**UNIT 5: CRIME, DEVIANCE AND IMPLICATIONS OF HEALTH**

**INTRODUCTION**

Hi, welcome to unit 5 of crime, deviance and implications of health. The unit seems to have some similarity to Unit 6. It may seem really vast in detail but, we will break it down categorically and in sections

Section 1: Definition of Crime and Deviance

Section 2: Theories of Crime and Deviance Causation

**Unit Objectives**

by the end of this unit, you should be able to

1. Define Crime and Deviance and implications of health
2. Discuss the theories of Crime and Deviance

**SECTION ONE: DEFINITION OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE**

* 1. Section Outline
  2. Section Introduction.
  3. Section Objectives.
  4. Definition of Crime and Deviance
  5. Section summary
  6. **SECTION INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to section 1 of unit 5.In this section you will go through the definition of crime and deviance.

**1.2 SECTION OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this you will able to define crime and deviance

**1.3 DEFINITION OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE**

**Deviance** is any behavior that departs from what the majority of a community or the whole society considers to be normal. Not all deviance is forbidden by law, nor is all of it criminal or may be defined also as a variation from the norm and society’s reaction to it.

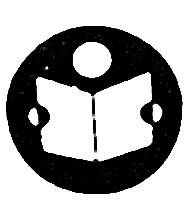
This sometimes comes with labels and to label someone deviant is related our notions to social convention (Remember the definition of normal and abnormal behaviour in unit 6)

The normal society entrenched with laws, rules and norms, socially the deviant are reflections of ourselves and our sense of otherness

**Crime** is any act by forbidden by law. What is considered a crime or a deviant act shifts across time and with respect to different groups.

Some states do not recognize certain categories of prejudice, such as sexual orientation. This discrepancy can have a serious impact on hate crime statistics, in as much as some individuals who are afraid to go the police, or may be discredited by the police when reporting this crimes

**Hate Crime**  a particular type of crime involving discrimination against or hateful acts towards particular groups in society. Hate crimes are difficult to define owing to lack of agreement regarding the designation of prejudice as a motivation.



* 1. **SECTION SUMMARY**

Crime is a societal indicatorof the

relationship of individuals to the larger

social system

• Crime is relativistic

• Crimeis related to factors such as race,

class and gender

• Understanding crimehelps understand

other aspects of society and socialization

* What is deviant may vary, but deviance is found in all societies. Deviance and the social response it provokes sustain the moral foundation of society. Deviance may also guide social change

**SECTION TWO: THEORIES OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE**

* 1. Section Outline
  2. Section Introduction.
  3. Section Objectives.
  4. theories of Crime and Deviance
  5. Section summary
  6. **SECTION INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to section 2 of unit 5.In this section you will go through the theories of crime and deviance. Infact there are quite a number of theories that describe the subject of this section, we may mention some.

**2.2 SECTION OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this you will able to

1. Give an outline of theories and describe them as regards to crime and deviance

**2.3 THEORIES OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE**

The theories that are mentioned here are

2.3.1 Demonology

2.3.2 Classical and Neo Classical theory

2.3.3 Positivism and the ecological approach

2.3.4 Biological Theories

2.3.5 Psychological Approach

2.3.6 Socio Cultural approaches

**2.3.1 Demonology**

In this case crime is caused by demonic activity and the offender is to purged of evil presence.

More or less like the theological theories which locate deviance and crime within the spiritual or moral make up of the individual.

2.3.2 Classical and Neo Classical Theory

This originated in 1764, the founders were Cesare Beccaria, Jeremy Bentham

The theory was based on hedonistic calculus and the punishment should fit the crime and punishment should be applied equally.

This theory has been checked by neo classical theory which introduced idea of mitigating factors and age and situational context taken to account

**2.3.3 Positivism and the ecological approach**Positivism emphasizes measuring, accumulating and assessing data

2.3.4 Biological theories

* Biological approaches, the core ideas here that biological and mental traits makes some people crime prone. This traits are inherited and they present at birth. Mental and physical degeneracies are the cause of crime.
* Lombroso and biological atavism studied inmates, find that physical characteristics of inmates differ from law abiding citizens. The XYY theory based on studies of inmates who have genes with XYY genetic make up known as super male
* The biological roots of criminal behaviour, states that chemical and environmental precursors can be related to criminal behaviour, eating habits, vitamin deficiencies and blood sugar levels
* Hormones and Criminality, the levels of testosterone and premenstrual syndrome maybe linked with criminal behaviour.
* Sheldon and Somatatyping states that temperament are affected by body type or shapes eg. Endomorph, ectomorph and mesomorph
* Genetic predisposition reported that some individuals are exposed to alcoholism, suicide, mental illness other deviant and criminal behavior.

