



NORMS AND DEVIANCE IN SIERRA LEONE: THROUGH SOCIOLOGICAL LENS

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Abstract: This study critically examined norms and deviance in Sierra Leone through a sociological lens to bring out some of the socio-cultural activities related to the phenomena. This study is important to policymakers, students, and lecturers, and it may be used in analyzing social dynamics issues relating to norms and deviance in rural and urban communities. Sociological explanations of deviance and norms were utilized in the study to bring more insights into the narratives. This study also offers the first analysis of how competitive and cooperative group norms impact the formation of favorability judgments toward deviant group members. All of these sociological disciplines and major elements were analyzed in detail in relation to the phenomenon.

Keywords: Deviance, conduct, norms, sociological theory, crime, socio-cultural, values, religion, Sierra Leone.

CHAPTER ONE

Defining Norms and Deviance

Introduction

This chapter examined the definitions and some related topic on norms and deviance. Norms and deviance are contentious issue that has been discussed for many years. A number of environmental factors and cultural limitations, in addition to individual attitudes and goals, may have an impact on individual and community. Many communities have norms that restrict access to crime and deviance. The societal sanctions that is most likely to affect individual decisions in relation to their conducts and way of life in communities, such as women and girls accessibility and availabilities of reproductive medical facilities, legislation on certain behavior for have not received much attention.

What are norms?

Norms may be broken down into three broad categories—religious, cultural, and social. So long as you follow the established protocol, people's actions are shaped by social norms, which are the unstated rules that determine what is appropriate within an organization, ethnic groups, or community. They are formed up of our actions, our assumptions about what other individuals do, and our assessments of what other people anticipate and approve of. Thus, **social norms** may be found at the intersection of people's actions, values, and expectations. Behaviours are taught to children from an early age, sometimes in infancy, and reinforced via social penalties (also called "punishments") for disobeying the norms (McLeod & Saul, 2008).

People expect to be liked or rewarded by society if they conform to custom, and to be shunned or punished if they break with convention. To provide a more tangible example, norms don't always have an impact on people's actions. From time to time, individuals make choices to behave in a certain manner for reasons that have nothing to do with the opinions or actions of their peers. As an example, a boy may gamble, also involved gay conduct or consume alcohol for a variety of reasons, or a girl involved in lesbianism, smoking Kush and she is a prostitute and they including a failure to recognize the risks involved an unwillingness to try anything new, an inability to cope with negative feelings, or a lack of alternatives. It's because they don't care what other individuals think or do. Before creating an intervention, it is important to assess the behavior in issue and its determinants to see whether social norms are at play.

Individuals' actions in society are also governed by **religious norms**, which are guidelines or principles that shape individual conducts. These rules are moral guidelines, such as "*Thou Shalt Not Steal*" or "*Thou Shalt Not Convert Your Neighbor's Property*," or in the realm of standard mechanics, "In the Christians society, there is no requirement for women to wear a robe and remove their slippers before entering the mosque, while in the Muslim community, there are standards that no woman should have neatly dress and cover her whole body before entering into the mosque.

These are all examples of religious norms placed on individuals at the community level. They are a kind of norm that specifies the ethically acceptable attitudes and actions (and, therefore, those that individuals should show) and disagrees of those that infringe the rights or integrity of others and do not contribute to peace and social order. One more: if you injure someone, don't lie, keep your pledge, or keep your word.

Norms within a religion tend to be handed through one generation of people to another; however they may evolve over time as new generations learn about and adopt new practices. Their lack of a clearly stated penalty for disobedience is indicative of the fact that they are not regulated by any organization or body but instead by religious society at large. Religious norms are distinguished by the fact that they are standards that control individual behavior, that they establish the anticipated behaviors of persons in church/mosque and denounce those that are not, and that they serve to promote harmonious cohabitation among members of a community be rooted in principles such as trustworthiness, accountability, fairness, justice, and respect, be shared by every member of a society, and has passed down through generations, be subject to change as time passes, not assume a legal consequence in the event of non-compliance but a cultural sanction, and to be rules that control individual and societal behaviors alongside legal, social, and religious standards (Bond & Smith, 1996).

Culture has a significant role in shaping individuals' moral standards. What we mean by "socio-cultural norms" is the generally agreed-upon standards and practices that govern the conduct of members of a certain social group. Youths in every given society learn and internalize cultural norms via their caregivers, classmates, and educators. Cultural norms vary greatly by society, making it difficult for people from different backgrounds to understand. Cultures that are either too strict or overly tolerant seem to be completely dysfunctional when viewed from the other side. The tightness-looseness structure of civilizations may provide you some distance from the issue and help you see things more objectively. As so, it may help you develop a more open and accepting worldview. When learning about international events, it's important to consider if the people involved come from a tight or loose society. Think about what led to the current state of affairs, as well as all the moving parts that must remain in place for the system to function as intended. As an example, in certain societies, women have legal obligations to keep their bodies entirely covered (Fiske & Depret, 1996).

To some people, bikini bottoms are perfectly acceptable. Some communities prefer that people hold the baskets in their hands, while others prefer that they be placed on the head; some communities prohibit men from carrying anything on their heads, while others permit it; and some communities forbid women from attending gatherings while they're on their last period of menstruation (LMP), while others permit it. As yet another real-world example, being gay is not crime in certain communities, yet it is considered very inappropriate in others communities. This indicates that cultural norms vary not just among societies but also across religious groups, social groups and even within individuals within a given civilization.

Types of Norms

In any communities there are four different kinds of norms: folkways, mores, taboos, and laws. Folkways, sometimes known as "rules" or "customs," are arbitrary norms of behavior that are generally accepted by society. For example, the belching men and boys infiltrating the Poro and Bondo society are examples of *folkway* being broken in the Mende community in Sierra Leone.

Mores serve as a compass for morality. Most people in an environment will find it repugnant when norms are disregarded and people do things like wandering about town without clothes on. Some behaviors, like as sex in Fullah and Mende culture, are considered **taboo** and hence forbidden by law. At the very least, **regulations** are a codified body of rules enforced by the state. Most social norms, including those regarding child abuses, have been written into law. Even if it's not the place for a bikini, it's against the law to wear one to a local court meeting (Macionis & John, 2010).

Characteristics of norms

Norms are the generally accepted standards of conduct among members of a certain group or culture. They play a significant role in all facets of social life, from the home to the classroom to the job to the neighborhood. Some of the traits of norms include the following:

1. Norms are prescriptive since they outline the proper behavior for a certain scenario. They outline proper conduct and outline the range of permissible behaviors. The use of loud cell phone conversation is frowned upon in public, for instance.

2. Norms may be imposed via many means, including peer pressure, positive reinforcement, and negative consequences. Those who break the rules may be penalized socially or legally. An example of this would be a penalty for littering.
3. Societal norms are held in common by all members of a certain community. Through socialization, they are passed down from generation to generation and serve as a reflection of the community's values, beliefs, and practices. Therefore, cultural norms are not universal and are subject to change throughout time.
4. Norms are often tacit and unwritten rather than stated outright. Instead than being taught formally, people pick things up via observation and practice. However, certain standards, such as rules and regulations, may be proclaimed openly.
5. Norms are not static but may change as time passes in reaction to developments in society, culture, and technology. During the current COVID-19 epidemic, for instance, public mask use has become the standard.
6. Norms play a key role in society as they provide as a framework for behavior regulation and a mirror for shared values and norms. They are normative, enforceable, mutual, implicit, and fluid.

What is Deviance?

Deviant behavior is defined breaking conventional norms. There is a wide range of unacceptable behaviors that fall under the umbrella of "deviant." It's unclear whether or not engaging in these activities is illegal. It's possible to place varying degrees of severity on certain deviant behaviors. In some contexts, it could even be beneficial. For instance, many societies value individuals who challenge norms and conventional wisdom in pursuit of positive change (Clinard & Meier (1968)).

According to Durkheim's organic sodality perspective, this leaves contemporary civilizations with a sense of moral *uncertainty, or "anomie."* This suggests that some members of society had a greater propensity to challenge and reject accepted ideas and practices, and that such "normlessness" usually resulted in criminal behavior and other types of deviance. Robert Merton, for example, developed his strain theory in part by expanding on the anomie concept, which had already been explored by other theorists. Modern anomie theories hinge on two key tenets: (a) individuals adhere to social norms so as to gain benefits or avoid punishment; and (b) anomie arises if there is a gap

among what people want to accomplish and what assets they have, encouraging noncompliance (Durkheim, Émile. 1997).

Any behavior that goes against accepted standards or the law might be considered deviant. Abnormal behavior might include drug use prostitution, smoking, sexual deviance; this conducts are seen as abnormal by the majority of people, as are severe deviance conduct. Deviant behavior also includes abortion, public intoxication, loitering, and littering. Truancy is a kind of aberrant conduct that school gong pupil normally practices in school. A truant is a student who goes to school and leave class without providing advance notice to their parents or teachers.

Types of Deviant Behavior

Formal, discretionary deviant actions, subculture, serial, and situational deviance form the basis of this model. Actions that are considered "formal deviant" are those that involve breaking laws that have been formally established by the government. Such deviant actions are often unlawful and have severe consequences, including jail time or even the death penalty. Formals instances of deviant behavior include murder, robbery, assault, rape, and child molestation.

Discretionary informal action, aberrant behavior refers to actions that go beyond accepted social norms. This kind of deviance is often not penalized by the law since it is considered less severe than formal deviance. Alternatively, persons that display informal abnormal behavior may be singled out for ridicule or even social isolation. Take the case of a young man and woman who are caught sharing a pornographic film.

Subcultural deviant behavior is defined as actions that violate the norms of a particular subculture. A subgroup of people is an ethnic minority inside a larger culture that has developed its own distinctive set of norms and behaviors. Many forms of aberrant behavior may be seen in the subcultures of today, including gang violence, drug abuse, and prostitution. Sub culturally improper conduct may be a way for people to express their identities and strengthen bonds within their communities, despite the widespread perception that such actions are immoral or detrimental. For

example, many gangs resort to violence in order to claim territory, protect their own, and instill a feeling of "strong" solidarity and readiness for action among its members (Kendall, 2011).

Serial deviance is defined as a persistent pattern of illegal actions. Doing several wrongdoings. Repeatedly deviant behavior includes, for example, a little kid who takes from the store every day. The phrase "serial deviant behavior" is used to describe those who exhibit a pattern of informal deviant behavior. A person who, say, belches excessively and stands too close to others may be stigmatized because of this behavior and have negative social consequences (Kendall, 2011).

Behavior that is considered abnormal in one setting but is typical in another is an example of **situational deviance**. Examples include beaches, where nudity is accepted while being frowned upon in other public places. It's like how swearing isn't considered abnormal until it occurs in a restricted setting like a workplace or a classroom. Even in such settings, the attitudes of those close to the person doing the deviant act affect how seriously they take the behavior in question. Some types of situational deviance are harmless or even funny, while others may have serious consequences. For instance, although intoxication is often seen as funny or enjoyable by others around you, driving under the influence may lead to accidents, injuries, and even deaths (ibid).

Characteristics of deviance conducts

Deviant conduct, like many of its other qualities, is contextual and contextually dependent. The norms of one society may be quite acceptable in another. Polygamy is an example of a socially acceptable behaviour that is seen negatively in other societies. Deviant conduct also often elicits unfavorable responses from society, including discrimination, rejection, and punishment. Deviant conduct is typically associated with social stigma, including discrimination and social exclusion for those who indulge in it.

There are two main types of deviance: primary and secondary. The term "primary deviance" is used to describe a person's first forays into antisocial behavior that don't have long-lasting effects on their sense of self or social

standing. When aberrant conduct is consistently shown over time, it may become an integral part of one's identity, leading to societal rejection and shame.

In addition, socialization procedures, cultural values, economic situations, mental health difficulties, and drug addiction all have a role in the emergence of antisocial conduct. Knowing what constitutes aberrant conduct is essential for properly addressing it. It's worth noting that various cultures and communities have varied standards for what constitutes deviant conduct, and that these standards are typically accompanied by negative social responses.

Comparison of norms and Deviance in Sierra Leonean context

Norms, as applied to Sierra Leone, are the culturally accepted patterns of thought and conduct that prevail there. Culture, religion, and history all have a role in shaping social norms, which are then upheld by means of social penalties including exclusion, ridicule, and punishment. Conversely, "deviance" describes actions that go against these standards and are thus deemed unsuitable.

The western focus on solidarity rather than individuality is a major factor distinguishing norms and deviance in urban settings from those in rural ones. Behaviors that assist others are highly appreciated in many cultures because their ethnicity is emphasized above the individual. This may result in a stronger focus on compliance and a tougher enforcement of social standards.

Colonialism and globalization have had significant impacts on Sierra Leonean culture and deviation from the norm. Colonialism and globalization have had a profound effect on the cultural norms of many Sierra Leonean societies, leading to the decline of older practices and the introduction of new ones. This may lead to conflicts between age groups or social groupings within a community, which in turn can fuel criminal activity.

Disrespect for elders or authoritative figures, having sexual relations outside of marriage, and criminal activity like theft or fraud are all examples of aberrant conduct observed in Sierra Leonean society. What constitutes deviance, however, varies greatly from one culture to the next. Cultural values, historical background, and current social dynamics all play a role in illuminating the differences between the norm and deviation in Sierra Leone.

Differences between norms and deviance

To deviate from the norms of a society or culture is to behave contrary to what is considered proper behavior. The word "nonconformity" is used to describe behaviors and ways of thinking that are beyond the norm. It's not necessarily terrible or dangerous when people act in a deviant manner. Instead, deviation is behavior that goes against the grain of what is generally considered to be right in a given culture. Typical social norms might vary greatly from one part of the globe or culture to another. Greeting strangers with a grin may seem odd in one culture but perfectly natural in another.

The concept of deviance is rooted in the norms and expectations of a certain culture. Deviant conduct is defined and understood in various ways in different communities and at different times. The concept of deviance is rooted in the shared norms and beliefs of a society. Deviant behavior is defined and understood differently at different points in time and in different nations.

However, a society relies on its social rules to set and uphold norms and behavior. It's useful for establishing order in society and a sense of belonging among its members. Maintaining some level of social order and discipline helps prevent social breakdown and anarchy. Sanctions, which may be either positive reinforcement or negative punishment, are one way that civilizations maintain or impose order. Sanctions are any kind of reward or punishment used to encourage good behavior. Individuals in a community are more likely to adhere to established norms when they are subjected to sanctions designed to increase the psychological cost of breaking the rules. Consequences might be formal or informal, positive or negative.

Individuals are more likely to repeat a behavior if they are rewarded for it. Many customs and norms of society have arbitrary penalties. If someone acts nicely, they could get a compliment or a smile. A student may be awarded a ribbon for outstanding academic achievement. Motivating outcomes like this help recognize and verify the socially acceptable behavior. They are used as examples of informal reprimands. A bad outcome has the opposite impact and discourages further misconduct. Negative penalties include social exclusion, verbal abuse, and even physical assault.

These are reprimands, although not in the formal sense. Certain kinds of deviant conduct are criminal offenses. This behavior is illegal as well as contrary to the norms of society. The response of society to criminal behavior is formal sanctions, or the imposition of predetermined and authoritative consequences.

