

Q Discuss the fundamental postulates of Edwin Sutherland's 'Differential Association theory' with examples.

Answer- Introduction

"Every behaviour is influenced by a particular society"

(- Edwin Sutherland)

Edwin Sutherland explained nature of behaviour as influenced by learning process. In fact, he presented his 'Differential Association theory' to explain postulates of learned behaviour. Therefore, Edwin Sutherland explained 'Differential Association' of learned behaviour.

2- Edwin Sutherland's Differential Association theory

"Every behaviour of any individual is

learned."

(Edwin Sutherland)

Edwin Sutherland

associated his 'Differential Association' with learned philosophy. In fact, every individual learns to commit crimes.

"every individual learns in his society"



Edwin Sutherland



"every individual's behavior influences every society."

Therefore, Edwin Sutherland explained learned behavior as his 'Differential Association theory'.

3- Postulates of Edwin Sutherland's Differential Association theory

Following are postulates:

a) Behavior is a learned aspect.

Every behavior is a learned phenomenon. In fact, every individual is affected by society and society has a powerful influence.

"Criminals' cooperation with a right person makes him to commit crimes."

↳ Edwin Sutherland

Moreover, a child learns behavior to commit crime.

"Continually observation of children in their parents being committing crimes let them learn the process of crimes..."

(Liquor House)

Therefore, criminals learn behavior or to commit crimes.

b) Interaction with society

Moreover, interaction with society has also influence on individual. Every individual interacts with his society.

"Interaction of a person with his society i.e., peers, community, and social groups makes him to learn criminal techniques."

(Edwin Sutherland)

In fact, every individual is associated with his society and observes comments of people to decide whether to commit crimes or not.

"Cognitive perspective let individual to decide of committing"

Crimes."

(-Edwin Sutherland)

Hence, Edwin Sutherland explained social interaction as a main driver of 'Differential Association'.

c) Laws violation - favourable

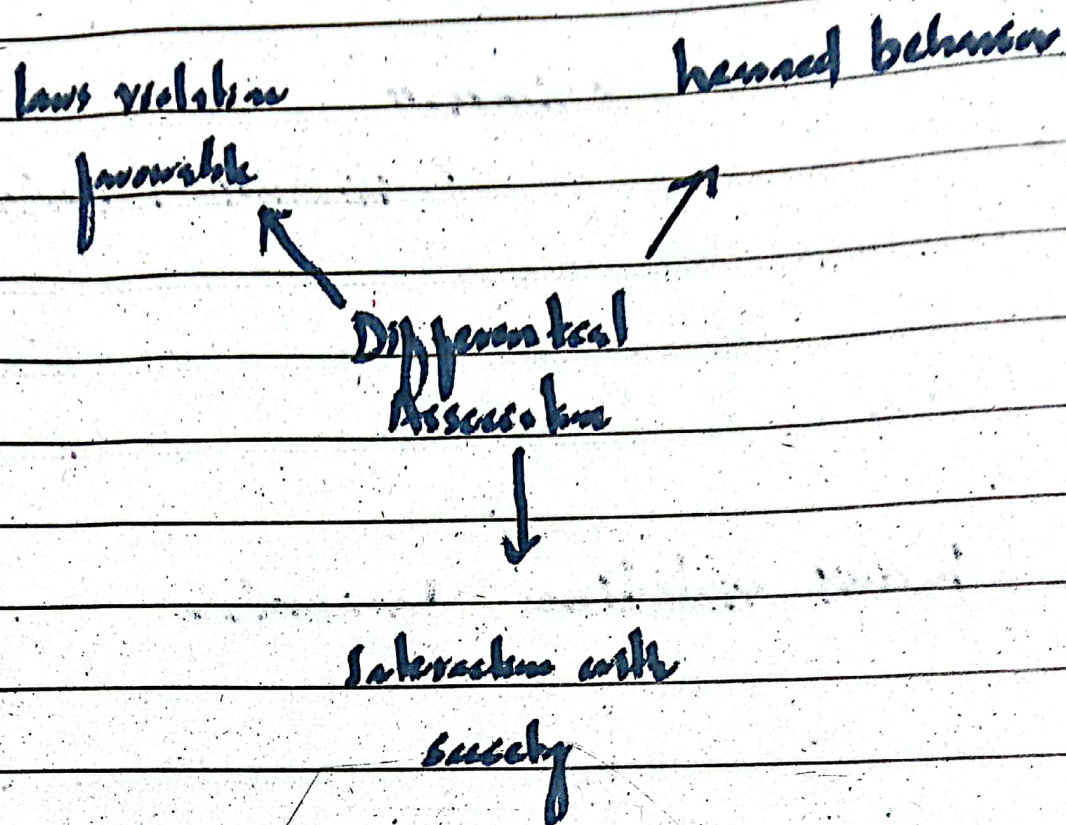
Further, laws violation are favourable to individuals. In fact, every individual violates laws for his own self-interest.

"Man is profitable to himself and violates laws for his own self-interest."

(-Edwin Sutherland)

Therefore, people are violating laws for the sake of own profit.

Following is a pretential representation:



4- Criticism

"Individuals of the same environment do not commit crimes"

Individuals of the same environment do not commit crimes. In fact, Edwin Sutherland could not describe the reasons of persons who could not commit crimes in the same interaction and in the environ-

ment. Therefore, Edwin Sutherland strongly criticized on his learned behavior phenomenon.

5-

Conclusion

"People are great
affected by learned
processes."

(-Edwin Sutherland)

Edwin Sutherland presented learned phenomenon of his 'Differential Association' theory. According to him, behavior is learned in a particular society due to social interaction. However, his 'Differential Association' theory was criticized by learned phenomenon as well.