

CRIMINOLOGY

PAPER : 2024.

SECTION 1.

QUESTION

Explain Labelling Theory. Critically elaborate its effects on youth and suggest remedies also.

ANSWER.

1, Introduction :

“Deviance is not the quality of the act but the consequence of the application of rules and sanctions to the offender”

- Becker.

The Labelling Theory belongs to the Sociological Schools of Crime. It studies the underlying reason behind an individual's

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deviant actions. This is inspired by the 'Dramatization of Evil' proposed by Tannenbaum. Becker based the work on the foundation, what happens when the society reacts in a certain way to the action. The way labels shape the life of an individual. It involves the concepts of Master status, exclusion and youth's activities. However, it is crucial to evaluate in order to comprehend the complex set and also to reform youth and include so that the deviant does not turn into a criminal.

2. Deviant Labelling Theory:

The term Labelling Theory was proposed by Howard Becker in 1963.

2.1, The Process of Crime :- As per Labelling Theory.

The foundations are found in Lemert's work. Lemert coined the terms such as 'primary and secondary deviance'.

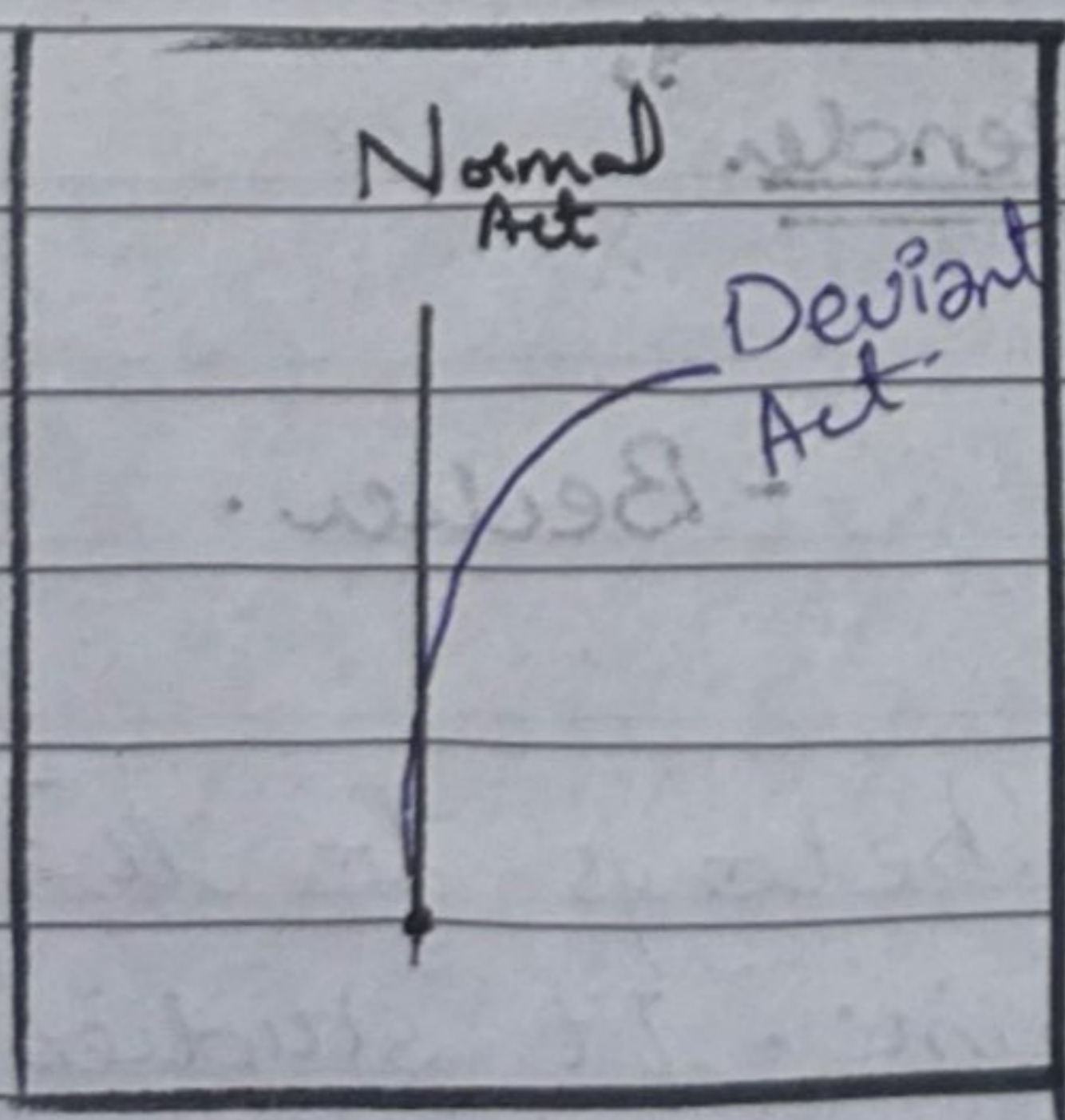
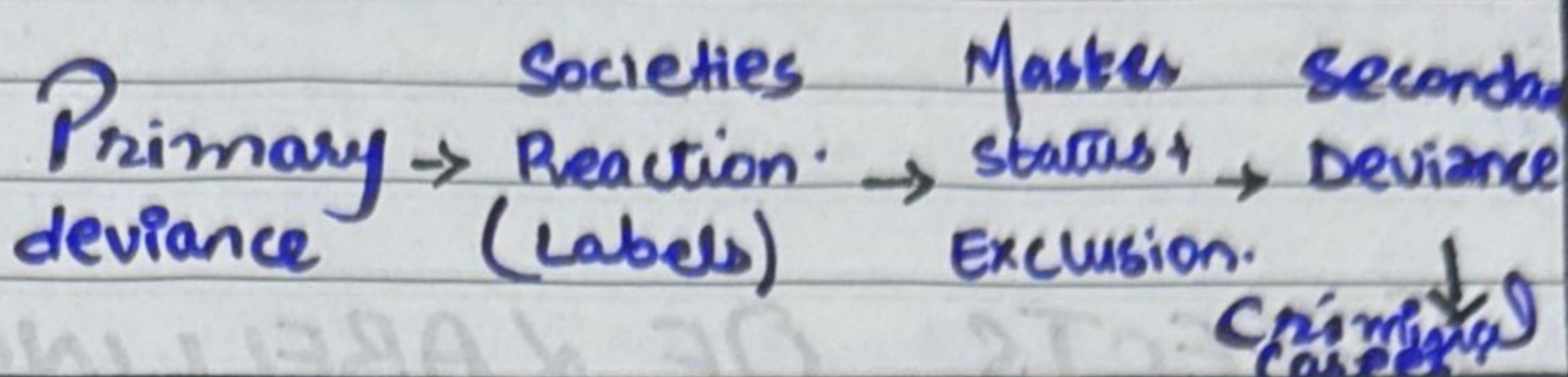