Characteristics of deviance conducts

Deviance is not necessarily illegal but can be seen as immoral or inappropriate by society. There are several characteristics of deviant behavior, including:

1. **Violation of social norms:** Deviant behavior goes against the accepted norms and values of a society. These norms can be formalized through laws or informal expectations that are enforced through social pressure.
2. **Relativity:** What is considered deviant varies across cultures and time periods. For example, in some societies, polygamy is accepted while in others it is considered deviant.
3. **Stigmatization:** Individuals who engage in deviant behavior may be stigmatized by society and labeled as "criminals," "perverts," or "outsiders." This labeling can have negative consequences for the individual's social status and opportunities.
4. **Power dynamics:** Deviance can be linked to power dynamics within society. Those with more power may be able to engage in behavior that is considered deviant without facing consequences, while those with less power may be punished for similar behavior.
5. **Resistance:** Deviance can also be a form of resistance against dominant cultural norms and values. For example, civil disobedience can be seen as a form of deviance against unjust laws

CHAPTER TWO

Sociological Explanations of Deviance and Norms

Introduction

Sociological explanations of deviance and norms vary depending on the theoretical perspective adopted by sociologists. Structural-functionalism views deviance as serving a purpose in maintaining social order, while conflict theory sees it as arising from inequality and oppression. Symbolic interactionism emphasizes individual agency in shaping social behavior, while labeling theory argues that deviance is a product of social reactions to certain behaviors. Other theories used in this chapter are- Michael Foucault, social strain typology theory, biological theory on norms and deviance, social disorganization theory, cultural deviance theory, social control theory

Conflict theory explanation of norms and deviance

According to conflict theory, society is always fighting over scarce commodities like money, respect, and social standing. Norms and deviance, according to this view, are not independent benchmarks for conduct but rather social constructions that reflect the priorities of the powerful. Due to conflict theory, societal norms are created by the powerful in order to retain their position of authority. Formal and informal penalties, including as prizes for compliance and punishments for deviation, are often used to enforce these standards (Bartos & Wehr, 2002). It is the contention of conflict theorists that socioeconomic inequality lies at the root of criminality. They believe that those with less social capital are more inclined to resort to criminal activity as a means of challenging the status quo. People from disadvantaged backgrounds or members of underrepresented minorities may resort to criminal activity to meet basic needs (ibid).

Karl Marx, the intellectual father of this idea, maintained that social strife is an integral aspect of economic transformation. Marx predicted that the working class will ultimately rise up against the privileged few and construct a more equitable society as a result of capitalism. Although conflict theory was first developed by Marxists like the great Max Weber and Randall Collins, it has since been adopted and developed by various sociologists (Crouch, 2001). Conversely, any action that goes against these standards is considered deviant. According to conflict theorists, deviation isn't necessarily wrong since it's a result of society's unfair allocation of resources. Infractions

range from jaywalking and littering to robbery and murder as examples of deviance. The idea that social deviation is not uniformly distributed is central to conflict theory. Instead, it is more prevalent among social outliers and underprivileged communities (ibid).

People of low socioeconomic level, ethnicity, or wealth fall under this category, it's a helpful foundation for thinking about how deviation from social standards occurs. Rather than being neutral guidelines for proper conduct, norms are shown to be a reflection of the priorities of the powerful. Those on the margins of society are more likely to engage in deviant behavior because it is perceived as a normal reaction to the unfair allocation of resources in society (LeFebvre & Franke, 2013).

Functionalist theory

The structural functionalist views deviance as playing two key parts in fostering social stability. First, deviance recognition and punishment systems establish norms and instruct members of a community on appropriate conduct by defining motif of acceptable and undesirable behavior. One has to be aware of the activities that are seen to be abnormal in order to avoid upsetting society. Second, these social norms draw lines between populations and encourage a "us versus them" attitude among various groups. At the expense of individuals classified as deviant, deviation enables the majority to come together around their normativity. In contrast, stigmatization as a deviant may actually strengthen community cohesion as people take pleasure in and ownership of their stigmatized identities and forge their own strong bonds (De Nardis, 2007).

How then does society alter from a structural functionalist viewpoint, especially in terms of creating norms and deviant behaviors? The concept of how society is disrupted and rebalanced through time may be found in deviance. Some characteristics will be ostracized and may lead to societal unrest. But when qualities gain in popularity, society will eventually change to accept the formerly condemned traits.

There was an overall social divide despite the fact that this "us versus them" mindset helped to solidify social identities and bonds between the two categories. The acceptance of homosexuality has grown over time and is now

seen to be increasingly common. Therefore, what first seems to be a fracture of society really strengthens social stability by offering techniques for social adjustment and growth (Holmwood, 2005). The functionalist perspective on society sees its many aspects as interconnected and essential to maintaining peace and harmony. Social order and unity, according to functionalism, depend on standards and deviance. The norms of a society are its unspoken regulations and expectations for its members. They provide a consistent framework for social interactions by outlining what members of a group may and cannot do. (ibid)

Norms may be either formally established or unofficially accepted, and they often differ amongst communities.

Deviant conduct, according to the functionalist view, may be a catalyst for positive societal transformation. People who aren't afraid to question authority and try new things are often the ones that end up making the world a better place for everyone. When offenders are publicly shamed, it serves as a reminder to the rest of society regarding what kinds of actions are and are not tolerated. Simply said, it helps maintain order in society by making breaking the laws more costly. Conversely, "deviance" describes actions that go against accepted standards in society. Anything that runs against the norms of society is said to be countercultural. Crimes may vary from petty transgressions like speeding tickets to major ones like robbery or murder. Both social norms and deviations are seen as having useful purposes by functionalists. Norms play a significant role in maintaining social order and ensuring that people's actions reflect the shared ideals of a society (Bales, & Parsons, 2014).

They serve to provide a feeling of stability and predictability in an otherwise chaotic and unpredictable social environment. However, there are also significant benefits to society from deviance. To begin with, it aids in establishing social norms and standards. By learning what constitutes unacceptable conduct; people may set reasonable goals for themselves. Second, deviation might be an early indicator that the social order is broken.

A high crime rate, for instance, might be a symptom of deeper issues in the economy or society. According to functionalist philosophy, norms and deviance both help keep society stable and cohesive. Deviance aids in outlining the limits of what is considered socially acceptable, while norms provide a feeling of stability and predictability in social relationships.

Symbolic interactionist theory

The interactionist approach in sociology is one that analyzes the effects of communication and cultural exchange on social behavior. Norms and deviations, in the view of interactionism, are not inherent to activities but are constructed via relationships and interpretations of what happens. Social interactions are governed by norms, which are unspoken laws of conduct. Laws and standards of behavior are examples of the former, whereas societal norms and expectations are examples of the latter (Caglar & Sebnem 2015). Interactionists contend that social standards are neither innate nor static, but rather are the result of ongoing negotiation and redefinition. What one culture deems normal conduct may be deemed abnormal by another. Conversely, "deviance" describes actions that go against accepted standards in society. According to interactionists, deviation is an idea that arises through people's responses to one another's acts. A behavior is only aberrant if it is deemed such by society at large.

For instance, whereas some cultures see marijuana use as abnormal, others do not. When it comes to influencing norms and deviance, power dynamics are also emphasized by interactionists. Those who have more sway in society have a larger say in determining what is acceptable and unacceptable conduct. Because of this, certain communities may be unfairly stigmatized as "deviant" more often than others. Interactionism provides a fresh viewpoint on how standards and deviations are established and understood. Interactionists stress the importance of relationships and relationships of power in forming our perception of what is deemed proper conduct, as opposed to considering these conceptions to be fixed or inherent to acts themselves.

Labeling theory

Sociologists have developed a theory called "labeling theory" to explain why and how people are stereotyped as either "deviants" or "conformists." This theory proposes that the societal response to an act, rather than the act itself, determines whether or not it is considered deviant. That is to say, it doesn't involve the act in itself but rather the social response to it that labels someone as a deviant. According to Cullen, Francis (1984), those who have been branded as deviants are more inclined to go on with their undesirable ways of living. This is due to the fact that being called a deviant often results in social stigma and rejection, leading to feelings of isolation and rejection. Because of this, they could seek solace and encouragement from other deviants, which might further propel them

down the road of deviancy. Primary deviance can occasionally develop into secondary deviance in more severe circumstances. When a person's self-concept and behavior start to shift after their activities are classified as deviant by society, this is known as secondary deviance. The person can start dressing up and acting the part of a "deviant" as a form of defiance against the society that has classified them as such (ibid).

The boy receives several warnings from instructors and other school personnel, and soon enough he gains a reputation as a "troublemaker." The boy/girl then begins behaving even more erratically and breaking more regulations; he has taken on the moniker of "troublemaker" and accepted this deviant character. Secondary deviation can be so potent that it elevates a person to the level of a master. A master status is a designation that sums up a person's main quality. Some people identify as physicians, artists, or grandfathers beyond everything else. Others think of themselves as junkies, criminals, or beggars. Becker, (1973) posits that primary deviance is defined as deviant activity where the perpetrator has not yet been recognized. A boy who is discovered drinking at a party but only receives a moderate reprimand from their parents is an example of primary deviance. Secondary deviance, on the other hand, is the stigmatization that results from a person's engagement in illegal activity.

The term "secondary deviance" describes how a person's identity or line of work changes as a result of their first deviation. The necessity of distinguishing between these two forms of deviance is highlighted by the fact that everyone occasionally engages in primary deviant behaviors with minimal social consequences. The labeling hypothesis contends that stigmatizing someone by referring to them as a deviant separates them from the norm. This difference may lead to discrimination and social isolation, which may encourage greater antisocial behavior (Macionis, John 2012).

If a person has an offensive record, it could be difficult for them to get employment or rent an apartment. As a result, some people may turn to illegal behavior to make ends meet. Or, someone who has been diagnosed with a mental condition may have problems blending in and may find it difficult to make friends. According to Becker (2018), isolation has been associated with an increase in mental health problems. The labeling hypothesis has been used to explain a variety of abnormal behaviors, including crime, mental illness, and substance misuse. The idea is still

having a big influence on the sociology area, despite criticism. The opposite is true for those who have been classified as conformists; they are more inclined to maintain their adherence to social norms. Because being branded a conformist may lead to acceptability and inclusion in the general population, which might fuel the individual's drive to conform to established standards (ibid).

According to Sumner, (1994), contend that the act of labeling itself is neither objective nor neutral, but rather subject to bias based on aspects like one's ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. People from underrepresented groups, for instance, may be more prone to be branded as deviants despite their actions being identical to those of those from more advantaged backgrounds. The labeling theory describes how people are classified as either deviants or conformists depending on the social response to their actions. It argues that a society's response to an act, rather than the act itself, determines whether or not it is considered deviant. The theory also emphasizes the significance of class distinctions in the identification process (ibid).

Michel Foucault perspectives on norms and deviance

Michel Foucault, a French social theorist and historian, made seminal contributions to both disciplines. His critical analyses of authority, expertise, and communication have had a significant impact on the development of postmodern and critical theory. Foucault's greater criticism of power dynamics is the bedrock of his study of social conventions and deviance. Power, in Foucault's view, is not something that individuals or institutions possess but rather a pervasive force that operates at all societal levels. Power is not only exercised via overt means like force and violence, but also through more subtle means like the setting of norms and the regulation of conduct (Paternek, 1987). Foucault argues that norms are more than just guidelines for proper behavior; they are also a means through which power is exerted over others. To regulate behavior and maintain social order, powerful people create norms. However, the individuals who create these norms are not neutral or impartial; rather, they are influenced by their own values and priorities. Therefore, they may be used to uphold existing power structures and push certain people to the margins of society (ibid).

Foucault argues that the word "deviant" is employed to characterize individuals who do not adhere to the norms, rather than those who are really different from society. Instead of just being a matter of violating the laws, deviation is an act of politics that challenges established power relations. Foucault places special emphasis on how social authority is used to control individuals and maintain social order in his discussions of norms and deviance. His contributions have been crucial in the development of fields like critical criminology, which seek to challenge existing authority systems. Foucault, 2007 contend that, because of the separation of powers, torture is no longer used as a means of punishing rebellious citizens, as argued by Michel Foucault. The modern state is lauded not for totalitarianism but for its justice and power distribution. He also proposed the idea that discipline inside institutions is an effective means of social control. The contemporary prison (or more precisely, the panopticon) is a model for similar institutions because of the effective application of discipline to maintain control over its inmates (ibid).

Social strain typology theory

Famous American sociologist Robert K. Merton developed the social strain theory. According to his perspective, societal institutions could persuade people to commit crimes. The processes at the social level that trickle down and influence how the person perceives his or her requirements are referred to as structural strain. The term "individual strain" describes the frictions and discomforts that a person goes through when they search for solutions to meet their unique demands. These kinds of pressure may permeate societal institutions inside society, pressuring people to commit crimes (Dinitz, & Simon, 1975).

The relationship between deviant behavior and social structure is described by the "a social strain typology" theoretical paradigm. This theory proposes that individuals are more likely to engage in illegal or deviant behavior when they are under stress or pressure from their social environment. The theory proposes that economic and social pressures, rather than innate personality flaws, are the primary drivers of antisocial behavior. Fiske, & Depret, (1996). Posts that, the Social strain typology categorizes aberrant behavior based on a person's intentions or faithfulness to socio-cultural goals, and also their views regarding how they could achieve those goals. Ritualism, rebellion, ritualism, retreats, and conformity are the primary "types" of social deviance. This approach maintains that people may engage in questionable behavior while still striving for socially sanctioned ideals or beliefs. Some

individuals commit crimes like this because they believe that society values wealth and luxury above everything else. According to the social strain typology, deviance might take the form of acting inconsistently with one set of norms in order to maintain another (ibid).

According to Bartel, & Phil (2012), many stresses in today's society might contribute to individuals acting in deviant ways. The initial kind is financial stress, which occurs when individuals are unemployed, underemployed, or otherwise having a hard time making ends meet. When money is tight, some people turn to crime to ensure they can afford the basics. Theft, deception, and other forms of economic crime might be included here. Another kind of interpersonal strain occurs when persons experience feelings of isolation or lack of social support. When people feel they need the admiration or reverence of their peers, they may resort to deviant behavior. This may include taking part in illegal activities, such as gang membership or drug use.

Bartel, Phil. (2012) also contends that the third type of social friction arises when individuals' cultural values conflict with those of the larger society. When individuals feel pressured to "show their culture," they may reject common thinking and behave immorally. This might be the case with extremist activities like hate crimes. It cannot be emphasized enough that the findings of the social stress typology do not mean that all people who feel social stress are going to act out or act in an abnormal manner. Instead, research suggests that such behavior is increasingly common because of cultural pressure. The relationship between abnormal behavior and social structure may be better understood with the aid of the social strain typology. Recognizing the many forms of social pressure that may lead to deviance might help us better understand the root causes of criminal behavior and develop effective strategies for preventing it (ibid).

Biological theory on norms and deviance

Human conduct is impacted by biological elements such as biology, hormones, and brain chemistry, and this has implications for societal norms and deviance. The chance of a person adhering to social standards or participating in deviant conduct may be affected by biological variables. Certain personality qualities that may affect an individual's actions have been demonstrated to be partially inherited. Impulsivity and sensation-seeking, for instance, have been

linked to deviant conduct, and research suggests that these tendencies may have a hereditary component. Furthermore, studies have revealed that criminal conduct may have a hereditary component, but this is still debated. Human behavior is influenced by a number of factors, including hormones. For instance, testosterone may enhance one's propensity for antisocial conduct because of its association with aggressive and dominant traits. Similarly, studies have linked low serotonin levels to aggressive and impulsive conduct. Human conduct is influenced by both genetics and brain chemistry. Some neurotransmitters, such dopamine and norepinephrine, have been linked to reward-seeking behavior and, by extension, may increase an individual's propensity to engage in antisocial conduct. While it is true that social norms and cultural influences have an effect on how people behave, it is also evident that biological variables contribute to whether or not a person conforms to social standards or engages in aberrant conduct (Voinea, & Bulzan, 2013).

