

QUESTION NO: 3

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Labelling Theory, its Effects on youth and remedies

I. Introduction

Labeling theory, proposed by Becker and Lemert, is one of the leading theories in explaining (the) why some people, especially youth, become involved in criminal activities. It posits that a negative label given to a person can actually force a person to conform to that label. Its effects on youth include juvenile delinquency, inclusion in gangs and lack of motivation to improve oneself. Remedies such as avoiding bad labels, promoting critical thinking and awareness can ensure that youth gets away from criminality.

II. Understanding Labelling theory

A bad label given to an individual can become a self-fulfilling prophecy and the individual then tries to conform to that label.

In simple words, the stigma attached to the given label compels a person to behave in a way that conforms to that label,

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making the individual a criminal.

3. Far-reaching effects of Labelling on the youth.

3.1 Commonly given negative labels to a youthful lead to truancy and, ultimately, juvenile delinquency.

There are strong stigma attached to negative labels that can actually make a juvenile delinquent out of a youthful individual.

For instance, if a teacher labels a student as "uncontrollable" and "bad", the student might internalize that label.

3.2 Bad labels cause lack of motivation in youth to improve.

Labels can also cause an individual to feel like they are like that and cannot improve. This leads to stagnation of their skills and expertise.

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3.3 Leading to the inclusion in gangs to find solace and commonality

The youthful individual who is exposed to negative labels might try to find the people with whom they can identify. This leads to further entrenching of criminality.

3.4 Leading to increased recidivism and a life-time criminal

A young person, when labeled as a criminal (who) would likely identify themselves as a criminal. This perpetual cycle of labelling would lead to a life-time criminal person.

A young juvenile delinquent labeled as a criminal might end up being a serious criminal.

4. Remedies to overcome negative effects forecasted by Labeling theory:

4.1 Avoiding the use of labels on youth with negative stigmas

The first step is to ensure that youthful people are not stigmatized.

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with negative labels, to overcome its devastating consequences.

4.2 Teaching critical thinking skills to youth that help them to think realistically.

Critical thinking skills can help the youth to identify the reality and not become trapped by the bad labels provided to them. It would give them impetus to improve themselves.

4.3 Providing skill development programs and necessary job opportunities to young individuals.

When the youth get necessary skills to contribute positively in the society, they will highly likely become indifferent to external labelling.

4.4 Providing awareness to school supervisors, teachers, and parents about effects of bad labels.

Awareness campaigns through door-to-door campaigns and media can highly reduce the devastating implications of labelling and their stigmas.

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5. Conclusion

To conclude the above discussion, it is evident that labelling theory is an important theory that predicts and informs about the cause of criminality, especially in youth. The effects, including increased recidivism and lack of motivation to improve, are formidable. To overcome them, remedies such as teaching critical thinking, skill development, and awareness through media is helpful. By taking necessary steps, the detrimental effects of labelling can be minimized.



QUESTION NO: 4

1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency refers to acts committed by minors that would be considered crimes, if committed by adults. There are various underlying causes of juvenile delinquency including socio-economic factors such as poverty and illiteracy, demographic factors such as gender, and environmental factors

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such as lack of recreational facilities and peer pressure. To solve the problem of juvenile delinquency, policies and resources must be concentrated to overcome these underlying causes.

2. Understanding juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency refers to the acts committed by minors that would be considered crimes if committed by adults.

The age to identify whether one is juvenile varies in states. In Pakistan, Juvenile Justice System Act, 2012 identifies it to be 18 years.

3. Brief background of juvenile delinquency understanding.

In Medieval times, the state was named as *parens patriae*, means benevolent parent of all the children in the state. State was responsible to take care of them.

According to "Labelling Theory," young individuals must not be labelled as criminals because the negative stigma attached to these

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4. Underlying factors leading to juvenile delinquency

4.1 Socio-economic factors

A. Poverty

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Poverty and lack of resources may force the minors to act criminally to fulfill their needs.

B. Lack of education

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Illiteracy is a major factor in driving juvenile delinquency. An educated child is highly likely to avoid bad behavior.

C. Lack of parental support, financially and psychologically

Lack of parental control on children and not fulfilling their needs lead to delinquent behavior.

4.2 Demographic factors

A. Gender

Male children are more likely to involve in delinquent behavior.

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B. Children of urban regions being more likely than rural ones. Financial and societal structure of urban regions cause more delinquent behavior in urban areas.

4.3 Environmental factors

A. Lack of recreational facilities
When there are no entertainment facilities, children get involved in delinquent behavior to get excitement and thrill.

B. Family and peer pressure
When the friends or family members are involved in criminal behaviors, children are more likely to also get involved.

4. Conclusion

To conclude the above discussion, it is evident that juvenile delinquency is a serious issue that has various underlying causes. Socioeconomic factors such as poverty and lack of education; demographic factors such as gender; and environmental factors such as lack of recreational facilities cause juvenile delinquency. Government should frame policies that address the above factors to

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reduce juvenile delinquency.

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