

Q. Discuss the fundamental postulates of Edwin Sutherland's 'Differential Association theory' with examples.

Introduction:

The differential association theory was given by Edwin Sutherland in the 1939 edition of his book, *Principles of Criminology*. It was further revised in later editions of the book and final formulation came in 1947. The differential association theory is a sociological theory of crime and postulates the idea that crime is learned through interactions with other criminal groups.

Unlike other sociological theories that link crimes to unmet goals and needs and disorganized surroundings, this theory focuses on the idea that crime is not an innate tendency but a behavior learned from others involved in criminal

activities. Person learns skills and motivated to commit the crimes but this crime learning depends on frequency, duration, priority, and intensity of the contact the person has with other criminals. Thus, those individuals are more likely to commit crimes that belong to families and groups with pro-criminal attitudes and norms.

Nine main postulates of differential association theory



✓ good

1- Crime is learned

Criminal behavior is not an innate quality. Person does not born with an internal tendency to commit crime. ✓ Rather, it is learned by involving oneself in criminal groups.

Example:

Aslam stole a car not due to some born-tendency, but he learned it by interacting with notorious groups famous for crimes.

2- Crime Learning is through ✓ interactions

People learn crimes by talking, observing and communicating with other criminal group. Communication can be verbal or non-verbal, comprising of words, gestures or even signals. ✓

Example

A gang member may teach another how to pick locks by showing and explaining

3- Crime learning takes place in inmate groups

If the family, friends and peers are involved in crimes, the person is likely to commit crimes because these inmate groups tend to have stronger influence on person. Movies, news, or social media alone do not create criminals.

Example

A boy who has an elder brother involved in shoplifts is more likely to commit crimes than a boy who just watches movies on crimes.

4- Crime learning involves both skills and motives

While interacting with other criminal a person not only learns how to commit a crime but also reason or justification behind committing it. Merely learning the skill does not ensures that person will likely commit the crime.

Example

A gang may teaches the new person to commit a crime by saying "car thefting is good because it is a need ; otherwise cars are expensive"

5- Motives come from legal definitions

People adopt views towards the laws based on their social environment. If laws are seen as good, they obe; obey; if laws are seen as bad, they break.

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"Paying bribes is necessary to get work done" make corruption look acceptable.

6- Crime happens when pro-criminal attitudes outweighs anti-criminal outweigh attitudes

A person becomes delinquent when exposed to more ideas favouring crimes than those against it. Neutral ideas that are unrelated to crime do not matter much. The more pro-criminal surrounding environment is, the more likely it is to commit a deviant act

Example

If most of the friends say, "Smuggling is smart," and a very few say, "It is wrong," person is more likely to smuggle things.

7- Association vary in frequency, priority, duration and intensity

Whether a person commit a crime while interacting - with other criminals depends on four things:

Frequency → How often one contact with criminals

Duration → How long one spend time with criminals

Priority → How early in life contact with criminals established

Intensity → How important the person involved in criminal activity is to one.

The more the frequency, duration, priority and intensity of association with criminals the more likelihood of committing a crime

Spending time daily with a street criminal induces the other person to get involved in street crime at higher rates

8- Crime is learned like any other behavior

The process of learning a crime is same as learning anything else. It involves learning skill, motive and attitudes. While interacting with others, the person would learn by engaging themselves fully into learning process.

Example

Just as someone learns cooking step by step, one can learn how to commit fraud step by step

9- Needs do not explain crime

Needs do not explain crime because everyone

has needs, yet not everyone commit crimes. What matters is the environment of learning. If someone is surrounded by criminal persons, they may still commit crime even if their needs are fully met.

Example

A wealthy person who does not need money may still engage in corporate fraud or insider trading if their business circle treats it as normal.

Criticism on differential association theory

- Ignores free will or moral judgement
- Ignores spontaneous crimes, taking place without any previous learning
- Theory is socially sensitive and may lead to stereotyping of individuals who come from criminal background

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Conclusion:

Thus, the differential association theory hinges on the importance of social interactions of a person and sheds light on the idea that how criminal tendency can be decreased by limiting the frequency, duration, intensity and priority of associations with criminals.

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GOOD PRESENTATION
GOOD CONTENT
OVER ALL ANSWER COVERS DIMENSION
SATISFACTORY
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Q. Explain labelling theory.