Social Disorganization Theory

The social disorganization hypothesis, which was created by scholars at the University of Chicago, contends that societies with frayed social relationships and a lack of social control are most prone to experience crime. A person is more likely to become a criminal if they are raised in an affluent area with a strong educational system and supportive families than if they are raised in a poor neighborhood with high rates of drug use, violence, juvenile misbehavior, and bad parenting. According to proponents of the social disorganization hypothesis, people who grow up in underprivileged neighborhoods are more prone to engage in criminal or deviant conduct. Social Disorganization Theory is a criminological theory that explains how the social environment of a community can lead to deviant behavior and the violation of socio-cultural norms. According to this theory, certain neighborhoods and communities are more likely to experience high rates of crime and deviance due to the breakdown of social institutions and the lack of social control (McLeod, Saul, 2008).

Social disorganization refers to the inability of a community to regulate itself effectively due to a lack of social cohesion, shared values, and institutional support. This can occur for a variety of reasons, including poverty, inequality, residential mobility, and ethnic heterogeneity. When these factors are present in a community, it becomes difficult for residents to establish strong social ties and maintain a sense of collective identity. As a result, informal

mechanisms of social control, such as peer pressure and informal sanctions, are weakened or non-existent. **Deviant behavior** is more likely to occur in socially disorganized communities because individuals are less likely to be deterred by informal social controls. In addition, the lack of institutional support means that formal social controls, such as law enforcement and the criminal justice system, may be less effective at preventing crime and deviance. This can create a vicious cycle where high levels of crime lead to further social disorganization, which in turn leads to even higher levels of crime (Allan, Kenneth, 2006).

Socio-cultural norms are also affected by social disorganization. In socially disorganized communities, there may be different norms and values that are not shared by the wider society. For example, gangs may form in socially disorganized neighborhoods as a way for young people to establish their own sense of identity and gain respect within their community. These gangs may have their own codes of conduct and norms that are different from those of mainstream society. Social disorganization theory provides an explanation for why certain neighborhoods and communities experience high rates of crime and deviance. It highlights the importance of social cohesion, shared values, and institutional support in preventing deviant behavior and upholding socio-cultural norms (Chong, 2000). According to the theory of social disorganization, widespread social forces are what lead to deviation. A person doesn't become a criminal at birth; rather, it happens through time, frequently as a result of elements in their social environment. Social disorganization theory research has a significant impact on public policy. For instance, research has shown that children from underprivileged backgrounds who enroll in preschool programs that focus on developing fundamental social skills are considerably less likely to commit crimes.

Cultural Deviance Theory

A sociological theory contends that differences in deviance and norms arise when a society's cultural norms collide with those of its subcultures. According to this argument, people who are members of subcultures that have distinct standards of behavior from the mainstream society are more prone to exhibit deviant behavior. This idea holds that subcultures form their own set of standards and beliefs that are distinct from those of the greater society for a variety of reasons, including socioeconomic ethnicity and religion. These subcultural standards may include conduct that is

seen abnormal by the greater community, such as drug usage, involvement in gangs, or other criminal activity (Hirschi & Travis, 1969).

According to the cultural deviance idea, these actions aren't necessarily abnormal; rather, they're a reaction to the particular social and cultural circumstances that these subcultures' members face. According to the notion, those who are struggling financially may be more inclined to exhibit deviant conduct as a way of coping. This is due to the possibility that they lack access to legal ways to accomplish their objectives, which forces them to resort illegal methods like crime.

Furthermore, according to the cultural deviance theory, by stigmatizing and punishing those who participate in deviant conduct rather than addressing the underlying social and economic problems that lead to it, the criminal justice system may aid in the growth of deviant subcultures.

Cultural deviance theory provides a useful framework for understanding how subcultures develop their own norms and values that may differ from those of the larger society, leading to deviant behavior. It highlights the importance of addressing underlying social and economic factors in reducing deviance rather than simply punishing individuals who engage in it. (Sampson, Robert & Lydi, 2006).

Social control Theory

Social control theory focuses on how people and social institutions cooperate to preserve social order and curb disruptive behavior. According to this view, individuals adhere to social norms and standards because they care about other people and think they are right. The social control theory contends that humans have a predisposition to act criminally or otherwise defiantly from social standards. According to the notion, people are discouraged from engaging in such conduct since social constraints including family, friends, schools, and law enforcement organizations exist. These social controls function by inspiring people to feel a feeling of affiliation and belonging, which in turn encourages them to follow society standards (Sampson, Robert, 1989).

Social control theory emphasizes the influence of attitudes and values on behavior in addition to attachment.

According to the hypothesis, people who fervently believe that social norms are valid are less inclined to act in ways that are contrary to those norms. This is due to their belief that such behavior is immoral and detrimental to society as a whole. The significance of informal social controls over formal ones is also emphasized by the social control theory. Informal social controls are the techniques used by individuals to govern and discipline their own conduct. On the other hand, formal social controls relate to external processes that are imposed by authorities, such as laws and regulations (Douglas & Waksler. 1982). As we continue to look at important social influences, control theory asserts that individual behavior is directly influenced by the strength of social ties and that deviation is brought on by a sense of alienation from society. Crimes against communities are less likely to be committed by people who feel a part of it. Travis Hirschi (1969) outlined four categories of social ties that bind individuals to society:

1. Attachment gauges the strength of our bonds with others. We worry about other people's perceptions of us when we are emotionally linked to them. To win the acceptance of family, friends, and love partners (or to avoid their displeasure), people comply to social standards.
2. Investments in the community are referred to as commitment. Compared to a woman without a job or connections to the community, a respected local businesswoman who volunteers at her synagogue and belongs to the neighborhood block association has more to lose by committing a crime.
3. In a similar vein, engagement in socially acceptable activities lowers a person's propensity for deviation. Little league baseball players are less likely to experience family problems.
4. Belief, the fourth link, is an understanding of societal norms. A person will follow social norms if they are seen as beliefs.

CHAPTER THREE

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DEVIANCE AND NORMS

Introduction

The social, economic, and political facets of society in African societies are greatly influenced by norms and abnormal behaviour. Norms are established, socially acceptable standards of conduct, whereas deviant behavior is behavior that deviates from these norms. Norms provide the framework for social order and coherence, but deviations can damage democratic institutions, economic growth, and social cohesion.

Deviant conduct may take many different forms, from overt forms like stealing and violence to more covert ones like spreading stories or gossip. Abortion, adolescent pregnancies, marital violence, drug addiction, and abuse are all common in many African nations, and this is due to deviant behaviors that are accepted or even promoted by society. Political leaders manipulate the voting process or engage in voter intimidation in order to hold onto their positions of authority, which erodes democratic institutions and creates political instability.

Socio-Psychological Factors and Deviant Behaviour

Living conditions, marriage-related difficulties, engagement in youth organizations (peer influence), and difficulties those groups experience are some of the socio-psychological issues. A person's family is a significant source of both internal and external control; it aids in creating norms for proper conduct and offers an individual an outward form of social control. There are several methods that a family can control inappropriate behaviors.

Family roles and connections are absent, and this absence of control raises the likelihood that compromising behavior will be displayed. Family relationships aid in the internalization of socially acceptable norms. The lack of self-control displayed by young people who grow up to commit crimes is generally attributed to family child-rearing techniques.

The process of socialization is how people pick up and assimilate the standards, values, and expectations of their society. A person may act in a deviant manner if they are not perfectly mingled or if they are exhibit to aberrant norms, values, and expectations. Peer pressure is another socio-psychological element that influences deviant conduct. Peer pressure is the term used to describe how peers may affect someone's conduct. An individual could experience peer pressure to act out if their peers do.

Deviant conduct is also influenced by family relationships. Children who grow up in households that are dysfunctional or have a history of acting out are more prone to act out themselves. This is due to the possibility that these kids do not get the required instruction and encouragement they require to acquire suitable civic skills and behaviors. Poverty, unemployment, a lack substance misuse are other socio-psychological variables that influence aberrant conduct.

It is important to note that not all individuals who experience these socio-psychological factors will engage in deviant behavior. However, these factors increase the likelihood of deviant behavior occurring. Socio-psychological factors play a significant role in deviant behavior. Socialization, peer pressure, family dynamics, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, mental illness, and substance abuse are all examples of socio-psychological factors that can contribute to deviant behavior.

Single parent, may be a woman, has all of the responsibility for maintaining a household and may lack the psychological or social support inherent in a two-parent family. Consequently, she may not be able to devote the time necessary to monitor her children's behaviour. Discipline in a family may in one way or the other determine deviant behaviour of a youth.

Discipline encourages parents to behave like the adults they want their children to become, which may bring out the best or worst in them. Explosive, ranting, and threat-filled parenting styles, which are frequently accompanied by a lack of consistency or follow-through, are not only useless in preventing the kid from engaging in antisocial behavior, but actually worsen it. Coercive, irritable parenting frequently results in a hostile reaction from the child.

Peer impact on norms and deviance refers to how peers affect a person's behavior and **attachments** to social norms. Peers are individuals who are similar to that **person in age, position, and interests**; therefore they may have a significant influence on that person's behavior. Peers may impact how someone follows social norms, which is what the phrase "peer **effects** on norms" refers to. The phrase "peer impact on deviance" refers to how peers can encourage or discourage **deviant behavior**. **Boys and girls**, who **thirst** to **apt** in and be accepted, are particularly susceptible to peer pressure. Greater academic performance and pro-social behavior are only two positive outcomes of peer influence that can also have negative repercussions. Delinquent conduct and drug abuse are two negative impacts.

Effects of Media on Deviant Behaviour

The impacts of cruelty in the media have been the subject of hundreds of research in recent years. At best, the results are intimidating and perhaps disturbing. Researchers have stated that the findings are equivocal because some have expressed sufficient concerns about the consequences of media violence. Others, however, have made compelling arguments that media violence can contribute to criminal behavior, and many sociologists have come to the conclusion that violence in the media has a detrimental effect on viewers. The media significantly affects people's norms and abnormal behaviour. Norms are the socially acceptable actions and ideals, whereas deviant acts go against these norms.

The media has the power to affect behavior by either upholding or undermining these standards. The representation of social roles in media is one way it influences norms. The media frequently portrays certain demographic groups in certain jobs, such as males as breadwinners or women as careers. These representations may serve to reinforce gender norms and uphold established gender roles. However, some media sources are already dispelling these myths by showing women in unconventional positions, such as CEOs or female superheroes.

By normalizing them, media can also have an impact on abnormal behaviors. Brutal movies games and movies, for instance, can desensitize people to violence and make it appear like a rational means of resolving conflicts. Social

media has also made it simpler for people to participate in deviant behaviors like posting sexual content or cyberbullying.

On the other side, the media may also be used to encourage good conduct and deter bad. Advertising campaigns can increase awareness of crucial topics like drug usage or safe sex practices. Positive behaviors like recycling and volunteering have also been successfully promoted through social media campaigns. The media significantly affects people's norms and abnormal behaviour. It may be used to promote good standards and deter undesirable behaviors, as well as to reinforce conventional gender roles and normalize abnormal conduct.

Let's start by examining how death is portrayed in the media. The topic of death has long been taboo. Death is not typically discussed in idle conversation, especially with young children. Children may not fully comprehend the idea of death as a result of this. Cartoons frequently feature situations where a character is killed off but then reappears alive and well in the following scene. They don't genuinely pass away, that much is certain.

Economic effects

The degree of money that the adolescent has or that of their family members is the main economic element determining deviant behavior in young people. Individuals, companies, and society can all experience considerable economic repercussions as a result of norms and deviation. The terms "deviance" and "norms" both refer to social conduct that deviates from these unwritten standards and expectations.

Social capital formation is one way that norms and deviation may have an economic influence. The channel, norms, and trust that promote collaboration and coordination between individuals and groups are referred to as social capital. Following social standards helps people establish trust and foster a feeling of community. Individuals are more inclined to collaborate and work together to achieve shared goals as a result, which can provide more efficient market outcomes. Deviant behavior, on the other hand, can reduce social capital by eroding interpersonal trust and collaboration.

Resources can be allocated differently within an economy depending on norms and deviation. People may be more inclined to invest in education or launch their own firms, for instance, if a society views entrepreneurship and hard work as good standards. Greater creativity, productivity, and economic expansion may result from this. In contrast, people could be less inclined to invest in their own human capital or support the economy if a culture emphasizes leisure or consumption above labor. Slower growth and worse living standards may result from this.

Through their impacts on institutions, norms and deviance can have an impact on economic performance. Institutions, such as property rights, procedures for enforcing contracts, and regulatory frameworks, are the formal laws and norms that control economic activity. People are more likely to willingly follow institutional regulations when social norms are in line with them. This may result in improved **governance and economic results**. However, institutions may be less efficient in controlling economic activity when societal norms **differ from institutional laws**. By influencing institutional performance, resource allocation, and social capital, norms and deviance can have a large economic impact. Policymakers and everyone wishing to further economic growth and development must comprehend these implications.

Typical Deviant Behavior in among youths

Youthful deviant conduct is defined as activities that go against societal expectations, morals, and regulations. Such conduct might include less serious crimes like absenteeism and vandalism as well as more significant ones like drug misuse, theft, and assault. Researchers in several disciplines, including sociology, psychology, and criminology, have investigated deviant behavior among juveniles in great detail.

Youth aberrant behavior is influenced by a variety of causes. The impact of peers is among the most important elements. Young individuals frequently engage in immoral activity to get the praise or acceptance of their peers. Additionally, they could experience peer pressure to follow peer group norms, even if those standards call for violating the law or adopting dangerous conduct. Family relationships are another significant consideration. Children who are raised in unstable, nurturing circumstances are less likely to participate in deviant conduct than those who are raised in high-conflict, neglectful, or abusive homes.

Additionally important in reducing teenage aberrant conduct are parental oversight and surveillance. Poverty, a lack of access to higher education or employment possibilities, and subjection to ferocity and trauma are other variables that might lead to teenage aberrant behavior. These problems can breed a sense of helplessness and despair in young a person, which makes them resort to risky conduct as a coping mechanism.

It's important to keep in mind that not all teenagers who engage in dangerous behavior go on to lead criminal lifestyles. Many juvenile offenders mature out of their delinquent inclinations as they develop stronger social networks and more skillful coping mechanisms. However, early intercession and pre-emptive actions are necessary to lessen the negative effects of aberrant behavior on people in general and society at large.

Youth deviant behavior is a complicated problem with many contributing causes. Peer pressure, familial relationships, lack of education or employment possibilities, exposure to violence and trauma, and poverty are all possible causes. To lessen the detrimental effects of deviant conduct on young people and society, early intervention and preventative measures are essential.

Adolescence is characterized by risky behavior, which includes, among other things, participating in vandalism, stealing, joining gangs, engaging in illegal activities, abusing drugs, having unsafe sex, joining "tags" in perilous situations, climbing on top of public buses, and getting into individual or group fights. All of these dangerous actions have an impact on safety and public order.

The effects

It is possible for a society to consist of members of a larger group who share common values and norms. The term "subculture," which is often associated with the study of crime, is sometimes used to characterize these groups. According to structuralism theory, a society is not the same thing as the people who live in it, but rather the economic, social, industrial, and cultural structures that support them.

In this context, "society" might mean the objective interactions that people have with both the physical environment and other people, as compared to "other individuals," who are not part of that person's immediate social circle.

Norms are the accepted standards of behavior in a certain culture. The lack of conformity to norms is what we mean when we talk about deviation. Different cultures have different norms for social interaction. Example: a behavior that might be regarded abnormal in one society could be accepted in another.

