

Discuss R.K. Merton's Strain theory? Critically elaborate its effect on youth

Introduction

To explain the causes behind criminality, social cultural theories were developed. These theories relate social and cultural factors to explain criminal behavior.

One major theory among these is strain theory. It describes socio-economic factors behind criminality.

R.K. Merton is Strain Theory developed interaction of socially specified goals and means to achieve goals with criminal behavior.

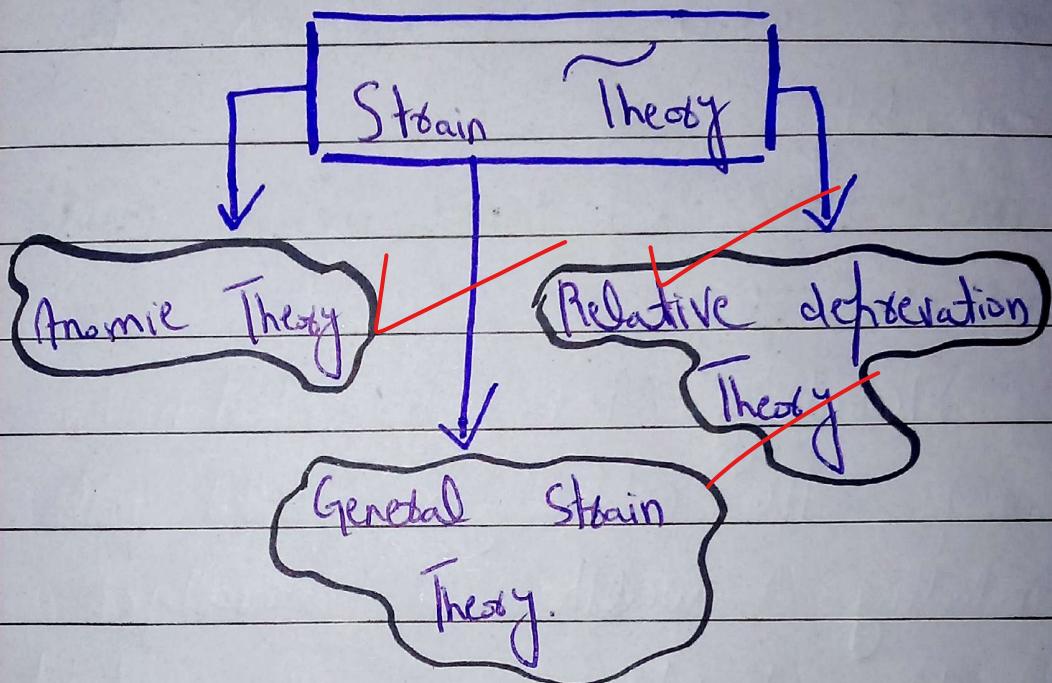
According to him, people having lower socio-economic status are unable to achieve their goals via legitimate means tends toward illegitimate means to achieve goals or reject both legal goals and means and some individuals develop alternative set of goals and means.

Strain Theories

Strain theorists view that crime is result of anger and frustration occurs among people with low socio-economic class. Although all individuals share goals and values, but means to achieve them are stratified across socio-economic groups. feeling of strain is limited among people having affluent status while strain culminate

in those who have few means of success available.

Strain theories is further divided into three theories.



R. K. Merton Strain theory: Anomie Theory

The Strain theory developed by R. K. Merton is known as Anomie theory. He attribute social factors to criminality. He viewed that two cultural elements that lead to criminality.

These elements include.

- i- Culturally defined goals
- ii- Socially approved means

These goals and means intended and produce anomie which in turn leads to criminality.

Interaction of goals-means with criminality

According to R.K. Merton,

the culturally approved goals, including wealth and prestige, can be achieved by socially approved means including hard work, education but people if lack financial or educational resources to achieve wealth than they become frustrated and use illegal means to achieve them.

Impacts of strain on youth

In goals means condition

Youth show various behavior patterns.

Conformity:

In this category, people ~~accept~~ accept goals and also have legitimate means to achieve them. Such individuals use law ably and show conformity.

Innovation:

Some individuals ~~accept~~ accept goals, but don't have legitimate means to achieve them. So, they develop new means which are illegal's including theft, kidnapping to achieve wealth or other means. and show innovative behavior.

Retreatism

Those individuals ~~rejects~~ rejects

Traditionalists goals and means
and show escapist behaviors like
abstaining and taking or selling
drugs

Rebillion:

These people reject goals
and means and develop alternative
goals. They show rebellion behaviors
They are revolutionary and desire
social change. They want to
topple current regime.

Conclusion

Strain theory has
influential role to determine various
socioeconomic factors behind
deviant behavior. According to
strain theory economic inequality
is the main factor which

tion individually toward criminality. These inequalities lead to strain, anger and discontent. People distrust society, which ~~nurture~~ ^{is} inequalities. It is responsibility of government to improve and bring inclusive opportunities to rein in increasing crime rate in society. New policies should be developed to bring youth into social and politically just arena.

answer is relevant but write 8 pages for good score

rest is fine and satisfactory

9/20