**2.3.5 Psychological approach**

These focus on the individual(Cognitive, Behavioral, neurological and developmental paradigms

The examples are psychoanalytic theory and psychopathic

A psychopath is person who lacks empathy and guilt. Highly manipulative, emotionally shallow, often outwardly charming, history of violence and abuse and do possess abnormal physiological responses to stressors

**2.3.6 Socio-Cultural Approaches**

Sociological approaches looks at micro sociology emphasizes social processes e.g. learning the symbols of a culture/sub-culture

Macro sociology emphasizes social structures e.g. class inequalities cause crime

Sociological theories characterize deviance and crime as a response to the society in which they occur

Psychological theories locate deviance and crime within psyche or mind of the individual, as the product of inborn abnormality or of faulty cognition processes

* Functionalist Theory

Durkheim noticed that whereas traditional societies has been bound together by shared group values and norms, people in modern society were becoming less attached to norms a condition ***anomie*** and thought they could simply pursue their own individual interests. He recognized that certain amount of deviation from norms is normal and healthy for any society as it allows for innovation and adaptation to change

However excessive individualism in modern society leads to too much crime and deviance when too many people can behave how they want ignoring the group and its values’

Robert merton took up the functionalist based idea of ***anomie*** and explained crime and deviance as a result of strain, strain a condition experienced when the members of a society lack a sufficient amount of legitimate means to achieve socially approved goals, prompting some individuals to pursue their aims though alternative means such as deviant or criminal action e.g. people who ar impoverished and need to feed their families experience strain, while their goal is socially acceptable they are unable to meet it through legitimate resources

* Labelling Theory

Thomas theorem, a theorem stating that if people define a situation as real, it is real in its consequences.

The Thomas theorem parallels the symbolic interactionist persepective which emphasizes how social actions are the result of shared definitions of a situation

Howard becker made the poin that, no actions are by nature criminal or deviant nor are people naturally criminal or deviant. Deviance depends on the norms of the society and on the reactions of members of the society in different situations

The effect of this perspective on the sociology of crime and deviance was to shifgt the focus from why people are criminal or deviant on to the question of why and how people come to be labeled as criminal or deviant. Deviant career is a process of internalizing and accepting the label of “deviant”

Social Structurre theories

Cultural poverty is passed from onje generation to the next unemployment and underemployment creates despair

Social and economic forces in deteriorated social class areas, push residents into criminal behavior patterns

Social structure theories include:

Social disorganization

Strain theory

Cultural deviance theory

Each theory suggests that socially isolated people living in disorganized areas, are the ones most likely to experience crime producing social forces.

Cohesive communities develop interpersonal ties and mutual trust. Informal social control is created which involves peers families and relatives, there is creation of institutional and social control which includes school,churches, business and social agencies

Public social control creates policing and social support/altruism crime rates are lower in ares with a positive social climate

* Confict Theory points out that inequalities of wealth and power are what leads some people to branded as deviant or criminal.

First the capitalists punishes any infractions or threats to the functioning of the capitalist economic system itself

Second capitalism, is alleged to generate greed and selfishness because it has to create, new and bigger markets for its commodities, which entails spending vast sums on advertising and marketing

It stimulates competition for scarce resources which means that the rich and powerful get and use more than their fair share to the disadvantage of others

Cultural approaches to the crime and deviance

Ethnographic field research involves undertaking firsthand information of those involved and their cultures, which means

*ethno* = “people”

*graphic* = “description”

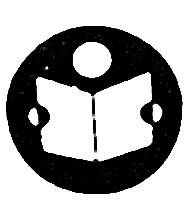
*in the field* = “the situation”

Moral panic

A period or episode of heightened anxiety about what are seen as symptoms of moral decline in society

Moral panic typically include a campaign aimed at mobilizing agents of social control against particular groups that alleged to be responsible for moral decline

Pervasive presence of the media in post modern society can be tremendously influential in terms of amplifying and sustaining this moral panics



* 1. **SECTION SUMMARY**

Crime and deviance are linked.  Deviance refers to those behaviors that violate social norms.  Some deviant behaviors are serious enough that society has chosen to pass laws against them (these are crimes); other deviant behaviors may be frowned upon by society but have not been defined as crimes.  Internal and external socialization processes teach social norms and clarify what behaviors society is and is not willing to tolerate. Socialization and social control are key concepts in controlling human behavior. Society determines what behaviors are acceptable, and deviations from those behaviors bring a variety of social sanctions (not limited to those meted out by the criminal justice system). A failure to socialize to the norms of society is often used as an explanation of criminal behavior and deviance.

**Unit 5 Review Questions**

1. Social indicators of the relationship of individuals to the larger social system is:
2. Crime
3. Deviance
4. Mood
5. Association
6. All of the above
7. ………………..is any behaviour that violates social norms
8. Anomie
9. Rascidivism
10. Deviance
11. Labeling
12. Corollary
13. Theories of crime and deviance include all except:
14. Demonology
15. Psychological approaches
16. Sociological approaches
17. Classical and neo-classical theory
18. Geographical theories
19. In biological approaches the core ideas are:
20. That biological and mental illness make some people crime prone
21. That the traits are inherited and not present at birth
22. That positivism does not emphasize measuring
23. Like classical theory
24. Proposing that punishment should be applied equally

**Answers**

1. a
2. c
3. e
4. a

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