Introduction:

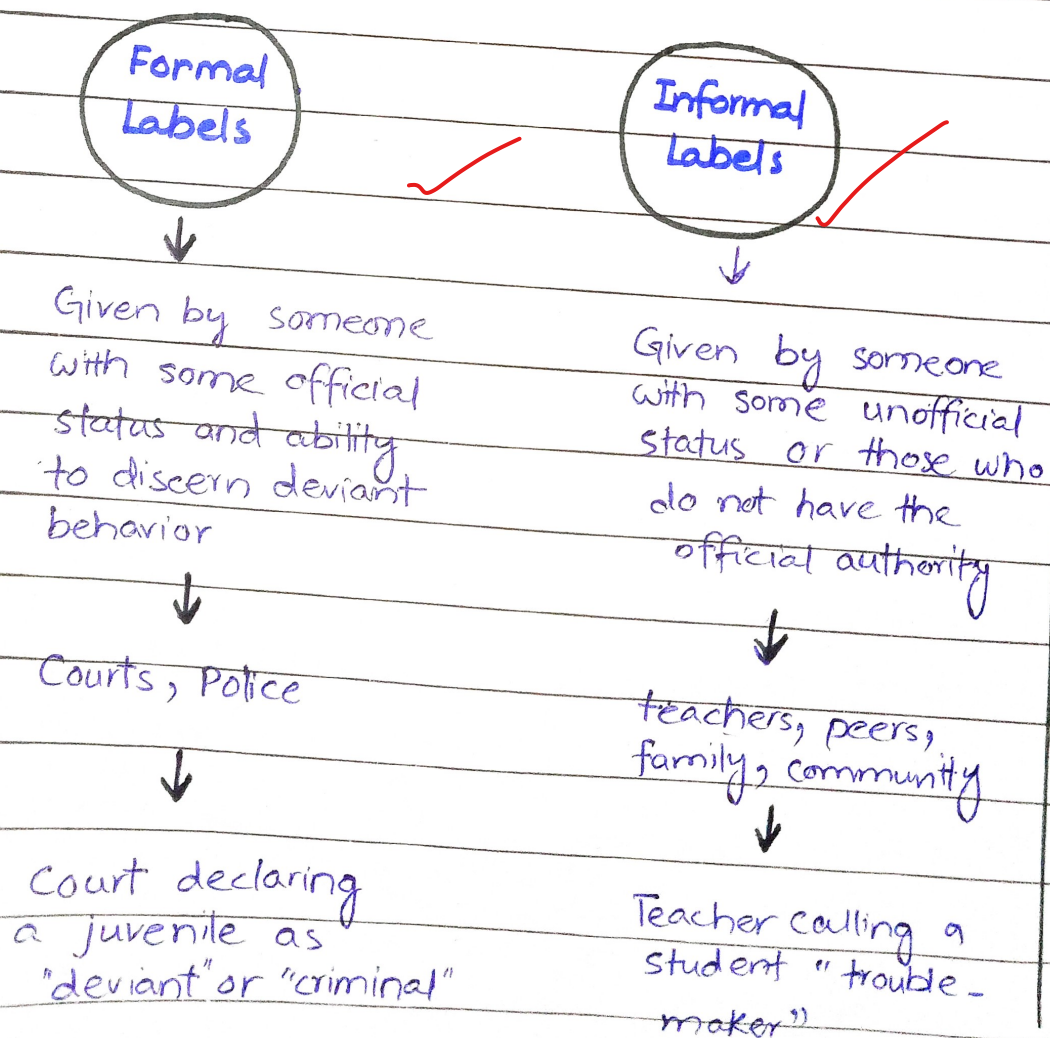
The labelling theory is a sociological perspective of crime given by **Howard Becker** in his **1963** book, **Outsiders**.

This theory comes from sociological perspective of **symbolic interactionism** and explains how societal reactions to certain behaviors can shape a person's identity and future actions. Instead of focusing only on the crime itself, it emphasizes the role of social reaction to crime, stigma and labels in creating criminals. Howard Becker says that society's reaction is more important than crime itself. When someone is labelled as a criminal, they may feel stigmatized by society, which can lead to feelings of anger, frustration, and resentment. These negative emotions

can then lead to future criminal behavior creating a self fulfilling prophecy. Thus, Labelling theory postulates:

"People become criminals as a result of how they are labelled by society."

Types of labels



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Primary deviance

→ Any initial, often minor, acts of rule-breaking that occurs before an individual is labelled as deviant ✓

Example: A teenager shoplift once but is not labelled as criminal or deviant.

Secondary deviance

→ It develops ^{when} a person commits a criminal act after the internalization of deviant label given by the society in response to primary deviance ✓

Example: If a teenager is caught during shoplifting and labelled as "thief" then he keeps stealing because society treats them like one.

