

How does deviance varies from time to time and place to place? Substantiate with examples by keeping Pakistan in Perspective?

Deviance :-

Deviance means deviating from the regular functioning of society and denying socially acceptable norms. Deviance explores the actions or behaviors that violate social norms across formally enacted rules as well as informal violations of social norms. ~~However~~ the violation of social norms is not only a negative action, although deviance may have a negative connotation.

Properties of deviance:

Deviance does not need to be an absolute crime. Some practices may be deviant but not illegal. Deviance changes from society to society and is also dependent upon social stigma. It is also associated with time and period during which it exists and is considered. Deviance may vary dramatically across cultures.

1) Deviance and it's changing nature over time:-

Deviance is not absolute. It changes from time to time. Acts that were considered

deviant in the past might be acceptable in the society in the modern times. Or the behaviors that was acceptable in the past may not be acceptable and considered deviant now.

Pakistani society has immensely changed overtime and hence the ~~class~~ deviance can be seen changing with time. Following are the certain examples that shows that deviance varies from time to time:

a) Media and Entertainment :

During late 1700's and 1800's, Ziaul Haq's era, there was a strict regulation and censorship on media. Most liberal and western ideas were unacceptable and undesirable for the leaders and the masses. Nowadays oppose the censorship and are tolerable to different ideologies and choices.

b) Cultural Celebrations :

Till 1900's, Basant festival was celebrated throughout the country and was widely accepted. Now

a ban is imposed on the kite flying and celebrating basant. Not only it is considered a crime but also deviant behavior as it becomes dangerous for the masses and may result in life loss. Therefore most societies nowadays consider the practice deviant.

c) Women education and Professionalism:

In the past, women education and their presence in the public life was objected by many people in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This was considered deviant due to certain religious and cultural mindset. Now, people realize the importance of women education even in the tribal and rural areas. Women from various backgrounds are present in every field and this is widely accepted and appreciated by the society.

d) Fashion and Clothing:

Keeping in view the Islamic religious beliefs, majority society rejected the western ideas of clothing and fashion. It was taken to be a deviance from the norms. However, today people are more tolerate to different types of clothings and in most areas is not considered deviant behaviours.

2) Deviance: Different places, different rules:

Just like deviance varies from time to time, it also varies from place to place. Certain behaviour may be considered deviant in one place and same behavior may not be considered deviant in some other place. Culture, values and norms vary from place to place so does the idea of deviance.

Pakistan is a country having diverse cultures, ethnic differences and set of values, therefore the concept of deviance and conformity varies from place to place.

a) Child marriages:

Sindh province in Pakistan has the highest prevalence of child marriages. Child marriages are also declared illegal, despite that, there are a lot of people in the region that agrees with this practice. Whereas, if we look at the capital, Islamabad, the response to child marriage is extremely negative. Child marriages are considered deviant in the capital.

b) Honor killings:

In tribal areas of Pakistan, honor killing is not even considered wrong in the eyes of the majority of locals. It is seen as a punishment to those who break the tribal codes. Whereas in Punjab, situation is different. Murder of Qandeel Baloch, a social media celebrity received all media and legal attention and the killer was awarded life imprisonment.

c) Women's engagement in public life:

In the rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, women engagement in the public life is considered a deviance. Women are restricted to household. On the contrary, in the cities, women's participation in the public life is highly encouraged. Restriction of women to the household is not acceptable.

d) Social Customs:

Social customs vary in different parts of the country. Some customs of one place may be deviance in the eyes of the inhabitants of some other areas.

Concept of Jirgas etc is extremely common

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in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Inhabitants of the area rely on the jirga for their rights and legal matters. People in other parts of the country find this practice to be deviant.