

(445 words)

Q) What is the meaning of Anomie? Discuss the Robert Merton Theory of Anomie in detail.

ANOMIE:

that Anomie is a sociological concept which refers to "normlessness". It indicates to the situation of a society which lacks norms and values. (better def).

INTRODUCTION TO ANOMIE - BY EMILE DURKHEIM

Emile Durkheim is a founding figure of sociology. First, the term "anomie" was coined by Emile Durkheim.

It refers to a state of rapid changing society, economic conditions or crisis which weakens traditional moral norms and values. This led to confusion among people about "what goals to pursue" and how to behave in a society.

In this way the instability in society or lack of moral values foster deviant behavior, suicide or crime.

ROBERT K. MERTON THEORY OF ANOMIE:

ROBERT MERTON:

Robert K. Merton was an ^{American} sociologist, who introduced the theory of Anomie in criminology. He adopted ~~and~~ the concept introduced by Emile Durkheim and ~~used it with~~ used it in correspondence of modern capitalistic society. ^{co-relation}

THEORY OF ANOMIE:

In modern capitalistic societies, ~~Robert linked the cultural prescribed goals~~ and Robert Merton explained the gap between cultural prescribed goals and means to achieve them. This shows the drastic inequality between the goals set by the society to achieve and the actual means to obtain them. This theory is also known as "Strain Theory".

Robert Merton states as an example:

A society's goal is to be successful. The success in the society's perspective is to buy a huge house, own a car etc. On

contrary to this, ^{not} everyone ~~does not~~ have access to the ways ^{to reach} to achieve ~~these~~ ^{these goals} them. For instance, a quality or high level education, or a well-paying higher rank job. So, to obtain that power, status or money, people use the illegal means to achieve those goals set by the society as a norm.

Hence, the unrealistic and unethical immoral ^{expectations} set goals ~~if none~~ ^{can be rarely} by the society are ~~hardly~~ ^{legat} achieved by the ^{through} people. This absence of norms leads to deviance. ~~This~~ In this manner ~~anomie~~ ^{anomie} prevails, the crime in low socioeconomic groups of the society is higher than others.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Robert Merton shed light on the structural ^{factors} ~~abnormalities~~ ^{influencing} ~~deviance~~.
- He also introduced the broader perspective to consider ~~root~~ ^{of} social immoralities rather than an individual's behavior solely.
- Due to the structural conditions of the society and the blocked means to obtain them, people ^{get} diverted to illegitimate means $\therefore$ deviant behavior.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, anomie ^{and norms} refers to the lack of moral values ⁱⁿ a society and Robert Merton combined those ideas to reflect the root cause of crime in a society. Thus, the structural inequality ^{ies} of the society and the goals leads to criminality and deviance.