Self-fulfilling prophecy

It is a prediction that comes true because of a person's belief or expectation that the prediction would come true

Labelling, deviant behavior and self-fulfilling prophecy

According to Howard Becker, labelling encourages deviant behavior, ultimately leading to self-fulfilling prophecy in three ways:

1. Deviant self-concept

2. Social exclusion

Involvement in deviant groups

1. Deviant self-concept

According to theory of symbolic interactionism society is created and maintained by face-to-face; repeated meaningful interactions among individuals. People learn to identify themselves on the basis on how they are viewed by others. So, when a person is labelled, regardless of their past acts, they experience negative stereotyping from others and through these interactions, people internalize labels.

Example

A boy who committed robbery once begins to identify himself as "robber" because of others' labels towards him.

2. Social exclusion

Once a person is labelled as 'criminal' they begin to feel social exclusion in two ways. They are either rejected

or devalued by the community and authorities or they expect rejection and devaluation, leading to social withdrawal.

Example

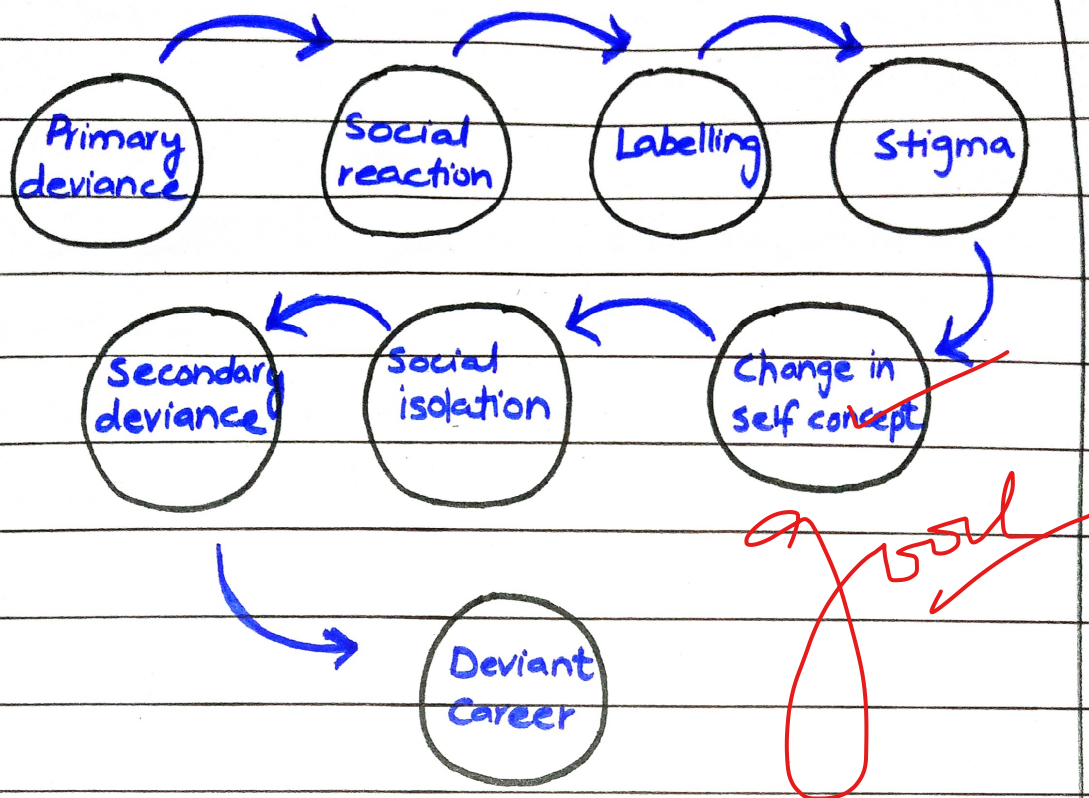
A boy labelled as deviant or robber socially isolate ~~them~~ himself due to rejection faced from society

3- Involvement in deviant groups

When one's access to non-deviant groups or networks shrinks, labeled people might turn to others who are similarly labeled. These groups provide acceptance and reinforce deviant identity.

Example

A boy labeled as robber may join other robbers and commit robbery as a career.



Flowchart of labelling theory

Criticism of labelling theory

- This theory does not explain the reason behind primary deviance ✓
- This theory ignore the power of personal will and moral judgement ✓

Solution to crimes according to labelling theory

According to this theory, solution to crime is to avoid negative labelling and stigmatization. If a society reacts less harshly, avoids tagging people as criminals and instead offers rehabilitation, acceptance and reintegration, individuals are less likely to continue committing crimes.

Conclusion:

According to labelling theory, criminal behavior is caused by labelling. It is not an innate tendency to commit a crime. Therefore by avoiding these criminal labels, criminal activity or rate in an area or a society can be controlled. R-

WELL DONE GOOD WORK!!!
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