

3 parts

Q3 Explain R.K. Merton's Strain Theory //
CS 2025 Critically elaborate its effects on
Youth and suggest remedies to
overcome.

Introduction:

The theory was given by American sociologist Robert K. Merton which describes how societal factors play role in shaping an individual as a deviant character. Theory suggests that societies prescribe certain goals and institutionalize legitimate means to achieve those. Those who cannot afford those means and ways to achieve success and prescribed goals end up into a deviant character. He adopts illegitimate ways to be successful in his life. The theory explains different modes on how a person adopts deviant behaviour.

Core Concepts of Strain theory:

1. Culturally defined goals:

A number of goals are set by society for individuals. Those who achieve these goals are described as successful ones. These goals can vary from society to society, culture to culture and even on geographical basis.

For example goals of agrarian society will vary from that of science society. Agrarian society will describe success as increase in yield of their crops while science society will describe ^{success} as advancement in the fields of science and technology.

2. Institutional means to achieve those goals:

Along with goals societies also articulate ~~or~~ legitimate ways to achieve those goals. For instance, research and development

is a way to achieve success in the fields of science and technology. Similarly if a person wants to initiate his business he must do some investment first in order to run the business.

3. Generation of strain in society:

The main part of the theory is how strain generates in the society. When a person do not have legitimate means to achieve those goals he turns towards illegitimate ways. This can happen due to socio-economic inequality, absence of appropriate educational institutions, difficulty to get admission in proper educational institutions, unemployment and so. Person who is not able to achieve success in his life turn towards criminal activities to achieve his goals. This behaviour leads towards social

instability.

5 Modes of adoption of deviant behaviour.

1. **Conformity**: At this mode a person approves ^{both,} all the goals prescribed by society and set of institutional means to achieve those goals. He adopts those means to achieve those goals.

2. **Innovation**: At this mode person accept the set of goals pre-prescribed by society but do not accept the means. He adopts illegitimate means to achieve success.

3. **Ritualism**: At this mode person rejects cultural goals but accepts means to achieve success. He sets his own goals and follow rules to achieve those goals.

4- **Retreatism:** At this ^{stage} person rejects both of the goals prescribed by society and means to achieve those goals. He starts to lead a purposeless life. He either becomes a drug addict or commit suicide.

5- **Rebellion:** At this ^{stage} person rejects both the ¹ goals prescribed by society and means to achieve those goals. He starts to make his own goals and his own ways to achieve these.

Effects on Youth:

1. Increase in Crime rate:

Youth when going through transitional part of their life become vulnerable to strain created by the society. Sense of deprivation generates among them. Because of

of absence of means to achieve the achieve success. This divide them into two categories - One who choose **Conformity** and rely on hard work to achieve success and the others who move towards innovation and choose criminal activities to achieve their goals.

Eg for example it can be seen in the areas of Kandh Kol, Kashmore and Katcha, there is absence of proper educational institutions. ~~These~~ also there ~~are~~ the areas also lack infrastructure which can increase employment rate. Resultantly crime rate is very high in those areas. Kidnapping for ransom and highway robbery have become common there. These areas are also infested with tribal disputes.

2. Occurrence of mental health problems:

When sense of deprivation increase

among individuals it also increases mental health related issues. When a person goes into depression he adopts mode of ~~retreatism~~. He rejects both goals and means to achieve those goals. He either becomes a drug addict or commits suicide in order to ease his pain.

For example by looking at South Korea it can be seen that rate of depression is high there. It is due to high level competitiveness at academic level. Failures either face depression or commit suicide there.

3. Rise in Juvenile delinquency:

Children from deprived areas when ~~see~~ at the lifestyle of elites or even upper ~~middle~~ class it become appealing for them. They get manipulated by things in their areas who teach them about how they can be exempted from punishment.

ents due to their minor age. From 2005 to 2021 more than four lac cases of juvenile delinquency have been reported which took place because of socio-economic factors, family dynamics, peer pressure and so on.

4. Rise in extremism and terrorism.

When a person is deprived from institutional means to achieve such success or his goals he rejects those means and goals as rebellion strain theory. He adopt mode of rebellion where make his own goals and ways to achieve those goals. A report by federal investigation agency in 2023 those who are unemployed and face economic issues get recruited in militant groups in tribal areas.

Remedies to counter effects of
slum in society:

1. Access to education for all:

Education must be right of
all not a privilege. Affordable
and inclusive ~~schooling~~ of system
must be formed where students
can get admission regardless of
their background, caste, colour or
creed. A system which can
teach legitimate ways to achieve
success. For example, ~~Project~~ skill
development ^{fund} which is giving free
vocational and technical training to
people in areas of Bahawalpur and
Pakimyar Khan

2. Creation of job opportunities.

Government must introduce
job related programs, internship and
entrepreneurial projects in order to
make people busy and uplift their
lifestyle. Programs like ~~ES~~ Ehsaas

Programs must be introduced which can offer people scholarships, educational stipends and cash transfers.

3. Raising awareness among people to create a supportive environment:

Awareness must be raised to build train people on how they should treat their children. Children must not be pressurized to pursue a certain set of goals while abandoning their own dreams.

4. Media's role in value restoration:

Media must play positive role in promotion of ethical values. It must promote teachings that applaud hard work over instant gratification.

Conclusion:

R.K. Merton's Strain Theory explains how society can turn an individual into a criminal. It tells about socio-economic factors that contribute in formation of a deviant character. It explains that a person who do not have any institutional means to achieve his goals either becomes a criminal or a drunkard. It explains that individual goes through different phases to adopt deviant behaviour when he feels deprived. As a result crime rate increases. Sense of depression among also gets rise. However if people are these ~~etc~~ effects can be mitigated if people are given access to education. If people are given opportunities crime rate can significantly decline.

DAY: _____

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Similarly if a supportive environment is created where people can pursue their dreams and they are also given means to achieve those crime rate can become low significantly -

dear student content is fine and relevant but there is too much explanation reduce the commentary and conclude the answers on 9th page max need improvement 10/20