When people deviate from the norm, they are seen as bad citizens. Disregard for established communal standards of behavior, especially when such disregard is extreme enough to be deemed intolerable by that community. The deviation of certain behaviors from the norms of a given civilization at a given time. What is deemed deviant at one moment may not be deviant at another (for example, fighting at a hockey game may not be regarded deviant if it occurs in a nursing facility).

Killing another human being is generally seen as wrong, although there are exceptions, such as war and self-defense. Both mala in se and mala prohibita refer to illegal behavior. Any behavior that goes against the norms of a community is considered deviant, and deviant behavior that is extreme enough to garner widespread condemnation is called "extreme." The law might or might not punish deviance.

The sociological study of criminal behavior is known as criminology or criminal justice. The boundaries of acceptable conduct in society have been set. In this context, those who don't conform are considered abnormal or even dangerous. Different types of departure might result in the same outcomes, including stigmatization and isolation from society. There may be legal consequences for engaging in deviant conduct. As an indication of a healthy social system, deviance is an inevitable part of human life.

Socialization is the process through which individuals learn the norms and expectations of their society. However, they never mature into sociable adults. This is implausible since it would mean that no one in society ever had an abnormal thought. Utopia is a frequent term for an ideal society. Due to vast differences in social experiences, value systems, and worldviews, it is impossible for human civilization to achieve the homogeneity necessary for this.

Norms' influence on people makes group interactions more predictable and stable. When people know what is required of them, they are inclined to behave in manners that are well received by society. This may help people

come together and feel like they belong. The usage of "please" and "sincerely," when making requests or receiving presents is one such example and it is common practice in many cultures. Adherence to this standard allows individuals to show respect for people and avoid upsetting them.

However, standards may sometimes be limiting and inhibit innovation. When people feel pressured to conform to societal standards, they may suppress their own desires and thoughts. Depression, anxiety, and a failure to think beyond the box are all possible outcomes. For instance, in certain societies, working outside the home is seen as inappropriate for women. It's possible for women to face legal repercussions or social stigma as a result of making this choice.

The effects of deviance on individuals may be both positive and negative. On the other hand, deviation from the norm has the potential to cause significant social shifts. People engage in deviant behavior as a method to express their dissatisfaction with the status quo and to advocate for change. Such is the civil disobedience in Sierra Leone that fought against tribalism and regionalism.

The effects on individual

Norms and deviance have a big effect on communities. Norms are a society's unspoken rules for acceptable behavior. They are the norms of behavior that people are expected to follow, and they help a society seem more stable and orderly. Conversely, we call actions that break these rules deviations. This may range from minor infractions like yelling or littering to major ones like robbery or murder. Both divergence from the norm and conformity have far-reaching and nuanced effects on communities.

One major impact of norms and deviance is the institution of social control within communities. Social control may be achieved via the use of norms, which specify what kinds of behavior are considered proper and what are not. Those who disobey these norms may face stigmatization and ridicule from their peers. They may face fines or even prison time if the situation warrants it. This encourages social order since it discourages antisocial conduct.

However, standards may also serve to limit and exclude people. The social marginalization and inequalities that may emerge when certain norms are biased or discriminatory towards certain groups of people. If, for example, women are supposed to be submissive and obedient, this might limit their opportunities and promote gender-based violence. The effects of deviance on a society may be both positive and negative. On the other hand, deviation from the norm has the potential to cause significant social shifts. Increased acceptance of a wide range of sexual orientations and gender identities is a direct effect of the gay rights movement's efforts to challenge traditional gender norms.

However, deviance may also be harmful to society since it promotes crime and undermines social cohesion. Communities with a high deviancy rate may not be as safe or desirable to reside in as those with lower rates of crime. Social fragmentation may occur when deviance drives a wedge between different subsets of a community.

However, social norms and deviations have major effects on communities. Although standards help maintain social order and provide a basis for social control, they may also be authoritarian and divisive. Although deviance has the potential to bring about positive social change by questioning established norms, it often has the opposite effect, harming society by fostering criminal behavior and eroding social cohesion. Understanding the complex relationships between social norms and social deviation is essential for building prosperous, harmonious societies.

Effects on communities

Both norms and deviations have their place in society. Norms provide stability and order in society, but they also have the potential to be inflexible and perpetuate inequalities. On one hand, deviance may inspire new ideas and prompt positive social shifts, but it also has the potential to upset the status quo and cause damage to people and communities. To foster a healthy and functional society, it is essential that civilizations find a middle ground between these two ideas.

The first benefit of norms is the sense of social order they create. When individuals play by the book, social interactions are less volatile and more predictable. Institutions, organizations, and values cooperating to keep society

stable and orderly. The term refers to the overall functioning of society to progress rather than dissolve. The idea of social stability is a key component of peace and quiet that helps keep society running smoothly.

Therefore, "What does the social order mean?" may be an intriguing question to consider. In other words, it's when individuals do the right thing and stick to the rules set out by society. In official settings, the practice of adhering to social order is referred to as "rules and regulations." It goes by a variety of names depending on the context: norms, values, and norms in certain cultures, values in others, and so on.

Second, a community's or group's norms should represent its members' shared values. By adhering to these norms, individuals demonstrate their commitment to the group and strengthen their feeling of belonging. Shared Values are the underlying principles, attitudes, and beliefs of a company or group, whether or not they are articulated formally. The management and employees make decisions and take actions in accordance with these values. The common beliefs and ideals of a group are its glue.

Norms are a kind of social control, which is the third point to consider. They provide a structure for regulating conduct and punishing wrongdoers. The term "social control" is often used in the study of sociology and anthropology. Using codified techniques and predetermined regulations, a society's populace is kept in line by a system of social control. The disciplinary model was the ancestor of the control model.

Advantages and disadvantages of norms

Norms and deviance are two sides of the same coin. While norms provide a sense of order and stability in society, they can also be rigid and reinforce inequality. Deviance, on the other hand, can lead to innovation and social change, but it can also disrupt social order and be harmful to individuals or society. It is important for societies to strike a balance between these two concepts to promote a healthy and functioning society.

Advantages of Norms:

1. **Social Order:** Norms provide society a feeling of stability and order. When people adhere to the accepted rules, social interactions become more predictable and less chaotic. A stable and orderly society is maintained through institutions, groups, and ideals working together. The phrase describes how society as a

whole functions to advance rather than disintegrate. The concept of social order is a feature of stability that prevents chaos and disturbances in society. Consequently, a fascinating query may be, "What does social order mean?" In other words, it refers to when people uphold the social compact by abiding by the law, norms, rules, values, and standards. There are several ways to follow social order, which is known in governmental institutions as rules and regulations. In communities, places, official and informal groups, and the global community, it is also known as standards, values, and norms.

2. **Shared Values:** The common ideals of a community or group are reflected in norms. Individuals develop their sense of belonging and show their dedication to these beliefs by upholding these rules. It is also Shared Values are core precepts, attitudes, and beliefs that underpin an organization's culture, whether they are stated explicitly or implicitly. The management and staff make choices and act in ways that are guided by these principles. An organization's shared values are what bind it together.
3. **Social Control:** Norms act as a social control mechanism. They offer a framework for controlling behavior and imposing penalties against offenders. Within the social science fields, the notion of social control is used. Social control is defined as a system of rules and norms in a society that keep people obedient to established norms and the use of formalized methods. The control model evolved from the disciplinary model.

Disadvantages of norms

These are the cons of norms

1. **Conformity Pressure:** Norms can put pressure on people to live up to social standards, even when it conflicts with their personal ideas or values. People give in to peer pressure because they rely on the group to satiate two fundamental needs: the need for an accurate sense of reality and the need for social acceptance. Because true views about the world frequently result in positive results, people wish to maintain them.
2. **Lack of Flexibility:** Norms can be rigid and inflexible, which can stifle creativity and innovation.
3. **Reinforcement of Inequality:** Some norms may reinforce existing power structures and perpetuate inequality in society.

Advantages of Deviance:

1. **Innovation:** Deviant behavior can lead to new ideas and innovations that challenge existing norms and push society forward.
2. **Personal Freedom:** Deviance allows individuals to express themselves in ways that may not be accepted by mainstream society.
3. **Social Change:** Deviance can be a catalyst for social change by exposing flaws in existing norms and sparking discussions about necessary reforms.

Disadvantages of Deviance:

1. **Social Disruption:** Deviant behavior can disrupt social order and create chaos in society.
2. **Labeling:** Deviant behavior can lead to stigmatization and marginalization of individuals who engage in it.
3. **Harmful Behavior:** Some forms of deviant behavior can be harmful to individuals or society as a whole.

Deviant, norms and punishment on individuals

Deviant behavior refers to actions or behaviors that violate social norms, cultural expectations, or moral standards. Such behavior is often considered unacceptable, abnormal, or even dangerous by society. Deviance can take many forms, including criminal activity, substance abuse, sexual deviance, and mental illness. Norm's punishment refers to the consequences or penalties that individuals face when they violate social norms. These punishments may be formal or informal, and they may vary depending on the severity of the offense and the cultural context in which it occurs. Some examples of norms punishment include fines, imprisonment, social exclusion, public shaming, and ostracism.

Jaywalking and murder are only two examples of the spectrum of deviant conduct. Someone who acts in a deviant manner may be subject to legal or societal penalties as a result of their actions. When people break the rules of society, they face what are called "social sanctions," which are essentially unofficial punishments. Criticism, social exclusion, and malicious rumors are all examples. Because of people's natural inclination to conform to the standards of those around them, social penalties may be an efficient tool for enforcing social norms.

However, if you disobey the law, you will experience cultural consequences, which are the state's legal penalties.

The severity of the punishments might range from money or kind (in form of goat, sheep, cow clothes) fine to the death penalty or even life in jail. The purpose of cultural consequences is to make it clear that engaging in aberrant behavior will have substantial consequences. It's important to keep in mind that social changes and cultural standards may change what defines abnormal behavior. For instance, homosexuality, which was once seen as an abnormal behavior, is now widely accepted in many parts of the world. Depending on the laws or social conventions that the actions or behaviors breach, deviant conduct is either classified as formal or informal.

Examples of formal aberrant conduct include: burglary at a neighbor's home theft of candies from a nearby supermarket, domestic abuse, consuming alcohol when intoxicated, trafficking in drugs and committing a homicide. The actions or behaviors that one society considers as deviant may not be considered deviant by another society. Although deviant acts may differ between societies, there are some actions and actions that are considered unacceptable across all societies. Examples of informal aberrant conduct include: wearing your underpants uncovered, burping aloud in public, standing too closely to another person, and picking your nose in public areas are all unacceptable behaviors, arriving late for a crucial meeting or event and peaking while chewing food.

Depending on which actions society views as abnormal and which as deviant, there can be a wide range of deviance in society. Every civilization has its own standards for what constitutes abnormal conduct. Each culture has formal norms and regulations as well as unofficial social norms that are intended to keep individuals from engaging in aberrant behavior. People who exhibit aberrant conduct are frequently stigmatized by society and are either penalized or shunned.

Despite the fact that aberrant conduct is typically seen as harmful in society, it can occasionally have good effects. Deviant conduct, for instance, can result in societal transformation. It is typical for conduct that was formerly seen as abnormal to now be accepted. Additionally, it can aid in assisting people in adjusting to specific changes, such as alterations in lifestyle or fashion trends. Deviance in community can also help some people and groups spread awareness of particular problems. For instance, conducting protests to raise awareness of child sex trafficking.

CHAPTER FOUR

Structural Constraints of Norms in Relation to Deviant behavior

Introduction

Structural constraints of norms refer to the limitations imposed on individuals by the social structure in which they live. These constraints can include economic, political, and cultural factors that influence the behavior of individuals. In relation to deviant behavior, structural constraints can either encourage or discourage such behavior. One way in which structural constraints can encourage deviant behavior is through social inequality. When certain groups in society are disadvantaged or marginalized, they may be more likely to engage in deviant behavior as a means of survival or resistance against the dominant group.

For example, individuals living in poverty may resort to theft or drug use as a means of coping with their situation. On the other hand, structural constraints can also discourage deviant behavior by promoting conformity to societal norms. This can be achieved through various means such as education, media, and socialization. For instance, schools and families may teach children about the importance of following rules and behaving appropriately in society.

Norms and deviant: Personal and Social Identity

Both individual and collective identities are inextricably linked to the concepts of norm and deviation. People's social identities are the groups to which they belong in their communities, whereas people's individual identities are their unique combination of traits, characteristics, and ideals. When people act in ways that go against the norms of their society, they are considered deviants. The degree of identity-related variation in social norm cohesiveness is possible. That who have a strong sense of belonging to a certain group, for instance, may be more prone to adopt that group's norms. On the other hand, people who have a solid grasp of who they are may be more likely to go against cultural norms if they see that those norms are at odds with their own values.

Social identity may also play a role in shaping deviant behavior. Those who strongly identify with a particular group might be more likely to act abnormally if such behavior is tolerated amongst group members. Members of criminal

gangs, for instance, may engage in illegal activity if they think it would help them socially. Norms and deviance play a role in forming both individual and social identities.

Those who repeatedly break the rules may be labeled as deviants by society, which may have repercussions for their sense of self-worth and social acceptance. In a similar vein, individuals of designated groups may experience prejudice and harm that undermines their sense of dignity and community. Identity, both personal and societal, is a complex concept that is influenced by numerous factors. The ability to see how these factors interact is fundamental to understanding societal unrest and individual actions.

All members of society are expected to uphold the prevailing social and cultural norms of a given time and place, from which the concept of deviance derives. According to this understanding, the action of "to divert" signifies going against accepted social norms and agreements. According to the work of De Leo and Patrizi, deviance is a social construct that is influenced by people's interpersonal relationships and their shared social and behavioral contexts.

To deviate from the norm is to disobey the rules or to preserve a certain social status, either of which might have positive or negative consequences. The stigma and prejudice that people feel as a result of this situation are real. Differentiating between them requires an individual to reflect on their relationships with their parents and to question the values and practices they were instilled with. Anyone or any group that engages in criminal activity runs the risk of having negative assumptions made about them. By accepting the bad expectations other people have of them, they grow to look like those unfavorable assumptions. This is comparable to the manner in which a "self-fulfilling prophecy" shapes an individual's personality and image. Conversely, having high hopes for oneself is good for a teen's sense of self.

Society, groups, and families regularly reinforce an individual's sense of self via pragmatic or divisive reinforcements like as gratifications, frustrations, judgements, and evaluations. The labeling hypothesis postulates that when individuals are exposed to negative social norms, they internalize them and develop a conforming identity.

Individuals who engage in antisocial and antisocial conduct may develop and maintain a vindictive or deviant character. If a person is labeled as an offender or a criminal, they are more inclined to adopt such traits and pursue a life of crime.

People's deviant and violent actions may be an expression of anguish, a way for them to talk about things like mental perplexity and relationship problems. People with a high level of anxiety find significance not in the action itself but in the reasons behind it. Because of this lack of forethought, it can be hard to describe teens' unlawful and antisocial activities as intentional decisions. Aggressive teen attitudes may lead to outward or internalized forms of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional rage dysregulation.

People resort to physical aggression in the first scenario (more prevalent among boys). The second kind of aggressiveness (more frequent in women) is internalized and comes out as rage and animosity. Mechanics of moral disengagement are cognitive techniques that allow adolescents to adopt an aggressive and antisocial stance. When individuals behave immorally or are judged, these feelings are a natural response and might be seen as proportionate to the violent conduct. Systems of moral disengagement serve a dual purpose throughout adolescence, allowing adolescents to both rationalize and assert their growing sense of independence and autonomy.

