



The Study of Crime and Deviant Behaviour

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Abstract

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a broad and complex field that encompasses a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, criminology, and criminal justice. Criminologists seek to understand the causes and consequences of crime and deviant behaviour, as well as develop effective strategies for prevention and control. One of the central goals of criminology is to identify the factors that contribute to crime. These factors can be broadly divided into two categories: individual and social. Individual factors include things like age, gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and personality. Social factors include things like poverty, inequality, unemployment, discrimination, and social norms. Criminologists also study the consequences of crime, both for victims and offenders. Victims of crime can experience a wide range of negative consequences, including physical injury, emotional trauma, and financial loss. Offenders can also experience negative consequences, such as imprisonment, stigma, and difficulty finding employment. In addition to understanding the causes and consequences of crime, criminologists also develop and evaluate strategies for prevention and control. Prevention strategies aim to reduce the likelihood that crime will occur in the first place. Control strategies aim to reduce the harm caused by crime when it does occur.

Keywords: Deviant Behaviour; Criminal Justice; Control Strategies

Introduction

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and interdisciplinary field that draws on sociology, psychology, criminology, and other social sciences. It is concerned with understanding the causes and consequences of crime and other forms of deviant behaviour, such as drug use, prostitution, and gang violence.

Crime is defined as any behaviour that violates the law. Deviance is any behaviour that violates social norms. Social norms are the shared expectations about how people should behave in a given situation. Deviance can be criminal or non-criminal. For example, jaywalking is a form of non-criminal deviance, while robbery is a form of criminal deviance [1-6].

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is important for a number of reasons. First, it helps us to understand the factors that contribute to crime and deviance. This knowledge can be used to develop effective prevention and intervention programs. Second, the study of crime and deviant behaviour can help us to develop more humane and effective criminal justice policies. Third, the study of crime and deviant behaviour can help us to better understand the role of crime and deviance in society.

There are many different theoretical perspectives on crime and deviance. Some of the most prominent theories include:

- **Functionalist theory:** Functionalist theorists view crime and deviance as necessary functions of society. They

argue that crime can help to strengthen social norms and values, and that deviance can provide a way for individuals to challenge the status quo.

- **Conflict theory:** Conflict theorists view crime and deviance as the result of social inequality. They argue that the criminal justice system is biased against the poor and minorities, and that crime and deviance are ways for people to resist oppression.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and challenging field, but it is also an important one. By understanding the causes and consequences of crime and deviance, we can develop more effective ways to prevent and address these problems.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a dynamic and evolving field. As society changes, so too do the patterns of crime and deviance. By staying up-to-date on the latest research, we can better understand and respond to these challenges [7-10].

Literature Review

There is a vast body of literature on the study of crime and deviant behaviour. Some of the key theoretical perspectives in this field include:

- **Social learning theory:** This theory posits that people learn deviant behaviour through observation and imitation of others.
- **Strain theory:** This theory argues that crime is caused by the strain that people experience when they are blocked from achieving their goals.
- **Social control theory:** This theory argues that crime is less likely to occur when people are strongly attached to society and its norms.
- **Rational choice theory:** This theory argues that people commit crimes because they weigh the potential costs and benefits of doing so and conclude that the benefits outweigh the costs.

In addition to these theoretical perspectives, there is a large body of research on the specific factors that contribute to crime and deviant behaviour, such as poverty, inequality, family dysfunction, and mental illness. There is also a growing body of research on the effectiveness of different crime prevention and intervention strategies [11].

Some of The Key Findings from the Research on Crime and Deviant Behaviour Include:

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and interdisciplinary field that draws on insights from sociology, psychology, criminology, and other disciplines.

Criminologists and sociologists seek to understand the causes of crime and deviant behaviour, as well as the consequences of these behaviours for individuals and society.

There are many different theories about the causes of crime and deviant behaviour. Some theories focus on individual factors, such as personality traits, mental illness, or substance abuse. Other theories focus on social factors, such as poverty, inequality, or discrimination. Still other theories emphasize the role of both individual and social factors in the development of criminal and deviant behavior [12].

One of the most influential theories of crime is the social control theory, developed by Travis Hirschi. This theory argues that crime is most likely to occur when people are not adequately bonded to society. Social bonds can be created through attachment to family and friends, involvement in school or work, and commitment to conventional values. When these bonds are weak, individuals are more likely to engage in criminal behaviour.

Another important theory of crime is the strain theory, developed by Robert Merton. This theory argues that crime is caused by the strain that people experience when they are unable to achieve their culturally defined goals through legitimate means. For example, if someone is unable to achieve a good job or a high standard of living through legitimate means, they may be more likely to turn to crime.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the role of biology in crime. Some research suggests that certain genetic factors may predispose individuals to criminal behaviour. However, it is important to note that biology is not destiny. Genetic factors are only one of many factors that contribute to crime.

The study of deviant behaviour is also broad and complex. Deviant behaviour can be defined as any behaviour that violates social norms and expectations. Deviance can take many different forms, such as drug use, delinquency, and mental illness.

One of the most important theories of deviant behaviour is the labelling theory. This theory argues that deviance is not simply a product of individual or social factors, but is also shaped by the way that society labels and reacts to certain behaviours. For example, if a child is labelled as a "troublemaker" by their teachers, they may be more likely to engage in deviant behaviour in the future.

Another important theory of deviant behaviour is the social learning theory. This theory argues that deviance

is learned through interaction with others. Individuals are more likely to engage in deviant behaviour if they are exposed to deviant role models or if they are rewarded for deviant behaviour.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is important because it can help us to develop effective strategies for prevention and intervention. By understanding the causes of crime and deviant behaviour, we can develop programs and policies that address these root causes and make our communities safer.

