LMS ID
40519
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Criminology
Assignment

Q1: How does Albert Bandura's social learning theory explain the process by which individuals acquire and exhibit criminal behaviour?

Ans:

Introduction:

Social learning theory was presented by Albert Bandura in 1970s. According to Bandura human brain work as information processor which links the relationship between behaviour and its consequences. According to this theory human acquire criminal behaviour through different stages like attention, retention, reproduction and motivation. Human brain uses observation, modeling and imitation to acquire criminal behaviour as per this theory. This theory is also used by educational institutions to instil positive behaviour in the student.

It shows how different behaviour in environment affect an individuals life.

Core Concepts of Social learning theory:

Social learning theory emph- asizes on mediation processes through which a person can acquire criminal behaviour. The first stages in it is observation ~~followed by~~ four other phases following it.

1. Observational learning :

In it an individual observes in his surrounding and tries to acquire such attitude which he feel more appealing.

(2) Attention : Individual pays attention to model. There are some factors that gain observer's attraction

(i) observer look at the status of the model

(ii) Observer look at his profession.

(iii) Observer tries to find relevancy between him and the model.

If model catches observer's attention and observer shows interest them the tries to imitate that behaviour.

3. Retention: Observer retains the behaviour of the model. Now it depends upon observer's cognitive capacity and physical ability that he can imitate that behaviour or not.

4. Motor Reproduction: Many times it happens that observer want to imitate model's behaviour but his physical inability perform or age difference hamper his adoption of the behaviour. There he wait for the right time to adopt the model's behaviour.

behavioural reproduction takes time.

5. **Motivation**: This is the last stage at which observer is physically and mentally able to behave just like the model.

E.g: The Bobo doll experiment conducted by Albert Bandura. in 1960s. In it kids were divided into three groups. One groups was shown shown agressive behaviour with inflatable bobo doll, second one was shown mild behaviour and last one was shown no behaviour at all. When they were left alone with Bobo doll they behaved according to performance they were show. By which Albert Bandura concluded in his theory in 1970s that human behaviour depends upon it observation in

from the surrounding.

How an individual acquires and exhibits criminal behaviour :

There are two processes in it (i) Attentional processes and (ii) Motivational processes. which are further divided into more phases.

(1) Attentional processes:

(a) Similarities between observer and model: Observer tries to find similarities between him and his model. It depend upon factor like same culture, ethnicity, values, race, caste, interests. If one or more than one of these matches it becomes appealing for observer and he adopts the behaviour.

(b) Identification with the model:
Observer identifies himself like his model. Suppose when an observer looks at lifestyle of drug dealer and the observers perks and previliges of mode he forgets whether it will leads him to chaos. He just follows and tries to imitate it.

(ii) Motivational processes:
(a) Rewarded behaviour.
Individual looks at rewards that he gets after adopting any criminal behaviour.
Suppose when looking at the case in Lokhandwala India a prominent criminal Maya adopted the criminal behaviour after being inspired by international criminal Dawood Ibrahim. He did not looked at the consequences of

adopting this behaviour. Instant gratification made him adopt the behaviour.

(b) Status of the model:

Individual adopt criminal behaviour when they get inspired by position or status of some high profile criminal. In lokhandwala's case Maya was working under Dawood Ibrahim but by looking at his position he tried to be like him in order to gain more reputation. As the end result shootout at lokhandwala occured in 1990s and Maya and his gang got eliminated.

Conclusion:

Bandura's social learning theory shows that how a person adopts such criminal behaviour

by making observations in the surrounding. The theory emphasizes that an individual first observe then retains the model and then imitate the model's behaviour. It shows about phases through which a person goes through in order to getgain motivation to imitate the behaviour. Social learning theory shows that individual sometimes is not mentally prepared or or physically strong enough to adopt a deviant behaviour. At that stage he waits for the right time until which he retains such behaviours in his mind. Albert Bandura also performed Bobo doll experiment to show how kids behave when they are shown such and such behaviours.