Social deterrent on deviant behavior for precepts norms and expressive norms

When members of society disapprove of their behavior, they may subject those members to social penalties as a kind of punishment. Social norms may be divided into two types: injunctive norms, which specify what kind of conduct is expected in a certain setting, and descriptive norms, which describe how people generally think others are behaving. By use of social penalties like rejection, censure, and punishment, injunctive norms are maintained and upheld in society. A person may face legal repercussions like jail or fines, as well as social sanctions like ostracism, for violating an injunctive norm like theft.

On the reverse hand, a person may get social benefits like praise and appreciation from others if they adhere to injunctive standards like honesty and respect. Conversely, descriptive norms are reinforced by social pressure and

compliance. A person may face social consequences, such as scorn or exclusion from the group, for breaking a description norm, such as failing to adhere to the dress code at a formal function. On the other hand, someone may get social acceptability and approbation if they conform to description standards like speaking quietly in the library or waiting in line.

It's crucial to remember that cultural and societal variables may cause social punishments to range from mild to severe. What one culture considers to be aberrant conduct may be quite normal in another. The degree to which injunction or descriptive norms have been broken may also affect the harshness of social punishments. When it comes to upholding standards, both prescriptive and descriptive, social penalties are crucial. Deviant conduct may be discouraged when people worry they will be judged or punished negatively by society.

Since social penalties are the means through which social norms are enforced, the differentiation between different kinds of norms may also be important. Generally speaking, descriptive and injunctive norms are the most well-received. What is usual or typical in a particular scenario may be deduced by watching the actions of others around you; this is what we mean when we talk about descriptive norms. What an organization or community deems to be right, moral, or required action is expressed in its injunctive norms.

They are norms or attitudes on what kinds of behavior are considered ethically acceptable and unacceptable. Since injunctive norms describe what is deemed proper and wrong, this distinction may imply that social punishments solely pertain to injunctive norms. However, in practice, there is likely to be minimal variation in how individuals interpret injunctive and descriptive norms with respect to sanctions.

Even though their primary goal is to maintain social order, descriptive standards may occasionally take on an ought nature, which has led some to suggest that retribution has less to do with injunctive standards than descriptive norms. Because there is no ethical imperative and everyone does it nonetheless, we may call this a descriptive norm. Although there is no inherent right or wrong in adhering to this norm, there are nevertheless consequences for not doing so, including feelings of shame and looks of disapproval from others.

Wrong and right of deviant behavior

Acts that go against accepted social norms are considered deviant. Sociologists examine it as an effect of being brought up in a certain social and cultural milieu. It is universally agreed that some behaviors are aberrant and bad, such as alcoholism, smoking, rape, abuse, and drug usage and abuse. However, not all aberrant behaviors are always negative. Perceptions of misbehavior are frequently influenced by social inequalities and power dynamics. Examining social and cultural surroundings critically and contesting unjust ways of labelling and punishment are necessary for determining if certain practices are genuinely harmful or stigmatized.

Researching Wrong deviant behavior may be complicated by the stigma associated with being labeled as such. Research from the social sciences shows that persons with negative labels see themselves less favorably, are more likely to reject oneself, and may even behave more strangely. People who believe the labels others have given them, whether or whether those labels are true, have a hard time changing their minds about the branded individual, even when presented with evidence to the contrary.

Labeling theory is a subfield of symbolic interaction that explores how people perceive the words, signs, deeds, and feelings of others. This theory proposes that activities are only considered abnormal if and when they are deemed to be such by the majority culture. Therefore, normal members of society define deviance by labeling specific behaviors as abnormal and then applying this label to others.

Who labels someone, why they are labeled, and what happens as a consequence are all questions that the labeling hypothesis seeks to answer. The most important designations are often assigned by politicians, judges, police officials, and doctors. Labeling people as drug users, prostitutes, or mentally ill is common. The repercussions of being labeled as deviant might be significant.

It's important to keep in mind that various people and periods of history have quite diverse conceptions of what defines abnormal conduct. For instance, being homosexual, formerly widely condemned and even criminal in many

nations, is now widely accepted and often even celebrated in certain parts of the globe. By studying what makes a group unique, or "positive deviance," one might learn how to achieve the same or similar results.

People that stand out because of their uncommon behavior or perspectives are called "outliers" in a group or culture. "Positive deviants" are those who stand out from the norm by performing above average despite having less advantages than the average member of the group. Organizational psychologists, sociologists, and managers may all learn from studying the practices of "good deviants" to innovate new approaches to employee development and performance.

Acceptance of norms, moral and legal deviance in Sierra Leonean context

Certain behavior may be seen as either normal or aberrant depending on the principles and norms of the group. The degree of variation also changes from one set of people to another. Even though theft is generally recognized as a global crime, it is dealt with in different ways in different cultures. However, theft in Sierra Leone may lead to severe punishments such as amputation or even death. This kind of punishment is acceptable in the eyes of Sierra Leone's Muslim community, although it is considered barbaric in the West. Even if certain acts, like stealing, have a universal status, examples like these show the relativistic nature of aberrant behavior.

Group norms provide another layer of complexity to deviant behavior, which may alter its perception in the Sierra Leonean context. Even if illicit enterprises, like solicitation, are seen as abnormal due to their nature and purpose, they nonetheless adhere to a number of societal rules. Shared ideals of loyalty and respect help groups like gangs, youth clubs, and student secret societies function well. The consequences for violating these norms range from mild reprimands like threats to severe punishments like execution for the most egregious offenders. Since even non-deviant organizations may have deviant group norms, it follows that deviation is not limited to deviant subcultures.

It is possible for criminal conduct to be carried out by legitimate and respectable gangs or clans. Corruption occurs when business leaders sanction or condone behavior that violates ethical standards. Enron is a major example of this

sort of deviation since it scammed investors out of a lot of money. The correlation between deviation from social standards and the emergence of new concepts about deviance.

Possibly because of the presence of more nuanced factors at play, no one theory has been able to satisfactorily explain divergence. For instance, the belief that oppression, racism, discrimination, bullying, and other forms of unfair social exclusion are to blame for deviant behavior is grounded in the observation that disadvantaged groups are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system.

Since deviation is subjective, there are heated discussions on what constitutes right and wrong in today's society. When looking at deviance, it's important to avoid being biased or failing to take careful notes on the causes and consequences of the phenomenon being studied.

CHAPTER FIVE

Deviance, morality and crime

Introduction

Deviance, morality, and crime are three interrelated concepts that have been studied by sociologists, criminologists, and philosophers for centuries. Deviance refers to any behavior that violates social norms or expectations. These norms can be formal (such as laws) or informal (such as customs or traditions). Deviant behavior can range from minor infractions like jaywalking to more serious crimes like murder or theft.

Morality, on the other hand, refers to a system of values and principles that guide individuals' behavior and decision-making. It is often closely tied to religion or cultural beliefs and can vary widely across different societies and historical periods. Moral codes can include prohibitions against behaviors like lying, cheating, or stealing, as well as positive virtues like honesty, kindness, and generosity.

Crime is a specific type of deviant behavior that is defined and regulated by law. It refers to any act that is prohibited by the legal system and punishable by sanctions such as fines, imprisonment, or even death. Crimes can range from relatively minor offenses like traffic violations to serious violent crimes like assault or homicide. The relationship between these three concepts is complex and multifaceted. Some behaviors may be considered deviant but not

necessarily immoral or criminal (such as piercings or tattoos in some cultures), while others may be considered moral but illegal (such as civil disobedience).

In some cases, what is considered deviant or criminal may also change over time as societal norms shift. One important area of study within this field is the sociology of deviance, which seeks to understand how and why certain behaviors come to be labeled as deviant or criminal. This field has identified a number of factors that can contribute to the creation of deviant identities, including socialization processes, power dynamics, and cultural stereotypes.

Crime against people in Serra Leone

Crimes committed against individuals include drug misused and abused, alcoholism sexual harassment. In the Sierra Leone, a violent crime is reported to the police once every six months on average. Therefore, the likelihood of becoming a victim of a violent crime in this country is alarmingly high.

The majority of Sierra Leoneans are afraid of murder, which affects around one in every 100 residents. Typically, murders take place in the midst of regular tasks and activities. In actuality, most murders take place after some type of social contact between the victim and the killer. Most victims are aware of their murderer, and most murders take place in the context of family or other interpersonal relationships. Victim-precipitated murder refers to incidents in which the victim accidentally provokes the murderer to attack by making verbal threats, landing the initial blow, or attempting to use a weapon. The majority of murderers are neither insane nor crazy.

Studies reveal a number of fascinating details concerning murder and murderers: men are far more prone than women to kill others or themselves, large urban areas are where homicides are most likely to happen, weekend evenings and early mornings are when murders are most likely to happen, as are the months of December, July, and August, early two thirds of all killings include alcohol.

Relationship between crime, deviance and morality

The terms "crime," "deviance," and "morality" are sometimes used interchangeably despite their distinct meanings.

Deviance is behavior that goes against cultural norms, whereas crime is any kind of illegal behavior. On the

contrary, morality may be thought of as a collection of beliefs and guidelines for right and wrong. There are complex interrelationships among these three concepts. Every kind of deviant behavior is abnormal, yet not every form of abnormality is prohibited. Examples of deviant behavior that do not break the law include dressing differently or partaking in unusual activities. Similarly, not everyone agrees that breaking the law is always wrong. Some individuals, for instance, may rationalize that they can get away with stealing from a huge corporation because of the corporation's overwhelming influence.

The link between morality and crime is convoluted as well. While many unlawful acts are universally condemned, many others are considered wrong even if they are not against the law. In certain cultures, it is considered immoral but not criminal to lie to a partner or cheat on a spouse. One way to make sense of the interconnections between these concepts is via the lens of social control. Social controls are the mechanisms established by a society to regulate behavior and ensure that norms and laws are followed. Both formal legal measures, such as fines or imprisonment, and informal measures, such as gossip or public disgrace, may be used for social control.

The relationship among immorality, criminality, and culture may be investigated from a cultural relativist vantage point. Different societies and groups, cultural relativists argue, have varied moral codes. Anything considered taboo or abnormal in one society could not be so in another. For instance, some cultures frown upon polygamy while others see no problem with it at all.

There is a complex web of relationships between crime, deviance, and ethics. Every kind of deviant behavior is abnormal, yet not every form of abnormality is prohibited. Just as many crimes are considered immoral while not being unlawful, the same is true of immoral behavior. One way to see the connection between these concepts is via the lens of cultural relativism and the concept of social control.

Relationship between deviance and crime

The primary difference between crime and deviance is that although deviance involves breaking societal norms and rules, criminality involves breaking the constitutional law. Since these two ideas have similar connotations, they are

frequently employed together. Since deviant behaviors can also be categorized as criminal behaviors, there is much overlap between crime and deviance. In addition to breaking the law, it's essential to remember that crime and deviance often coexist.

In addition, there are two subcategories of social norm violations: formal deviance and informal deviance. Crimes that break social norms, such as rape, robbery, theft, and sexual assault, are examples of formal deviance. Contrarily, informal deviance refers to infractions of society's unwritten laws such as picking one's nose in public or belching loudly. In addition, although informal deviance may result in social stigma and punishments, formal deviance may result in legal consequences. There is a connection between crime and deviance in this instance because, in addition to breaking the law, crimes also include breaking societal norms and conventions. Additionally, formal deviance encompasses behaviors that are regarded as crimes.

Even though the terms "deviance" and "crime" are frequently used interchangeably, but also they have distinct applications and meanings. Any action that deviates from societal expectations, ideals, or standards is referred to as a deviation. It is a general phrase that includes both illegal and non-criminal behaviors and a broad variety of actions. Depending on the situation and the observer's point of view, deviation can be either beneficial or bad. Negative deviance refers to actions that are deemed detrimental or undesirable by society, whereas positive deviance refers to actions that are seen beneficial by society.

On the other hand, any activity that violates the law and is sanctioned by the government is referred to be a crime. It is a particular kind of deviation that entails breaching the law and going against the rules. Laws and legislation define crime, and they might differ from one jurisdiction to another. Some behaviors that are illegal in one nation might not be illegal in another.

The major distinction between deviance and crime is that although crime expressly refers to illegal conducts that are subject to legal sanctions, deviance is a wider notion that encompasses both criminal and non-criminal behaviors. Depending on the circumstances and the regulations of the culture in question, deviant behavior may or may not be considered illegal. The way that deviation and criminality are seen by society is another significant distinction.

Depending on the situation, deviant behavior may be stigmatized or praised, but law enforcement organizations always condemn and punish illegal activity.

While crime and deviance are separate ideas with various applications and meanings, they do have certain parallels. Crime explicitly refers to unlawful behaviors that are subject to legal penalties, whereas deviation broadly refers to any behavior that transgresses society norms, values, or expectations.

Relationship between norms and crime

Norms and crime have a complex relationship. Norms refer to the unwritten rules and expectations that guide behavior in a particular society or group. These norms can be formal or informal, and they play a significant role in shaping individual behavior. On the other hand, crime refers to any behavior that violates the law and is punishable by the state.

The relationship between norms and crime is such that norms can either encourage or discourage criminal behavior. In societies where there are strong norms against criminal behavior, individuals are less likely to engage in criminal activities. For instance, in societies where honesty is highly valued, individuals are less likely to engage in fraud or embezzlement. However, in societies where there are weak or conflicting norms, individuals may be more likely to engage in criminal activities. For instance, in societies where corruption is rampant and dishonesty is not punished, individuals may be more likely to engage in fraudulent activities.

Moreover, some criminal behaviors may be considered normative in certain contexts. For example, drug use may be considered normative among certain groups of people, such as musicians or artists. In such cases, criminal behavior is not seen as deviant but rather as an accepted part of the subculture.

It is important to note that norms can change over time, and this can have an impact on crime rates. For instance, changes in social norms around domestic violence have led to increased reporting and prosecution of such crimes. The relationship between norms and crime is complex and multifaceted. While strong social norms can discourage criminal behavior, weak or conflicting norms can encourage it. Additionally, some criminal behaviors may be

considered normative in certain contexts. Therefore, understanding the role of social norms is essential for developing effective strategies for preventing and addressing crime.

CHAPTER SIX

The role of competitive and cooperative norms and deviance

Introduction

One must consider the group's objectives and standards when evaluating this query. Furthermore, these inquiries serve as the foundation for choices on who should be admitted or rejected in intergroup contexts. Members of peer groups who defy the standards of their group run the danger of being socially excluded. Understanding how people traverse the intricacies of intergroup situations across the lifespan depends on how children, youths, and older people evaluate, and in turn, expect their group to rate, peers who stray from cooperative and fierce group norms. In an intergroup resource allocation environment, the current study offers the first analysis of how competitive and cooperative group norms impact the formation of favorability judgments toward deviant group members.

Coordinating Social and Moral Norms in relation to deviance

It is a difficult undertaking that calls for the synchronization of group and moral norms to evaluate deviant in group members. What groups agree upon as a component of their institutional identity is referred to as norms. However, it must be made clear that when we use terms like "moral norms," we do not mean to suggest that the group has established what is moral. By this, we mean that the organization has explicitly embraced a moral concept as part of its identity, such as upholding equality or fairness ("our group distributes resources equally"). The norm's definitional requirements are different from how this acceptance of the standard is defined. Children, for instance, favorably appraise and include group members who adhere to the social standard of allocating resources equitably.

This pattern of growth reflects the anticipated rise in knowledge of group dynamics as well as the coordination of many standards with contextual and ethical information. We anticipate that increasing age, comprehension of cooperative and competitive peer group norms would follow a similar developing pattern. In order to provide

everyone an opportunity to collaborate, cooperative environments frequently rely on the equitable distribution of resources.