These are just a few of the many important topics that are being studied by criminologists and sociologists today. The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and challenging field, but it is also an essential one. By understanding the causes and consequences of crime and deviance, we can develop effective strategies for making our communities safer.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and interdisciplinary field that draws on insights from sociology, psychology, criminology, and other disciplines. Scholars in this field seek to understand the causes and consequences of crime and deviance, as well as how to prevent and respond to these problems.

One of the most fundamental questions in the study of crime and deviance is: what is it? Deviance is generally defined as behaviour that violates social norms, while crime is behaviour that violates formal laws. However, the distinction between deviance and crime is not always clear-cut. For example, some behaviours, such as public nudity or drug use, may be considered deviant in some cultures but not in others. Additionally, some crimes, such as white-collar crime, may not be viewed as deviant by all members of society.

Another important question in the study of crime and deviance is: why do people commit crimes or engage in deviant behaviour? There are many different theories about the causes of crime and deviance, and researchers continue to debate this issue. Some theories focus on individual factors, such as personality, upbringing, or mental health. Other theories focus on social factors, such as poverty, inequality, or discrimination. Still other theories focus on the interaction of individual and social factors.

The study of crime and deviance has also examined the consequences of these behaviors for both individuals and society. Crime and deviance can have a devastating impact on victims, their families, and the community as a whole. Crime can also lead to social and economic costs, such as increased incarceration rates and decreased productivity.

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on the prevention of crime and deviance. Prevention programs can be implemented at different levels, including the individual, family, community, and societal levels. Some examples of prevention programs include early childhood education, after-school programs, and job training programs.

Research questions:

- What are the effects of domestic violence on children?
- What are the best ways to prevent drug addiction?

Data Collection and Data Analysis

Data collection and data analysis are essential components of the study of crime and deviant behaviour. Researchers have used a variety of methods to collect data, including:

- **Victimization surveys:** Victimization surveys are surveys of people who have been victims of crime. These surveys can provide information on the prevalence of crime, the types of crimes that are most common, and the characteristics of victims.
- **Self-report surveys:** Self-report surveys are surveys of people who are asked to report on their own criminal or deviant behaviour. These surveys can provide information on the prevalence of crime and deviance, and the factors that contribute to these behaviours.
- **Interviews and focus groups:** Interviews and focus groups are qualitative research methods that can be used to collect in-depth information from individuals and groups about their experiences with crime and deviance.

Here are some examples of data collection and data analysis in the study of crime and deviant behaviour:

Data collection and data analysis are essential tools for understanding the causes and consequences of crime and deviant behaviour. By using these tools, researchers can develop more effective ways to prevent and address these problems.

Here are some additional thoughts on data collection and data analysis in the study of crime and deviant behaviour:

- It is important to collect data from a variety of sources in order to get a complete picture of crime and deviance.
- It is also important to be aware of the limitations of different data collection methods. For example, official statistics may only reflect crimes that are reported to the police, and self-report surveys may be subject to social desirability bias.
- When analysing data, it is important to use appropriate statistical methods and to control for confounding variables.

Data Analysis

Once the data has been collected, it can be analysed using a variety of statistical methods. Some of the most common methods include:

Qualitative data analysis: Qualitative data analysis methods can be used to analyze data from interviews, focus groups, and observation studies. These methods can be used to identify themes and patterns in the data, as well as to develop a deeper understanding of the experiences of individuals and groups [12-15].

Examples of data collection and data analysis in the study of crime and deviant behavior. Here are a few examples of how data collection and data analysis can be used to study crime and deviant behaviour:

- Data collection and data analysis are essential for understanding crime and deviant behaviour. By using a variety of methods to collect and analyse data, researchers can gain valuable insights into the causes of crime, the characteristics of offenders and victims, and the effectiveness of crime prevention and control programs.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour is a complex and multifaceted field. There is no single theory that can fully explain why people engage in criminal or deviant acts [7]. However, researchers have identified a number of factors that contribute to crime and deviant behaviour, including:

- Individual factors such as personality, intelligence, and mental health
- Family factors such as parenting style and socioeconomic status
- Social factors such as peer pressure, poverty, and discrimination

Research has also shown that crime and deviant behaviour are not evenly distributed throughout society. Some groups, such as young people, males, and people from low-income communities, are more likely to engage in crime and deviant behaviour than others.

The study of crime and deviant behaviour has a number of important implications for policymakers and practitioners. For example, research on the risk factors for crime can be used to develop prevention programs that target at-risk youth and families. Additionally, research on the causes of crime can be used to develop more effective criminal justice policies.

Findings of the study of crime and deviant behaviour:

- Crime and deviant behaviour are complex phenomena with a variety of causes.
- No single theory can fully explain why people engage in criminal or deviant acts.

- Individual, family, and social factors all contribute to crime and deviant behavior.

Conclusions of the Study of Crime and Deviant Behaviour

There is no easy solution to the problem of crime and deviant behaviour. A comprehensive approach is needed that addresses the root causes of crime and deviant behaviour, including poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity. Prevention programs are essential to reducing crime and deviant behaviour in the long term.

The criminal justice system should focus on rehabilitation and reintegration, rather than simply punishment. It is important to note that the study of crime and deviant behaviour is an ongoing process. Researchers are constantly learning new things about the causes of crime and deviant behaviour, and developing new strategies for prevention and intervention.

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