

Travis Hirschi argued that crime results when an individual's bond to society is weak or broken. Discuss in detail what this theory of social bonding explains about crime.

Answers for

Introduction

Social control was developed by Travis Hirschi in 1969. It is also known as the social bond theory. Under the social control theory, individuals break the law due to a breakdown with their societal bond.

In his book "Causes of delinquency", he argued that delinquency is expected in juvenile if they are not properly socialized by establishing a strong bond in a society. Moreover, Hirschi refers to four elements which constitute the societal bond. Travis held that poor parental control and ineffective punishment lead to poor self-control in youth. Lower the levels of these bond, higher the likelihood of crimes.

Explanation of theory about crimes

Social control theory is used to help

us understand and reduce levels of criminal activity. It is based upon the idea that an individual's basic belief system, values, morals, commitments and relationships foster a lawful environment. Individuals who have these beliefs and commitments often have a level of self-control over their actions, as Janet Jackson would say, "In control of their lives" they are accordingly prepped to stay on the right side of the law.

Internal means of Social Contract

Social contract theory describes internal means of social contract. It argues that relationships, commitments, values and beliefs encourage individual's conformity if moral codes are internalized and individuals are tied into broader communities, and individuals will voluntarily limit deviant acts. This interpretation suggests the power of internal means of control, such as one's own conscious, ego and

Sensibilities about right and wrong, are powerful in mitigating the likelihood that one will deviate from social norms. This stands in contrast to external means of control, in which individual conforms because an authority figure (such as the state) threatens sanctions should the individual disobey.

Origion of Social Contract theory

Social control theory seeks to understand how to reduce deviance. Ultimately, social contract theory is Hobbesian; it presupposes that all choices are constrained by social relations and contracts between parties.

Like Hobbes, adherents to social contract theory suggests that morality is created within a social order by assigning costs and consequences to certain actions that are marked as evil, wrong, illegal or deviant.

Elements of Social Bond Theory

Hirschi describes four elements of the

to society as including including the following elements.

Attachment

The internalization of norms, conscience and superego is determined by an individual's attachment to others.

Hirschi says this is the sociological counterpart to the superego.

In this element lies

- Family
- Friends
- Community

Commitment

People obey rules for the consequences of breaking them. This is the counterpart to the ego. Here lies

- Future, career
- Success
- Personal goals

Involvement

A person's personal involvement is conventional activity. Hirschi states

that an individual involved heavily in conventional activity simply does not have time to engage in deviant behavior. Here we includes

- Social activities
- Sports team
- Religious group
- Social clubs

Beliefs

Belief is a common value system within a culture. Belief plays a role in deviance in two ways. The criminal either

- a) disregards the beliefs he/she has been taught entirely, or
- b) rationalizes their behavior (deviant) so that they can engage in criminal activity and still believe that it is wrong.

Conclusion

This subset of the social control theory involves the strain theory in that it demonstrates an individual's belief in common goals and morals of society, and it shows a lack of means for achieving those goals which in turn encourages deviant behavior as a mean of achieving these goals.