To promote the societal objective of competitive success, it is frequently more acceptable in competitive circumstances to allocate resources to one's own in group. From childhood through adolescence and into adulthood, we anticipate seeing a change where greater experience organizing situations containing moral and social knowledge will be linked to a higher level of comprehension.

By specifically evaluating judgments of deviance in group peers in three innovative ways, the present study adds to prior developmental intergroup research. First, as mentioned above, we used statements from inside the group about what other members should do to control the cooperative and competitive aims of the group. The allocation of a shared resource (money for use in an art competition) by the group members was described in detail to go along with this. This normative manipulation's descriptive element is based on work by Killen and others.

The evaluation of deviant peers by youngsters who favor defying moral or conventional standards maintained by groups or society at large has been the subject of previous research. However, this in-group misbehavior has only ever occurred during a non-competitive group activity (such as a trip to a concert). Contrarily, in the current study, we immerse participants in a situation where their group is scheduled to compete against a competitor organization (i.e., a school or college) in an upcoming intergroup art contest. This reflects the reality that organizations frequently face competition for access to shared resources.

Deviance and the suppression of moral obligation

When someone neutralizes their moral commitment, they do it by explaining to themselves and others why they are doing in a way that is contrary to their moral principles. The idea holds that people utilize five suppressions strategies to defend their abnormal behavior: denial of blame, and appeal to higher allegiances.

Blaming external factors for one's behavior, such as peer pressure or a difficult upbringing, is a kind of abdication of accountability. Denying pain involves downplaying the damage caused by one's behavior, for as by claiming that no one was hurt. Denying the victim's identity entails making the victim accountable for the chastisement, for example

by claiming that they invited or deserved it. Condemning the condemners is the act of attacking those who disagree with one's decisions, such as by calling them liars or claiming they lack the power to make decisions.

It is a form of abdication of responsibility to blame external circumstances for one's actions, such as peer pressure or a challenging childhood. Denying suffering entails downplaying the harm brought on by one's actions, such as by asserting that no one was injured. presenting the victim responsible for the punishment by denying their identification includes presenting a case that they invited or deserved the punishment.

Deviance and the neutralization of moral commitment are important concepts in understanding why individuals engage in deviant behavior and how they justify it to themselves and others. By using techniques of neutralization, individuals are able to maintain a positive self-image and avoid negative societal reactions. However, these techniques also have consequences for society as a whole, as they may contribute to the normalization of deviant behavior. STOP

Norms and the Relativity of Deviance

The fact that both deviance and crime arouse negative social reactions reminds us that every society needs to ensure that its members generally obey social norms in their daily interaction. Social control refers to ways in which a society tries to prevent and sanction behavior that violates norms. Just as a society like the United States has informal and formal norms, so does it have informal and formal social control.

Generally, ***informal social control*** is used to control behavior that violates informal norms, and ***formal social control*** is used to control behavior that violates formal norms. We typically decline to violate informal norms, if we even think of violating them in the first place, because we fear risking the negative reactions of other people. These reactions, and thus examples of informal social control, include anger, disappointment, ostracism, and ridicule. Formal social control in the United States typically involves the legal system (police, judges and prosecutors, corrections officials) and also, for businesses, the many local, state, and federal regulatory agencies that constitute the regulatory system.

Social control is never perfect, and so many norms and people exist that there are always some people who violate some norms. In fact, Émile Durkheim (1895/1962), a founder of sociology stressed that a society *without* deviance is impossible for at least two reasons. First, the collective conscience is never strong enough to prevent *all* rule breaking. Even in a “society of saints,” such as a monastery, he said, rules will be broken and negative social reactions aroused. Second, because deviance serves several important functions for society (which we discuss later in this chapter), any given society “invents” deviance by defining certain behaviors as deviant and the people who commit them as deviants. Because Durkheim thought deviance was inevitable for these reasons, he considered it a *normal* part of every healthy society.

Deviance is also relative in two other ways. First, it is *relative in space*: a given behavior may be considered deviant in one society but acceptable in another society. Deviance is *relative in time*: a behavior in a given society may be considered deviant in one time period but acceptable many years later; conversely, a behavior may be considered acceptable in one time period but deviant many years later. In the late 1800s, many Africa communities used cocaine, marijuana, and opium, because they were common components of over-the-counter products for symptoms like depression, insomnia, menstrual cramps, migraines, and toothaches.

This insight raises some provocative possibilities for society’s response to deviance and crime. First, harmful behavior committed by corporations and wealthy individuals may not be considered deviant, perhaps because “respectable” people engage in them. Second, prostitution and other arguably less harmful behaviors may be considered very deviant because they are deemed immoral or because of bias against the kinds of people (poor and nonwhite) thought to be engaging in them.

Enforcing social norms of deviance behavior: the morality of public shaming

We conceptualize public shaming as a practice of public moral criticism in response to violations of social norms. This practice is our focus throughout, and we take our opening cases to be paradigmatic examples. We use the term “public shaming” to refer to this practice for two reasons. For example, people also discuss public moral criticism intended to create new social norms, which falls outside the scope of our inquiry. Nonetheless, norm-reinforcing

criticism is undoubtedly one practice commonly picked out by the term “public shaming”. Second, “public shaming” is a philosophically appropriate label in so far as public moral criticism is likely to cause shame, the presence of shame may play a significant causal role in explaining its efficacy as a sanction, and these facts are relevant to our moral evaluation of the practice.

We recognize that this conceptualization differs from two alternative definitions of shaming that might seem natural. The first identifies shaming with actions aimed at inducing shame. We choose not to adopt this focus, since those who participate in the practice in which we are interested are not necessarily aiming to induce shame in their targets. Those who engage in online public shaming are seeking to draw attention to a social norm violation, and to rally others to their cause.

They may or may not also be aiming to induce shame of social norms – is a widespread phenomenon whose moral dimensions are underexplored, yet merit sustained analysis. The moral status of actions aimed at inducing shame, and of the resulting experience of shame, in contrast, has received greater attention.

Explaining how and why certain persons get labeled in Sierra Leone

The first view of labeling is really that of asking what causes the label; thus, the label is dependent variable whose existence must be explained. The classic statement of this focus is Backer’s: Social group create deviance by making the rules whose function constitutes deviance and by applying those rules to particular people and labeling them as outsiders. From this point of view, deviance is not a quality of the act the person commits, but rather a consequence of the application by others of rules and sanctions to an “offender”. The deviant is one to whom that label has successfully been applied; deviant behavior is behavior that people so label.

By the reaction of deviance, Backer meant that rules, circumstance, characteristics of the individual and reactions of those in the “audience” serve to separate those acts that are “deviant” from those that are not, even though they may appear as identical behaviors. It is not even necessary that the behavior exist; what is important is that the reactors believe in its existence. Thus, it is a reaction to behavior that creates deviance.

The problem is to explain how outsiders, as Backer referred to deviants, are chosen and labeled. To explore this problem, Backer added to his discussion a typology of types of deviant behavior. He considered whether a particular behavior was conforming or deviant and whether the reactors perceived the behavior as conforming or deviant. The resulting four types of deviant behavior were called falsely accused, pure deviant, conforming, and secret deviant.

Falsely accused acts are those that either did not exist or were actually conforming, but the audience reacted as if the acts were deviant. Both conforming and pure deviant acts are those in which the perception matched the reality of the act. Finally, secret deviant acts are those in which deviance had indeed occurred but the audience either ignored the acts or had not reacted as if they were deviant. Backer believed that secret deviant acts are quite common. As important as these four types of deviance are, even is more critical is the possibility that characteristics of people have something to do with which of the types would be used.

The second definition identifies shaming with especially nasty forms of public criticism, such that only highly personalized, abusive, and vitriolic attacks that demean their victims count as “public shaming”. In this case, public shaming would presumably be impermissible in (nearly) all cases. An advantage of our definition is that it corresponds to a widespread and philosophically interesting phenomenon, yet does not settle important moral disputes in advance.

In contrast, a moralized definition identifying public shaming with demeaning and humiliating conduct makes it true by definition that there is something objectionable about the practice. All of the action would therefore be in determining what forms of criticism count as shaming.

This approach of deviance meant that several facts about criminals needed explaining in a completely new way. Those who were arrested were, of course, predominantly lower class, urban, young and male. The new societal reaction school wanted to know why official agents reacted to these people more often than others. Their answers, exemplified by the earlier work of Garfinkel (1965) suggested that some common factors are at work.

The likelihood of reaction was greater if an individual were less socially powerful (age, social class), a number of group with different values from the dominant group or relatively isolated. Labeling theorists set about the process

of determining how and why these types of people came to the attention of others. The effect of the label on the so called “deviant”: labeling advocates were also concerned with the effect of labels on the person who is labeled. This aspect of labeling treat the label as an independent variable, a causal agent that then creates deviant behavior. There are two ways in which this may takes place:

The label may catch the attention of the labeling audience, causing the audience to watch and continue the labeling of the individual. According to labeling theorists, such consequences include: Individual who has been labeled becomes visible in the sense that people are more aware of them. This awareness often causes them to be watched more closely and thus, a second and third discovery of deviant behavior is even more likely than the first one.

Especially important is that those who are in deviance processing occupations (police, criminal justice agencies) closely watch individuals once they have come to the attention of their agency. In a sense, those labeled are the clientele of the criminal justice system and like any other good business; the system keeps close tabs on its customers. It is difficult for those once labeled, such as probationers, parolees, or ex-offenders, to escape the attention of this audience and subsequent behavior is likely to be identified and relabeled.

When the original is more likely to be distributed among those with lower-class characteristics, this attention serves to reinforce the image of those individuals as deviants. People who are identified as “deviants” then have fewer chances to make good in the conventional world. This means that conventional avenues to success are often cut off, and illegal means may become the only way left open. Thus, labeling advocates argue that the lower class bears the brunt of the labeling process and is kept deviant through relabeling

The label may be internalized by the individual and lead to an acceptance of a deviant self concept. The second form of labeling effect is best reflected in what Lemert (1951) called secondary deviance. This concept suggests that, in addition to audience reaction, there is the possibility that an individual will react to the label. In this instance, Lemert assumes that the individual does not identify the initial act (primary deviance) as an important part of his or her self-image. People vary in their vulnerability or sensitivity to the reaction of others. If the original self-image is not strong enough, the labeled person may come to accept the image offered by others and

change the self-image accordingly. The more often a person is labeled, the more likely it is that this change will take place

CHAPTER SEVEN

Norms and deviance conduct in Sierra Leone

Introduction

The history, religion, and social structure of Sierra Leone have all had an impact on the country's cultural beliefs and traditions. These standards include aberrant conduct, such as corruption and gender-based violence, and respect for elders, which is shown by honorific titles. Crime and health issues are both associated with drug usage.

Norms in typical rural community in Sierra Leone

A few examples of social norms that are ingrained in society and passed down by elders are dietary taboos for expectant mothers, nursing customs, giving boys' schooling priority over girls' education, families' participation in arranging the marriage for their 15 years old and joining Bondo society. In light of our observations, it is essential to actively incorporate elders in methods for modifying societal norms in order to win their support for change rather than dismissing their impact and placing them on the defensive in case they decide to resist the change.

Accordingly, a crucial takeaway from our incident is that norms convey initiatives should engage not just those who are impacted by the targeted norm(s), but also those who contribute in some way—whether directly or indirectly—to maintaining them. Norms-shifting initiatives for pregnant women who are subject to a taboo that bans them from eating certain food and drinks like eggs should not just include them but also those who are in charge of spreading and upholding that detrimental norm. This often means that programs should include pregnant women's moms, mothers-in-law, and other women in their social surroundings.

Social norms are culturally based and collectively practiced; therefore norm-shifting tactics should encourage group change by enlisting the support of all significant family and community actors. Of course, not every category of families and societies actor can participate to the same degree, thus it is crucial to establish the roles and level of impact of each category of actor early on. Pay attention to families and socio-cultural, a participatory evaluation instrument, was created with this objective in mind.

The government official and informal authority, often known as gatekeepers, are an important component of society structures that should be considered when developing tactics for changing social norms. Although formal leaders are readily identifiable, informal leaders—of both sexes and from many generations—often have a bigger impact on the behavior and values that families embrace.

Local authorities have a significant impact on others, both within their own peer groups and in the larger community, and they play a crucial role in supporting the durability and good health of the communities. Local authority can either support the change or advocate maintaining the status quo when programs, such as those that address child marriage, call for a shift in societal norms. This allows them to persuade their followers to accept or reject the proposed change. The most important lesson learnt is that norm-changing techniques should engage community leaders, both formal and informal, in addition to the elders, in order to force them to reevaluate current societal norms and perhaps become change agents.

Influence of social norms on the economic and agricultural activities in rural communities

The term "***social norms***" is defined as obvious or tacit laws that govern social behaviors in certain contexts, such as conventions, traditions, values, trends, and standards of conduct for interpersonal interactions. Social norms are the general consensus among members of society on what behavior is acceptable. Because of the environment's complexity and the constrained rationality of the behavior subjects, institutions and norms should be taken into account, according to behavioral economics theory. Individuals frequently rely more on social values when unable to fully consider all available options throughout the knowledge-seeking process, which shows that social norms have a significant impact on people's behavioral choices.

People engaged in commercial and agricultural activities are able to recognize the existence of social norms in specific circumstances, such as other people's attitudes toward behavioral concession and other people's achievement. Individual are under pressure to conform to perceived standards and exhibit consistent behaviors with

individuals or groups, which forces them to internalize social norms into their values and moral principles and influences their economic activity.

The way people act has to do with how they manage their farm to increase the quality, fertility, water retention, and soil conservation of the land they cultivate. For the use of organic fertilizer to have a significant impact, many farmers must participate. Due to the 'collective action' characteristic of the application of organic fertilizer, farmers' choices must also take into account the effects of social norms, such as the relationships between people and with pertinent organizations. People will sense the unspoken regulations created by social pressure under the effect of social norms, which tends to urge them to make decisions that are widely acceptable by society.

In addition to their direct effects, social norms may also have an indirect effect on how individuals behave through a number of mediating mechanisms. The capacity to adopt a behavior, or the “ability to do,” and the attitude toward a behavior, or the “willing to do it,” is often the two aspects that influence the choice of behavior subject. Social norms encourage farmers to safeguard their cultivated lands by encouraging their perception of social norms, which eventually internalize into proactive attitudes and powerful talents.

Types of norms in rural setting in Sierra Leone

Different forms of norms influence social conduct in rural Sierra Leone. These standards are frequently upheld by elders and community leaders and are firmly ingrained in the cultural and traditional customs of the people. The gender-based norm, which establishes the duties and obligations of men and women in society, is one sort of norm. Men are responsible for supporting the family through farming or other forms of economic generating, while women are expected to handle household tasks like cooking, cleaning, and child raising.

Social pressure is used to impose this standard, and women who do not fit these expectations may face discrimination. The respect for authority standard also exists in rural Sierra Leone. This standard places a strong emphasis on the value of respecting elders, community leaders, and other authoritative persons. Disrespecting these people might result in exclusion from social gatherings and social ostracism. The communal living norm is a third

category of norm. In rural Sierra Leone, people frequently collaborate to accomplish shared objectives like organizing events or constructing infrastructure. This standard places a strong emphasis on the value of communal cooperation and collaboration.

Norms in the urban setting in Sierra Leone

There are urbaness n ruralness, and ruralness in urbaness. In other words, the same behavior that is observed in rural areas is also present in metropolitan areas. This unequivocally proves that habits may be picked up and then transmitted from rural to urban to rural environments. For instance, a youngster is expected to kneel down and welcome his or her parent when they wake up in the morning. If she doesn't, her parents will view her as a disrespectful child who doesn't care about them.

