Vegas showing the subjectivity  
of crime to cultural and social perspectives.

C. ~~cos~~ The Consensus view of crime

The Consensus view of crime, thinks of  
society as a cohesive unit held together  
by common moral fabric. This view

has been championed by Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons according to whom the rule of law represents shared values and their violation warrants societal disapproval of legal and legal consequences. ~~therefore any deviance~~

#### d. Conflict view

Conflict view however, states that laws are the reflection of the society's dominant group. According to this ~~view~~ view, championed by scholars like William Chambliss, power imbalance play a central role in defining crime. As the powerful dominate <sup>only</sup> the law making process and criminalize <sup>the</sup> acts that <sup>threaten</sup> existing power structure or the acts of committed by the poor. While the businesses and acts of the rich despite greater impact on society are not criminalized.

### 3. The Concept of deviance.

The word deviance means any act that goes ~~back~~ against the societal norms and faces disapproval from the society. These societal norms encompass both explicit rules and implicit understanding, vary considerably across culture and subcultures. While some form of deviance may be harmless and ~~not attract~~ not criminalized, other forms of deviance that pose threat to social order and cohesion may be criminalized. Some scholars also

argue that some sorts of deviance is also good for society as done by Kai Erikson in his book a study in sociology of deviance.

#### 4. Crime and deviance; The difference.

The distinction between crime and deviance lies in legal dimensions.

Crime breaches codified laws, while deviance transgresses social norms. Not all deviant acts are crime and not all crimes are deviant. For instance

public nudity might be deviant in many cultures but is also not a crime in many. On the other hand jaywalking is a minor crime but is not considered deviant.

By identifying these differences we can understand the true meaning of crime and deviance.

#### 5. The Study of Crime and its Causes helps us understand the social dynamics.

~~a. The causes studying of causes~~

~~a. Through studying of causes of crime, helps us understand what social problems rises. Crime when we study crime and its causes we get to know how inequality, power dynamics, poverty and lack of opportunities influence individual behaviors. It is this influence on behavior that contribute to criminal activity and through these~~

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Conceptions we get to know about the social dynamics.

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a. Helps us understand social order through Anomie.

Through studying crime within the framework of anomie helps us comprehend disruption in social order. As Emile Durkheim argued that certain level of crime is normal and even necessary as it delineates the boundaries of acceptable behavior. Excessive crime, however, reflects a breakdown in social integration or regulation, indicating a state of anomie.

b. Study of crime reveals Power structure

Critical criminology examines the relationship between crime, power and social inequalities. It exposes how definitions of crime and the enforcement of laws are influenced by power structure within society. By scrutinizing these power structures, critical criminology sheds light on how laws are shaped, implemented, and enforced, revealing systemic injustices within society.

c. Provides insights into Human Behavior

Studying crime offers insights into human behavior, motivations, and responses to societal pressures. The Differential association theory suggests that criminal behavior is learned through

interaction. While the labelling theory explores how societal reactions and labels impact individual's identities and behaviors. Understanding these perspectives not only enriches our comprehension of crime but also informs policies and interventions aimed at addressing societal issues and reducing criminal behavior.

## 6. Conclusion.

The study of crime and deviance unveils a complex interplay between societal norms, power structures, and individual behaviors. Crime beyond legal definitions, exposes disruptions in social order, while critical perspectives reveal inequality within the legal systems. And other biological theories provides an insights ~~at~~ into human behavior. Understanding these dynamics is crucial as it offers paths towards equitable policies and interventions, fostering a fairer and more informed society.

Q2 Explore the principles of social learning theory in criminology, focusing on differential association and social learning. Discuss how these theories explain the acquisition of criminal behavior through interactions with others and exposure to criminal values.

1. Introduction

In Criminology, it is believed by some theorists that criminal behavior is learned through interactions ~~and~~ with criminals and exposure to criminal values within the society. ~~the~~ <sup>The first</sup> theory ~~mainly~~ <sup>emphasizes</sup> that vouches for acquisition of criminal behavior is the social learning theory, this theory bases the acquisition of criminal behavior on the principle of imitation, reinforcement and modeling. ~~and~~ furthermore the differential Association theory also supports the ~~concepts~~ <sup>concepts</sup> that criminal behavior is learned. Overall both the theories explain the acquisition of criminal behavior through interactions with others and exposure to criminal values.

2. The Social learning Theory and its principles

a. Social learning theory.

The Social learning theory developed by Albert Bandura, emphasizes the role of observational learning, imitation and modeling in the acquisition of behaviors, including criminal ones. It suggests that individuals learn by observing others and the consequences

of their actions. This theory is based on the following principles.

b. Imitation

The first principle underscores the idea that individuals imitate behaviors they observe in others. Criminal behavior is acquired through imitation of models, whether real or portrayed in media, who engage in such activities.

c. Reinforcement

The second principle of the theory highlights the <sup>role of</sup> reinforcement in shaping behaviors. Positive reinforcement, such as rewards, or negative reinforcement, like avoidance of punishment, influences the likelihood of an individual repeating criminal behaviors.

d. Modelling

The third principle emphasizes the importance of role models. Individuals are more likely to adopt criminal behaviors if they have models who are rewarded for such actions or if the consequences are not severe.

### 3. Differential Association Theory.

Developed by Edwin Sutherland, Differential Association Theory expands on social learning by focusing on the context of association. It suggests that criminal behavior is learned through interaction with others who provides favorable definitions to violation of law.

4. How Criminal behavior is acquired according to learning and differential association.

a. Criminal behavior is learned through imitation and modeling.

Individuals acquire criminal behavior by imitating and modeling the actions of others in their social environment. If they observe positive outcomes or rewards associated with criminal acts, they are more likely to replicate those behaviors.

b. Reinforcement influences the likelihood of criminal behavior.

The principle of social learning theory posit that reinforcement, whether positive or negative, influences the likelihood of criminal behavior repetition. If criminal acts lead to rewards or the avoidance of punishment, individuals are motivated to continue engaging in such behavior.

c. Differential Association emphasizing the frequency of interaction for behavior adoption. Differential association theory emphasizes that the content and frequency of interactions with others contribute to the acquisition of criminal behavior. If individuals are exposed to more definitions favorable to law violation than to conformity, they are likely to adopt criminal values and behaviors.

#### 5. Conclusion

Social learning and Differential association theory provide valuable insights into the acquisition of criminal behavior. By focusing on the principles of imitation, reinforcement, modelling and the context of association, these theories underscore the importance of social interactions and exposure to criminal values in shaping individuals' criminal behaviors. Understanding these principles is crucial for developing effective interventions and prevention strategies in criminology.