

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPONENTS OF SOCIAL DEVIATIONS (PERSON, NORM, OTHER PERSON, SOCIAL GROUP)

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Abstract

This article describes some characteristics of key components involved in social deviations: the individual (person), societal norms, other persons, and social groups. Social deviation, defined as behaviors or actions that diverge from established norms, is examined through a multi-dimensional lens to understand the dynamic interactions between these components. The individual represents the source or actor of deviation, whose behaviors may stem from personal motives, psychological factors, or life circumstances that contribute to a divergence from societal standards. Norms, as the collective expectations of acceptable behavior, serve as benchmarks that distinguish conventional from deviant actions. The role of "other persons" includes individuals who observe, respond to, or are directly affected by the deviation, shaping the social response to deviant behavior through acceptance, rejection, or sanction. The author assumes that by examining these components interactively, this study sheds light on how deviations are contextualized and managed within society, highlighting the influence of cultural and environmental factors on the regulation of social norms

Keywords: characteristics, components, social deviations, the individual (person), societal norms, social groups, social deviation.

INTRODUCTION

The study of social deviations and their components is essential for understanding the complexities of human behavior within societal contexts. By exploring the characteristics of the primary components involved person, norm, other person, and social group the research provides a nuanced perspective on how deviations from social norms arise, propagate, and impact communities. Social deviations, which include behaviors and attitudes that diverge from accepted standards, influence the stability and dynamics within societies, making it critical to analyze their underlying elements for effective societal management and support mechanisms.

Understanding Individual Behavior and Motivation: Examining the characteristics of the person involved in social deviations sheds light on psychological, biological, and environmental factors that contribute to deviant behavior. By focusing on personality traits, cognitive dispositions, and personal circumstances, this study can identify patterns or

predispositions that lead individuals to deviate from norms. Such insights are invaluable for social services, psychologists, and educators in providing targeted interventions and fostering environments that mitigate factors contributing to deviance.

The Role of Social Norms and Their Variability: Norms are the unwritten rules that guide behavior within a society. By studying norms as a component of social deviations, this research highlights how the fluidity of societal standards influences behavior. Understanding what constitutes a deviation within varying cultural, economic, or legal contexts is crucial for policy-making, as it can guide the development of laws, ethical guidelines, and institutional practices that reflect current social values and adapt to changing circumstances.

Interpersonal Influence and Social Perception: The interaction between the person deviating from the norm and other persons whether through relationships, peer groups, or authority figures often plays a pivotal role in reinforcing or mitigating deviant behavior. Studying these relationships provides insight into how social support, peer pressure, or societal expectations influence individuals. This component is particularly valuable in areas such as juvenile delinquency prevention, rehabilitation programs, and community mental health, where understanding social influence is critical to developing support systems that encourage conformity to positive norms.

Social Group Dynamics and Collective Behavior: Finally, social groups and their collective norms or values significantly impact the development of social deviations. Groups may either discourage deviance through social sanctions or reinforce it through subcultures that reject mainstream norms. This study is essential for understanding phenomena like gang membership, radicalization, or subcultural communities that develop unique identities through deviant behaviors. By studying group dynamics, society can foster inclusive environments that support positive group identities and prevent the social isolation often associated with deviant behavior.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In examining the components of social deviations such as individuals, norms, social groups, and other individuals it's essential to look at these components as they interact within different sociological theories and paradigms. Social deviations are behaviors that violate established social norms, values, or expectations within a society. These deviations are multifaceted, involving several interconnected components: the individual (person), social norms, other individuals, and social groups. Understanding the characteristics of each component is critical for analyzing and addressing social deviations in both theoretical and practical contexts.

1. **The Person (Deviant Individual).** The individual, or deviant person, is at the core of the concept of social deviations. This component involves an individual whose behavior or actions are seen as outside the acceptable boundaries defined by societal norms. The

characteristics of the deviant individual can vary widely based on their background, personality, socialization, and the context in which the deviation occurs.

Psychological Factors: Deviance is often linked to psychological traits or disorders. Some individuals may engage in deviant behavior due to personal dissatisfaction, mental illness, or emotional distress. For example, individuals with antisocial personality disorder or those with certain addictive behaviors may exhibit deviant actions as part of their personality traits.

Socialization and Life Experiences: The individual's upbringing, peer influences, family dynamics, and life experiences play a significant role in shaping their behavior. Social learning theory posits that individuals learn deviant behaviors from their interactions with others, especially from family members, peers, or subcultures.

Individual Choices and Autonomy: While socialization factors are influential, individuals also exercise agency in their behavior. Personal choices, free will, and a person's ability to assess risk and consequences influence their engagement in deviance.

2. Social Norms. Social norms are the shared expectations and rules that govern behavior within a society. They define what is considered acceptable and unacceptable in different social contexts, ranging from family relationships to workplace conduct to broader societal values. The characteristics of social norms are crucial for understanding deviations.

Formal vs. Informal Norms: Formal norms are codified in laws or official regulations (e.g., criminal laws), while informal norms are unwritten but socially enforced (e.g., etiquette, customs). Deviations from formal norms often lead to legal consequences, while deviations from informal norms typically result in social disapproval or ostracization.

Cultural Relativity: Norms are not universally fixed but vary across different cultures, societies, and even subcultures within the same society. What is considered deviant in one culture may be perfectly acceptable in another. For example, behaviors related to dress, family structure, or gender roles can differ significantly across societies.