Respect for elders is a fundamental value in Sierra Leone's urban environment. This custom is rooted in Sierra Leonean society and is regarded as crucial to preserving societal peace. This standard is frequently seen in metropolitan areas by elderly people being treated with respect in jobs and public places. Boy/girl people could be required, for instance, to give up their seats on public transportation to elderly people or to refer to seasoned coworkers as "aunty" or "uncle." Even still, recognizing the elderly is not as important in urban settings as it is in rural ones.

The importance of community and collective responsibility is another significant standard in Sierra Leone's urban environment. This custom is most noticeable in slums and informal settlements where people frequently depend on one another for help and support. In these communities, it is typical for neighbors to share supplies like food and water, and for locals to collaborate on tasks like constructing infrastructure or planning festivals.

The value of kindness and hospitality is a third significant characteristic in Sierra Leone's urban environment. It is common practice for hosts to provide food and drink to guests as a symbol of hospitality and respect in various sections of the nation. When families make large dinners to share with friends and neighbors during religious holidays and other cultural occasions, this norm is especially clear. In Sierra Leone's urban social standards show a

complicated interaction between tradition, religion, and economic circumstances. These standards play a significant role in preserving social cohesiveness and fostering a sense of communal well-being, even though they can occasionally be constrictive or difficult to traverse.

Interplay of deviance and norms in Sierra Leone

Norms and deviation are essential elements of every culture. Deviance is defined as behavior that goes against the standards, principles, and expectations of a certain group or culture. In contrast, norms are the unspoken guidelines that direct conduct in a community. The interaction between norms and deviation in Sierra Leone has had a profound effect on the social, political, and economic environment of the nation.

Sierra Leone has seen protracted political unrest, civil strife, and economic hardships. Conflict throughout the nation's past has aided in the growth of abnormal behaviors including stealing, fraud, and criminal activity. There is a breakdown in social principles and trust as a result of these acts becoming accepted in some segments of Sierra Leonean society. Corruption is among the most notable instances of deviation in Sierra Leone. In Sierra Leonean society, corruption is pervasive and has merged with daily economic operations. This has created a climate of impunity where individuals in positions of authority believe they can act recklessly and get away with it.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is another kind of deviation that has slipped into normative status in Sierra Leone. Abuse of women and girls encompasses sexual and psychological assault. Despite the existence of legislation against GBV, gender inequality is nevertheless pervasive in Sierra Leonean communities as a result of cultural norms. In Sierra Leone, deviance and norms interact in a complicated way.

On the one hand, cultural practices and beliefs legitimize abnormal behaviors like corruption and GBV. However, these actions go against the expectations set by official organizations like laws and rules. Both non-governmental organization and civil institutions must work together in Sierra Leone to combat deviance. The ability of formal institutions to uphold the law and punish those who break it has to be strengthened. Organizations in the civil society should attempt to alter cultural values and customs that support abnormal conduct.

The interaction between norms and deviation in Sierra Leone has a profound effect on the social, political, and economic environment of the nation. Due to cultural ideas and traditions, deviant behaviors like fraud and GBV have been accepted, which has caused a breakdown in social trust. A coordinated effort from both government and non-governmental institutions is required to solve these concerns.

The relationship between the constitutional acts and cultural norms in Sierra Leone

There are over 18 different ethnic groups in the nation, and many different languages are spoken such as Mende, Temne, Fula, Limba and so on. The major ethnic groups are the Mende and Temne. Constitutional law guides the daily activities of the people. This also shadows the cultural norms in rural communities. The Sierra Leonean Constitution, which is the ultimate law of the state, protects fundamental human rights, the separation of powers, and the rule of law. It serves as the cornerstone of Sierra Leone's judicial system.

Traditional traditions and cultural diversity are recognized by and safeguarded under Sierra Leone's constitution. The preservation of basic freedoms and rights of the individual, including cultural liberties, is provided under Chapter II of the Constitution. According to Section 13(1) of the Constitution, "everyone have the right to freedom of speech and freedom to exercise any religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice, or observance." Individuals' freedom to exercise their cultural beliefs and customs is also safeguarded by this clause.

The traditions and history of Sierra Leone are strongly ingrained in the country's cultural standards. These standards are conveyed in a variety of ways, including via art, literature, food, dress, dancing, and religious rituals. The many region and ethnics that make up the nation's population are reflected in the varied cultural norms of the nation. Respect for elders, hospitality, community living, storytelling, and conventional medical procedures are a few of these cultural norms.

In Sierra Leone, there is a complicated interplay between constitutional provisions and cultural values. The Constitution establishes a legal framework that controls every element of life in Sierra Leone while simultaneously

recognizing and defending cultural distinctions and traditional traditions. The Constitution establishes a legal framework that is founded on British common law ideas and, when appropriate, includes customary law.

Due to the fact that it represents the cultural norms and traditions of the nation, customary law is a significant component of Sierra Leone's legal system. Traditional leaders like chiefs and elders utilize customary law to settle issues at the communal level. The official legal system of Sierra Leone incorporates customary law as part of the process of administering justice. In Sierra Leone, customary law is recognized and upheld through the Customary Law Act of 2009.

Traditional traditions and cultural diversity are recognized by and safeguarded under Sierra Leone's constitution. The Constitution of Sierra Leone provides a legal framework that regulates all elements of national life while acknowledging and embracing customary law where appropriate. As a result, the connection between constitutional provisions and cultural norms in the country is complicated.

Constitutional and cultural laws relation to deviance conduct

What defines aberrant behavior and how it should be penalized or handled depend largely on constitutional and cultural rules. Criminal law in constitutional law typically deals with deviant behavior since it establishes the rules for punishing people for actions that are judged damaging to society. Criminal law often identifies certain actions as crimes and spells out the consequences of doing so.

For instance, the majority of legal systems view drug trafficking, theft, and murder as crimes. Deviant behavior is viewed as a breach of both the constitution and local customs in Sierra Leone. Every resident of Sierra Leone is given the right to a fair trial, as well as the freedoms of expression, movement, and association. These liberties, however, are not unrestricted and may be curtailed under specific conditions, such as when they are employed to foment hatred or encourage violence.

Stealing, fraud, violence, and sexual crimes are only a few of the deviant behaviors that the Penal Code of Sierra Leone criminalizes. Additionally, the code makes several types of speech unlawful, including sedition and slander.

Those found responsible for these crimes risk jail or financial penalties. The Sierra Leonean culture also lays a great focus on social standards and values in addition to constitutional and legal restrictions on immoral behavior. Deviant behavior that transgresses these standards may result in social rejection and ostracism. For instance, homosexuality is heavily stigmatized in Sierra Leonean culture, which can result in violence and discrimination against those who date other same-sex people.

Cultural laws also play a crucial role in shaping attitudes towards deviant behavior. These laws are not necessarily written down but are instead based on social norms and values that have been passed down through generations. Cultural laws can vary widely between different societies and can change over time as attitudes towards certain behaviors shift. In some cases, cultural laws may be more permissive towards certain forms of deviance conduct than constitutional laws. For example, while many countries criminalize homosexuality, some cultures may view it as an acceptable form of sexual expression.

In conclusion, there is a complicated interaction between constitutional and cultural rules that determines how deviant behaviour is classified and handled. Cultural norms and values determine attitudes toward such behavior and can affect how it is regarded by society, even while constitutional rules offer a legal foundation for penalizing aberrant behavior. In Sierra Leone, deviant behavior is evaluated from both a legal and cultural perspective, and transgressions of both social standards and constitutional rights can result in legal or social repercussions.

Addressing deviance conducts in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, deviant behavior is addressed through a combination of legal and social measures. The country has a legal system that criminalizes deviant behaviors such as drug abuse, theft, and sexual offenses. The government has established institutions such as the police and courts to enforce the law and punish offenders. The government also recognizes that addressing deviance requires more than just punishment. It requires addressing the underlying causes of deviance, such as poverty, lack of education, and social exclusion. To this end, the government has implemented various social programs aimed at addressing these issues. One of the key social programs in Sierra Leone is the Free Quality Education program.

This program was launched in 2018 and aims to provide free education for all children in the country from primary to secondary school level. The program is designed to address the issue of poverty by providing children with access to education, which is seen as a way out of poverty. Another important program is the National Youth Service Scheme (NYSS). This program was established in 2016 and aims to provide young people with skills training and employment opportunities. The program targets young people who are at risk of engaging in deviant behavior due to lack of opportunities.

The government also works with civil society organizations and international partners to address deviance in Sierra Leone. For example, UNICEF works with the government to implement programs aimed at reducing child marriage and promoting girls' education. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with the government to address issues related to migration, including human trafficking. In conclusion, addressing deviance in Sierra Leone requires a multi-faceted approach that includes both legal and social measures. The government has implemented various programs aimed at addressing the underlying causes of deviance, such as poverty and lack of education. The government also works with civil society organizations and international partners to address specific issues related to deviance.

Essences as moral identities of deviance and cultural norms

Essences as moral identities of deviance and cultural norms refer to the fundamental characteristics or qualities that define individuals or groups as either conforming to or deviating from societal expectations and values. These essences can be based on a range of factors, including race, gender, sexuality, religion, and nationality, among others.

In many societies, certain essences are considered normative, while others are seen as deviant or abnormal. For example, in Western cultures, heterosexuality is often viewed as the normative essence for sexual identity, while homosexuality is often stigmatized and seen as deviant. Similarly, whiteness is often viewed as the normative essence for racial identity in many societies, while people of color may be subjected to discrimination and marginalization based on their racial essences.

The construction of essences as moral identities of deviance and cultural norms is deeply rooted in historical and cultural contexts. Many of these norms and values have been shaped by dominant groups in society seeking to maintain their power and privilege over marginalized groups. As such, the construction of essences can be seen as a form of social control that reinforces existing power structures.

However, there has been a rising understanding that these constructions of essences are neither unchangeable nor permanent in recent years. Instead, they are social constructs that evolve through time. As a result, there are now more initiatives underway to question normative assumptions and advance societal diversity and inclusiveness. The idea of moral identities of transgression and cultural norms as essences illustrates how societal norms and values influence personal identities and experiences. We may try to create more inclusive and fair communities that embrace variety and uniqueness by realizing that these essences are manufactured.

The rate of deviance and obeying societal norms among women and men in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, societal norms and expectations have a significant impact on the behavior of both women and men. However, there are some differences in the rate of deviation and obedience to these norms between the two genders. Women in Sierra Leone are generally expected to conform to traditional gender roles, which include being responsible for household chores and child-rearing.

They are also expected to be submissive to men and not challenge their authority. Women who deviate from these norms may face social stigma and discrimination. However, there has been some progress towards gender equality in recent years. Women's participation in politics and leadership positions has increased, and there have been efforts to promote women's education and economic empowerment. The government has also passed laws to protect women's rights, such as the Domestic Violence Act of 2007. Men in Sierra Leone are expected to be providers for their families and to have control over decision-making. They are also expected to be physically strong and aggressive. Men who deviate from these norms may face ridicule or ostracism.

However, there are also efforts to promote positive masculinity and gender equality among men. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working with men and boys to challenge harmful gender stereotypes and promote healthy relationships. Overall, while societal norms still play a significant role in shaping behavior in Sierra Leone, there are efforts underway to promote gender equality and challenge harmful stereotypes.

Societal Reaction and Deviant Behavior

In Sierra Leonean communities and villages has unique rules defining what conduct is acceptable. Laws, clothing standards, organizational bylaws, academic prerequisites, and sports and game rules all represent societal norms. These fundamental social standards are required of us, and we also think that other people will do the same. However, anyone who violates these social rules will face consequences.

The severity of the crime and norms committed regulate the community response to deviant conducts; for example, some protocol guides may only be met with mild disfavored and punishments, whereas other rules, such as those forbidden crime such as robbery, killing etc., may be met with strong objections and severe deterrents. Each specific standard has a liberality limit, which determines how much a group will accept or conceal a transgression. The harshness of the consequences, as one might anticipate, is a good indicator of how willing the group is to accept breaking the rules. There are stricter tolerance guidelines and harsher penalties for breaking some standards since they are seen as being more crucial or significant than others.

Through what is known as social control, society ensures that fundamental rules are accepted. The word "social control" describes the methods and plans for policing people's conduct in any society. Through both informal and formal social control, punishments are employed to promote conformity and obedience and to deter breach of social norms: **Informal Social Controls:** put simply, "informal social sanctions consist of the techniques wherein individuals each other on a personal basis honor those who meet their demands and express displeasure to those who do not." They can be seen in certain actions like slander, mockery, reproof, praise, and glances of acceptance or dissent, refusal to show care or bestowal of it, exclusion, or vocal justification and assertion of viewpoint.

One of the most potent tools ever developed in any community for getting people to comply with rules is canards, or the dread of talk. Similar to formal norms, these informal norms are not applied by means of authorized group

processes. In smaller social groups where everyone is acquainted with one another and the same individuals are brought into constant face-to-face contact, informal punishments may be more effective.

Formal norms: When the socialization process that fosters self-control and is therefore informal is insufficient to preserve conformance to specific standards, formal norms come into play. These societal norms make use of a structured network of specialized organizations and accepted procedures. The two primary categories are those imposed by political actors and those enacted by non-state actors. They consist of the political state, the church, business clubs, and other organizations. Formal punishments are administered by people who hold positions or duties within those institutions since they are part of the organization framework of society.

Since administering these punishments is a component of their responsibilities, these individuals are sometimes referred to as social control actors. In the broadest sense, anybody who makes an effort to influence others' conduct through the imposition of formal consequences can be referred to as a social control agent. Agents of social control include the police, prosecutors, and judges of the criminal justice system, as well as employers, schools, preachers, and priests who promise believers heaven and threaten them with damnation. Although every deviant act has the potential to be punished in some way, many deviant acts go unpunished. There are several explanations that might be given for why a deviant conduct is not being punished.

The audience, whether present or not, may not recognize the attitudes in an anonymous deviant act. In the event of a successful burglary, the perpetrator avoids detection and punishment. The deviant is protected from punishment when they use certain management practices to commit corporate or professional violations. Even when their drinking becomes more public in character, female alcoholics are significantly less likely to be detained for public intoxication and so become subject to legal censure because they circumvent detection by consumed at home alone.

The aberrant behavior is frequently seen as being of a small nature or "out of character" of the perpetrators and no punishment is applied. Small norm violations may be justified as "accidental" or inevitable in the given situation.

Even if the crime may have been obvious and the perpetrator readily identifiable, the fact that it happened just once may lead one to believe that no punishment is required.

CHAPTER EIGHT

COMMON DEVIANCE BEHAVIOR IN SIERRA LOENE

Introduction

In Sierra Leone, youth and deviance is a complicated topic that has been influenced by a number of historical, cultural, economic, and social variables. Drug misuse, gang violence, theft, prostitution, and engagement in unlawful activities are examples of deviant conduct the youths practices in the country. Poverty, which breeds despair and desperation in people, is one of the main reasons of deviance among young people in Sierra Leone. Lack of knowledge might result in dissatisfaction and inferiority complexes. Additionally, political unrest and Sierra Leone's history of civil conflict have had a significant influence on the country's youth population involving in deviance especially in the urban cities.