fig # 1.

When a person's act is deviant for the first time.
→ Normal individual.

Deviant (Primary deviance).



2.2, Societies Reaction and Labels: Define Identity.

The primary deviant even if wants to recruit and actually seek a normal life. They won't be able to because Society Labels the person. The label would define his or her identity and will negate all other characteristics. This phenomenon is known as 'Master status' defined by Becker. The individual is excluded from society and this harsh treatment leads to secondary deviance and eventually criminal career.

2.3, Moral Entrepreneurs and Selective Enforcement:

The norms, values and good 'behavior' is defined by the powerful and elite. This further leads to the term Moral Entrepreneurs by Becker. The concept of Selective Enforcement is by Chambliss (1973) - Saints Vs Roughnecks. However, the actions are same but the labels and treatment tends to be

3, EFFECTS OF LABELLING

THEORY ON YOUTH:

3.1, Amplification of Deviant Act by Media:

The dramatization of evil is the phenomenon proposed by Jannebaun. Further elaborated by Cohen (1972). This is when the deviant act is broadcasted and everyone looks at an individual with a suspicious view. The youth already in sensitive age pushes away and the boycott becomes two ways. Thus, the youth avoids further interaction to not face humiliation.

3.2, Youth is stigmatised by Society:

The ideology proposed by Goffman fits in well, the society stigmatizes the youth into spoiled character. This is when the labels and stigmas become attached to a person and the person internalises it by taking the

deviant behavior as a course of life.
Hence, leads to spoiled identity.

3.3, Person in criminal activities: Forms and finds sub-culture groups.

An individual in its youth is excluded and deprived of healthy opportunities. Thus, the youth finds people. The normal society humiliates and boycotts so the deviant peers and people welcome whole-heartedly. The inclusivity indulges a person in more deviant acts more often crimes like Gambling, drinking, murder and other crimes.

3.4, Leads to high crime rate and disruption of Social bonds.

The person in his or her youth shapes his/herself according to society's behavior and reaction. The society banishes the individual the damage is collective. The society failed to protect and also the crime rates are high.

This gives reason to youth to internalise hatred towards everyone and forget the moral grounds. It is necessary to label positively as it sets the direction of

life.

4) Remedies to reform

Criminals :-

Society is an informal actor. It is the first informal line of action.

4.1, Deviant Acts must not be treated harshly:

The underlying aim is to fix the society as a whole. It is the act that is deviant the whole identity of a person should not be dependent on one action.

Becher mentioned,

"The tag ... tends to become the person's master status"

The ^{reaction} act should be according to the act. For e.g., the reaction for drinking cannot be the same as murder or any heinous crime.

4.2, Since childhood, label positively.

It is the responsibility of the family to label his or her child positively. The

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child internalises the label and carries with himself or herself. This further defines the actions.

4.3, Keep the youth by busy:

The youth must involve in social activities and volunteerism programs to empower with a sense of responsibility.

Practice good behavior and encourage the youth to imitate and follow the same. Make abundance of opportunities available in different fields do not restrict.

4.4, Practice Equality, change and relaxed norms and values; Do not make strict rules on everything:

The time is changing. The technology and pace of globalization has brought immense difference. The responsibility of the society is to keep themselves updated and open to change. The society must listen to youth's desire and demands and form a bond of communication. Strict laws and norms would be violated as people will feel suffocated.

Conclusion:

The Sociological Labeling Theory refers to a person's internalization of labels, society's reaction and role in converting a primary deviant into a secondary one and a long term criminal. Youth is vulnerable to these labels, hence it is the collective responsibility to reform and include members in the society so that they do not deviate further.