Q No: 1 Explain Labeling Theory. Critically elaborate its effects on youth and also suggest remedies.

Introduction:

There is no "one" cause of crime. Crime is a highly complex phenomenon which can vary across cultures and across time. Activities that are legal in one country (e.g: Alcohol consumption in UK) are illegal in other countries. (e.g in strict Muslim countries). As cultures change over time, behaviors that were once criminalized are decriminalized and vice versa. As a result, there is no simple answer to the question "What is crime?" and there is no single answer to the question "What causes crime?". Different types of crimes are often caused by different factors. Sociological theories of crime suggest that crimes are caused by external factors

such as an individual's experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group and the family. One such sociological theory of crime is labeling theory.

Labeling Theory:

Labeling theory suggests that when people are labeled or categorized by society, it can influence their sense of self image.

Ex: When a person is labeled as "trouble-maker", He or she may internalize that label and start behaving in ways that align with it.
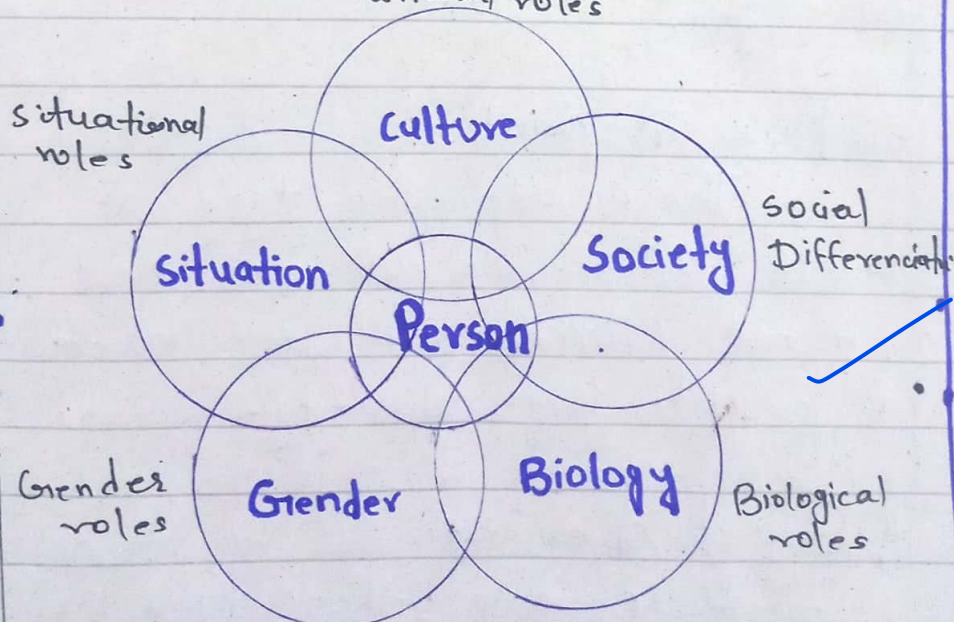
This theory highlights how societal labels can shape individuals' perception of themselves and their actions. Labeling theory was introduced by sociologists Howard Becker

and Edwin Lemert in 1963.
They examined how societal
labels and reactions to deviant
behavior can shape individual's
self-identity and future actions.

"Deviancy is not a
quality of an act a
person commits... but
rather a consequence
of the application of rules
and sanctions to others"

- Howard Becker

cultural roles

situational
roles

Culture

social
Differenciate

Situation

Society

Person

Gender
roles

Gender

Biology

Biological
roles

Labeling Theory

According to Howard, there are four categories of behaviors:

1) **Falsely Accused:**
These are the types of individuals who are decent non-deviant persons who are falsely accused of some crime and are labeled criminals by society.

2) **Conforming:**
Conforming individials are decent law abiding citizens and are pescieved as such by society.

3) **Pure Deviant:**
These are the type of people who are deviant and commit crimes and are labeled as such by society.

4) **Secret Deviant:**
These are the type of people who commit crimes and

yet are not labeled as such by society. Hence, society is biased towards minorities and powerless groups of the society.

Criticism:

Critics assume that not everyone in the society gets influenced by societal labels. Labeling theory gives offenders a victim status, letting them off being responsible for their crimes.

Effects of Labeling On Youth:

These are numerous adverse effects of labeling on young individuals guilty of committing crimes which can severely damage their personality and social status. Whether a person who

is falsely accused of some crime or is released from the prison after serving his or her sentence, societal labels can impact them in various ways disscused below:

(a) Social Isolation Due to Constant Bullying:
Individuals can isolate themselves in homes and cut off contacts from friends, family and outside world to avoid and escape constant bullying and name calling.

(b) Stigmatization and Discrimination:
Young delinquants face extreme discrimination in finding a job and education because of their deviant background. Racial discriminations often occur due to societal stigmatization.

Example: African American youth are more likely to be arrested, charged, and incarcerated for similar offenses compared to ~~their~~ white youth.

(c) Impacts on Mental Health:

Recently released deling-uonts face mental health challenges in practical life because of the societal labels and abnormal behavior of people towards them.

Example: Studies have shown that labeled individuals are more likely to experience depression, anxiety and low self-esteem.

(d) Substance Abuse:
Recently released young criminals are more likely to use drugs as a way of escaping facing s/o people and their taunts.

(e) Suicide and Self-Harm:
Societal labels can cause extreme damage to one's confidence, will power and self-esteem making them vulnerable to self causing self-harm and attempting suicide. Especially those who are falsely accused of a crime.

Example: In 2019, a lecturer in English at MAO College, Muhammad Afzal, committed suicide after the college administration denied him a clearance certificate following an enquiry declared him

innocent and the sexual harassment allegations leveled against him by a female student proved wrong.

Remedies And Solutions for Young Delinquals to Counter labeling:

These are a numbes of ways to deal with societal labeling on individual and structural level.

(a) Emotional And Moral Support ~~to~~ from Friends And family:
Friends and family of a young deviants can play a major role in providing emotional and moral support to help them become a resourceful

and law abiding citizens of the society.

(b) Education and Vocational Training :

Government or communities can help young delinquants in getting proper education and skill development, to get a respectable employement. Education can also help them improve their deviant behavior.

(c) Rehabilitation And Special Support Centers:

Different programs and facilitating centers can be opened to help transform young delinquants into respected citizens. It can also serve as a proof to society that the person has been clear and non-deviant

(d) Mental Health Support And Professional Helplines:

Young delinquents can face many and harsh mental health problems after their release from prison. These youngsters should be professionally monitored and a suitable mental health helpline can be established for them, so that they do not relapse to the criminal behavior.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 68% of released prisoners are rearrested within three years.

Conclusion:

Labeling theory suggests that no act itself constitutes deviation but it is the view of the society that makes it deviant. Societal labeling

can have adverse impacts on youth including racial discrimination, bullying and mental health challenges. To help combat these challenges, family friends and government can take action to ~~or~~ transform young delinquants into law abiding citizens of the country.

well done
good work
content is good and ans is well composed
main aspects of q is covered but conclude the ans on 8th page max
ans is too ling
reduce the size of explanation
10/20

rest is fine