Norm Enforcement: Norms are reinforced through various social institutions, such as family, education, religion, and media. Deviance is detected and corrected by these institutions, often leading to social sanctions like punishment, exclusion, or rehabilitation.

3. Other Person (The Perception of Deviance by Others). Deviance is not just about the individual but also involves how others perceive and react to certain behaviors. The reaction of others to an individual's actions plays a significant role in labeling behavior as deviant.

Labeling Theory: According to labeling theory, proposed by sociologists like Howard Becker, deviance is not inherent in the act itself but is a consequence of how others label the behavior. When individuals are labeled as deviant by others, particularly by those in positions of power or authority, they may internalize this label and continue to engage in deviant behavior, a process known as secondary deviance.

Stigma and Social Identity: The labeling of a person as deviant can result in stigmatization, where the individual is seen as fundamentally different or inferior. This social stigma can affect the individual's sense of identity and self-worth, leading to social isolation, discrimination, or criminalization [3]; [4].

Social Approval vs. Disapproval: The perception of deviance also depends on the social approval or disapproval of others. For instance, certain behaviors might be considered

deviant in some contexts but may be admired or excused in others. A person's social standing and the specific group they belong to can influence how their behavior is judged.

4. **Social Group (Deviance in Groups).** The social group is a collective entity that can either support or resist deviant behavior. Social groups, including families, peer groups, subcultures, and even larger societal groups, influence and are influenced by social deviance. **Conformity and Social Pressure:** Groups exert pressure on individuals to conform to norms, and deviant behavior often arises when individuals or subgroups reject these norms. Peer groups, for example, can encourage deviant behavior, especially in adolescent groups where rebellion and non-conformity are common.

Subcultures and Deviant Groups: Subcultures can play a critical role in both defining and accepting certain types of deviance. A deviant subculture may create alternative norms that challenge mainstream values. For example, gang cultures may foster deviant behaviors like drug trafficking or violence, which are accepted within the group but viewed as deviant by society at large [1]; [2].

Group Dynamics and Deviant Behavior: The dynamics within a group also contribute to deviance. In some cases, group behavior, such as mob mentality, can lead individuals to act in ways they normally wouldn't, influenced by the group's collective decisions. The anonymity and shared responsibility within groups can diminish personal accountability, encouraging members to engage in deviant acts.

The components of social deviations person, norm, other person, and social group are interconnected and influence each other in complex ways. Deviance cannot be understood in isolation, as it is shaped by the individual's personal characteristics, the norms they interact with, the reactions of others, and the social groups to which they belong [5]; [7]. A comprehensive understanding of social deviance requires examining these components in relation to each other, acknowledging the role of societal context, and exploring how deviant behavior can both shape and be shaped by the social environment.

DISCUSSION

Social deviation generally refers to behaviors that fall outside societal norms, which can vary by culture, context, and over time. These components, as outlined, form a complex network that influences behavior and societal responses to deviations.

Person (Individual): Deviance begins at the individual level, where personal circumstances, environment, and psychological factors may drive a person to deviate from norms. Research highlights that individuals in socially disorganized environments, where social control is weak and community bonds are poor, are more likely to engage in deviant behavior. This concept is supported by social disorganization theory, which posits that individuals within fragmented communities often experience reduced social support, leading to higher instances of deviance and crime.

Norms: Norms are the shared expectations within a society or group about acceptable behavior. When individuals violate these norms, they challenge society's boundaries and expectations. Functionalists, such as Émile Durkheim, argue that deviance serves a purpose by reinforcing norms and enabling society to adapt to changing values. The process of

labeling certain behaviors as deviant further strengthens social order by delineating acceptable from unacceptable conduct.

Other Persons (Interpersonal Relationships): The influence of interpersonal relationships on deviant behavior is notable, as social bonds play a significant role in restraining individuals from deviance. Hirschi's control theory suggests that stronger attachments and commitments to societal expectations through family, friendships, and community can reduce the likelihood of deviance. Conversely, a lack of these connections may lead to behaviors that oppose societal norms as individuals lack significant attachments that would otherwise discourage such actions.

Social Group: Social groups impact the individual's perception of acceptable behavior. Subcultures, or groups that have unique norms divergent from mainstream society, often form around shared experiences or economic status. Cultural deviance theory posits that deviance emerges from conformity to the specific norms of these subcultures, especially in marginalized communities. Researchers like Shaw and McKay observed that socioeconomically disadvantaged groups develop their own definitions of deviance, which may not align with mainstream values, thus perpetuating a cycle of deviant behavior within these communities.

CONCLUSION

Thus, understanding the characteristics of the components of social deviations is essential for addressing social issues and fostering cohesive, supportive societies. This study not only benefits fields like sociology, psychology, and criminology but also provides policymakers, educators with the knowledge needed to create interventions that address the root causes of deviant behavior. By focusing on the person, norm, other person, and social group, society gains the tools to foster understanding, inclusivity, and resilience against behaviors that threaten social harmony. In summary, social deviations arise through an intricate relationship between individuals, societal norms, interpersonal connections, and group influences, all of which are influenced by the broader structural environment. These factors collectively shape the concept of deviance, which varies across different societies and periods, and is often analyzed through theories in sociology that provide insight into both the causes and the functions of deviance.

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