Government and non-governmental groups have worked to address the problem of juvenile deviance in Sierra Leone by offering educational and vocational options, opening up job prospects, and supporting neighborhood-based initiatives. It's essential to address these underlying problems with focused treatments if you want to see a decrease in youth's aberrant conduct. However some of the deviance conducts are analyzed below

Uses of drugs and other social addictions

In modern Sierra Leone, youths are involved in a variety of deviant behaviors. It is not feasible to discuss them all in this chapter. Thus, only the most prevalent types of abnormal conduct, such as misusing medicines (using Tramadol for relief), sexual deviance, alcohol consumption, smoking, prostitution, gay and lesbian. These are most of the common deviance behavior you will find among youths in Sierra Leone.

Tramadol and pain reliefs

Tramadol and pain reliefs are widely used in Sierra Leone, in the form of stress release syndrome. Although Tramadol and other painkillers are medically prescribed medications to treat human pain, they have also been

utilized to treat stress and depression in young people across the nation. In the nation, these medications are widely utilized. These medicines have particularly bad effects on young people. Since ancient times, both youths and older adults have utilized it for a variety of purposes. They are used for sedation, social relaxation, and release from tensions, boredom, and anxiety. They are used for pleasure, to satiate curiosity, and to expose the mind to new experiences of sensitivity. They are used in medicine to cure sickness, to reduce pain, or to regulate the appetite in dieting.

Whatever the cause, it's critical to comprehend the nature of drugs, how they are used and abused, as well as how society views the wrong drug usage of these drugs. The side effects of pain reliefs and tramadol include feeling lightheaded, exhausted, and low on energy, which can indicate low blood pressure; experiencing hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there); feeling confused; feeling extremely drowsy; Tramadol can also be used for long sexual arousal and having difficulty urinating or being unable to urinate at all.

Drunkenness and Alcoholism

Alcohol is a substance that is produced either by fermentation or distillation. While fermented beverages like wine and related goods have been produced by practically all cultures for thousands of years, filtration of drinks from barley, corn, wheat, and other grains is a relatively new method. Alcohol is frequently not considered to be a drug, despite the growing concern that has been voiced about the use of "drugs" by significant portions of the public and through the media. The entire impacts on individual behavior and diminished physical and emotional operations as a result of alcohol use are more severe, and excessive drinking and alcoholism really offer considerably more difficulties statistically than the use of other substances.

In public drinking establishments, which can be found in much of the globe today and go by many different names, such as bars, beach road in Freetown, Mams bars, scarlet night club, ghettos, Salone bar, Liberia bar etc. a very heavy amount of drinking is done in a communal setting. Public drinking establishments are more than just locations where alcoholic drinks are offered for on-site consumption.

Alcoholics are people whose regular and repetitive alcohol use exceed the nutritional and social norms of the community and are so extreme that it obstructs with their ability to operate socially, economically, or in good health. Alcohol abusers are unable to reliably limit or quit drinking at will. Other traits including morning drinking, drinking alone, and general physical decline are particularly significant.

Sexual Deviance

The sex act has likely been surrounded by more formality and prohibitions than any other aspect of human activity in all civilizations. The most fundamental yearning has been "enchained" by his culture and civilization. In addition to serving the primary function of breeding, sexual activity has always been a natural component of human existence. It is also one of the most joyful experiences a person can have. The definition and investigation of sexual deviance consequently involves particularly challenging issues.

According to Gagnon, the challenge of determining a "cutoff point"—beyond which a person's connection with other people, their acts, and the context of their conduct may be described as being deviant. This is because sexual behavior is regarded as necessary. While negative consequences are commonly voiced for the bulk of sexually immoral behavior, official measures, such as the norms, are only sometimes used to enforce them. A sexual deviation is, generally speaking, an act that is against the sexual mores of the culture in which it takes place.

Sexually inappropriate behavior includes a wide range of actions among youth's in Sierra Leone, some of which are prohibited by norms and others to which society has unfavorable responses. They all have the possibility of breaking formal rules established by certain groups, laws, or even both. We'll take a quick look at the three most prevalent forms of sexual immorality: homosexuality, prostitution, and pornography in Sierra Leone.

Homosexuality: this common deviance behavior is common among youths in cities such in Freetown, Bo, Portloko, Makeni, and Kono. Sexual relationships with people of the same sex, whether they are male or female, are considered homosexual deviance. Gay men and women may belong to any socioeconomic class, have diverse levels of education, work in a broad variety of professions, have a vast variety of hobbies and avocations, and be either

single or married. Most communities have roles that are classified as sexually suitable and improper based on an individual's age, social standing, and other factors.

Prostitution

Is a promiscuous (immoral) and mercenary (financial) sexual encounter marked by psychological indifference (without emotional connection). The definition of a real prostitute is someone who earns their living largely through the sale of their body for women or other opportunities. On the other hand, in Sierra Leone many women engage in promiscuity but are not prostitutes because their brief but affectionate sex relationships contain some element of love. For instance, when a customer "dates" a shop girl for an evening supper, expresses interest in her, and then engages in sexual activity with her, the relationship is frequently one of mercenary nature; nonetheless, the woman may not be thought of as a true prostitute.

Such a lady could have a family and a career and might not regularly engage in sex acts for sexual amusement. In addition to the conventional type of heterosexual encounters, many prostitutes provide a variety of physical sex acts that may be purchased, including oral and anal sex acts, sadistic, masochistic, and extrovert acts of sex. Most prostitutes are so unconcerned with the emotional component of sex relationships that they seldom have an orgasm with a client, but they regularly do with their "pimp" or male companion.

Pornography

Refers to any content or action that has an erotic impact on a person's sexual behavior. Printed books, periodicals, photos, videos, sound recordings, and sex "devices" are only a few examples of the "erotica" items that are available. There is "erotica" for homosexual people, even if these products are predominantly for heterosexual people. These items are typically referred to as "obscene" (in legal parlance) and "pornographic" (in popular terminology) and are assumed to create sexual desire in a person.

Some people believe this leads to all kinds of negative consequences, such as premarital sexual relations, illegitimacy and sex crimes. Several studies have been conducted to try to determine the effects of exposure to erotic materials and to determine whether these effects support sufficiently the presumed reasons for the existence of the obscenity laws.

Mental Disorder

Because the terms "mental health" and "mental disorder" have not been sufficiently defined, it is challenging to determine the deviant character of mental disorders. Seek to define mental disease precisely continue to fall short, according to criticism. Normalcy is not easily defined, while being often characterized in terms of variation from normalcy. There are certainly some people who act in odd or improper ways or who articulate peculiar ideas or justifications for their behavior, but these people are typically labeled as mentally ill by subjective standards.

Youths and Night-clubbing

Youth and nightclubbing have been perceived as both aberrant behavior and a norm in Sierra Leone. Particularly in metropolitan areas, nightclubbing is a well-liked pastime among young people in Sierra Leone. However, it is also linked to aberrant behavior including aggression, drug and alcohol misuse, and promiscuity. In Sierra Leone, nightclubs are frequently viewed as spaces where young people may express themselves freely and escape the confines of traditional culture.

They provide a setting for mingling, dancing, and imbibing. They are connected to aberrant conduct, such drug use and dealing, which can result in addiction and other unfavorable effects. Violence is another problem connected to nightclubbing in Sierra Leone, in addition to drug usage. There have been shootings and stabbings at nightclubs, as well as frequent altercations between patrons and bouncers. Another issue related to nightclubbing among young people in Sierra Leone is sexual promiscuity. Drinking and using drugs can result in hazardous sexual conduct, which raises the possibility of STIs and unwanted pregnancies.

Despite these unfavorable connotations, Sierra Leonean youth now often go out on the town at night. Many young people consider it as a rite of passage into adulthood and see it as a means to interact and have fun with friends. Even while it's a common pastime for young people in Sierra Leone, nightclubbing is also linked to sinister activities including drug use, violence, and promiscuity. Although it has a bad reputation, young people in Sierra Leone frequently use it.

Smoking (cigarette, Kush, cannabis)

Kush: These are further instances of deviant conduct that both male youths and female youths in Sierra Leone engage in. It's a drug that is rolled up and smoked, much like cigarettes or marijuana. But it's important not to confuse the Kush synthetic medication with the same marijuana strain. A rise in instances in Guinea and Sierra Leone has demonstrated the risk of the drug: The user is left stoned and unfits to stand up after a few puffs and its will lead to abnormal conduct. However, despite the negative consequences, which include falls, physical harm, and a loss of self-esteem, users continue to look for ways to get more. There are worries that the rate at which Kush is being used will result in violence in the approaching elections as Sierra Leone gets ready for its national elections this year. But according to the assistant police superintendent, the police in Sierra Leone claim to have a proactive strategy for this kind of deviance conduct among people in Sierra Leone.

Cigarette: Youth smoking has been associated with deviant behavior, which is defined as acting in a way that is against morality, the law, or societal norms. Cigarette smoking has a variety of biological, psychological, social, and cultural impacts that are intricate and diverse. The increased likelihood of drug misuse and addiction is among the most important impacts of smoking on deviant behavior. Young people who smoke cigarettes are more prone to use additional drugs including alcohol consumption, cannabis, cocaine, and prescription medications

This is due to the fact that smoking cigarettes changes the brain's chemistry and makes people more sensitive to other drugs, which makes it simpler for young people to experiment with and become dependent on these drugs. The correlation between smoking and delinquent behavior is another way that smoking affects deviant behavior. According to studies, young people who inhale cigarettes are more prone to commit crimes including theft, vandalism, violence, and drug selling. This might be as a result of the fact that smoking cigarettes is frequently linked to disobedience, risk-taking conducts, and friend from other juvenile offenders.

Additionally, teenage smoking might result in scholastic issues like subpar category, truancy, and dropout rates. This is due to the fact that smoking can impede psychological functioning and memory upholding, making it more difficult for pupils to focus and learn in class. As a result, individuals can experience frustration and disengagement

from their studies, which might prompt them to act in a deviant manner as a coping mechanism for their academic problems. Youth smoking has several detrimental implications on antisocial behavior. These outcomes include an elevated risk of drug misuse and addiction, ties to delinquent conduct, and difficulties in the classroom. .

Cannabis: Cannabis use, control, and sale are all prohibited in Sierra Leone since it is seen as a deviant behavior. Cannabis manufacturing, cultivation, trafficking, and usage are all prohibited under national drug legislation. Cannabis possession is illegal under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control Act of 2008, which carries fines and perhaps jail time as punishment. Despite being illegal, marijuana smoking is common in Sierra Leone. Cannabis is the most widely used illegal substance in the nation, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It is considered a danger to social order and public health. Cannabis users are stigmatized and oppressed, and many experience prejudice and marginalization from society at large.

The construction of drug treatment facilities and rehabilitation programs is only one measure the government has done to curb drug misuse in Sierra Leone. These initiatives, however, have been constrained by a lack of funding and political will. The administration has also come under fire for its strict drug enforcement policies, which have led to breaches of and abuses of human rights.

CHAPTER NINE CONCLUSION

Conclusion

This book's core idea is to use a sociological lens to examine the norms and deviations in Sierra Leone. I learned from the different works of literature I examined that social conventions in particular vary depending on the civilization. It has the capacity to both learn and spread from one society to another. On the other hand, depending on the conduct, some communities also view deviation as criminal activity. For instance, some ethnic groups do not approve of peeing in front of the Poro/Bondo bush, but other ethnic groups do. Norms, criminality, and deviance are all connected to social structure and individual members' conduct in a society.

Norms are the accepted standards and guidelines that direct conduct in a society. Laws or unwritten traditions and conventions can formalize this. Crime is defined as conduct that defies these standards and is sanctioned by the law. Contrarily, deviation describes actions that deviate from social norms but may not always be prohibited. Norms, criminality, and deviance are all social constructs, which is one thing they have in common. Based on cultural norms, expectations, and beliefs, society defines and creates them.

What is regarded as acceptable behaviour in one community may be viewed as illegal or deviant in another. All three ideas entail social control, which is another connection. By establishing expectations for behaviour, norms serve as a structure for norms. As a means of societal control, crime is punished through the criminal justice system. Deviance can also be managed through less formal methods including social exclusion or public shame. The implications of norms, criminality, and deviance affect both people and society as a whole. Social criticism or isolation might occur from failing to follow the rules. Punishments for criminal behaviour might include jail time or fines. Negative outcomes from deviant behaviour might include loss of social standing or reputation.

Functionalists, interactionists, conflict, labelling, Michael Foucault, social strain typology, and biological perspectives are some examples of sociological perspectives. According to these viewpoints, deviation is a byproduct of social context rather than an inherent characteristic of an act or behaviour. Any behaviour or action that goes against society standards, ideals, or expectations is considered a deviation.

According to a sociological viewpoint, norms are the unwritten social laws that specify how members of a community ought to act in certain circumstances. Through socialization, norms are acquired and reinforced through a variety of social control mechanisms, including family, peers, the media, and institutions. Norms vary across many cultures and communities and might be formal or informal, prescriptive or proscriptive.

The sociological paradigm offers a number of explanations for the origins of crime and deviance. Functionalists contend that deviation is necessary for society because it makes people aware of the consequences of deviating from the rules. By breaking the norms, society can become conscious of societal injustice. Conflict theorists say that

social inequality is the primary driver of crime. For symbolic interactionist, the major focus is on how labels for deviance are socially constructed. Norms and deviations from society are learned behaviours that are either supported or discouraged by others in our immediate surroundings.

When a person or organization disregards these standards, deviation happens. Depending on the circumstances, deviation can be either beneficial or bad. Deviant habits or acts that benefit society positively are referred to as positive deviance. Negative deviance is used to describe activities or behaviors that are detrimental to society. From a sociological perspective, deviance is explained by a number of theories, including the strain theory, the cultural transmission theory, the labeling theory, and the control theory.

Norms, which can be formal or informal, are used to control social conduct and make sure that people act in accordance with the shared values and beliefs of their society. Although deviation is sometimes seen as bad, it may also benefit society. One benefit of deviation is that it may question societal norms and bring about change. For instance, unconventional actions like sit-ins and protests that questioned the conventions of discrimination and segregation helped to drive the civil rights movement in the Sierra Leone.

It seems improbable that major strides toward racial equality would have been accomplished in the absence of these acts of deviance. Deviance, meanwhile, can sometimes have unfavorable effects. People who act in ways that go against societal standards may experience ostracism or other forms of social punishment. Shame and isolation may result from this, which can have a negative impact on one's mental health and general wellbeing. Deviant behavior may also result in injury to oneself or to others. For instance, drug usage is frequently viewed as a type of deviance despite the fact that it can result in addiction and health issues. Similar to other forms of deviance, violent action has the potential to hurt other people and upend social order.

The standards and expectations that direct conduct in a certain community or group are known as norms. Deviance can appear in a variety of ways, such as but not limited to:

1. Crime - This type of deviation may be the most blatant. Acts that are prohibited in the eyes of the law are referred to as crimes. Theft, physical violence, and murder are a few examples of crimes.
2. Sexual deviance - Sexual conduct that deviates from accepted social standards are seen as deviant. This can involve things like incest or performing sex practices on animals in public.
3. Drug usage - In many communities, using illicit substances is seen as a kind of deviant conduct. This includes illegal substances including heroin, cocaine, and marijuana.
4. Mental illness - Because it deviates from what is viewed as "normal" conduct, mental illness is sometimes viewed as deviant behavior.
5. Religious deviation - Acts that defy the religious standards of a community can likewise be seen as deviant. For instance, women who don't wear the headscarf may be viewed as outcasts in some Muslim nations.
6. Social deviance - Behaviors that go against social norms but are not necessarily illegal can also be considered deviant. This includes things like talking loudly in a library or wearing pajamas to a formal event.

In conclusion, it is crucial to take into account the environment in which deviance occurs, even if it can have both beneficial and harmful impacts on society. While certain types of deviance could be detrimental and disruptive, others might be required for society development and advancement.

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