



Sociology Virtual Learning

High School/Lesson 32

Functionalism and Deviance

May 5th, 2020



Sociology

Lesson: May 5th, 2020

Objective/Learning Targets:

- Explain how functionalism relates to deviance and how deviance has both positive and negative consequences for society.

Bell Ringer:

On a separate piece of paper, without going forward for help, answer the following question to the best of your ability:

If functionalism stresses cooperation, how can deviance, a behavior that departs from societal or group norms, help a society?

Important Vocabulary:

Anomie - A social condition where norms are weak, conflicting, or absent.

Strain Theory - Theory that deviance is more likely to occur when a gap exists between cultural goals and the ability to achieve these goals by legitimate means.

Control Theory - Theory that compliance with social norms requires strong bonds between individuals and society.

Lesson:

As you probably remember from earlier chapters, the functionalist perspective emphasizes social stability and the way the different parts of society contribute to the whole. It may surprise you to know that functionalist believe that some deviance can contribute to the smooth operation of society. Deviance, therefore, has both positive and negative consequences for society.

Lesson:

Negative effects of deviance:

Deviance erodes trust. A society with widespread suspicion and distrust cannot function smoothly. If not punished or corrected, deviance can also cause nonconforming behavior in others. Deviance stimulates more deviance in others. Deviant behavior is also expensive. It diverts resources, both human and monetary.

Lesson:

Positive effects of deviance:

Society can sometimes benefit from deviance in spite of its negative effects. Emile Durkheim observed that deviance clarifies norms by exercising social control to defend its values; society defines, adjusts, and reaffirms norms. When parents are taken to court or lose their children because of neglect, society shows other parents and children how it expects parents to act.

Activity:

Imagine if you will, it's the first day of Kindergarten and you, as one of the cool kids, just got to school with the 64 pack of crayons; you know, the one with the sweet sharpener built into the box... Open that box of crayons and look carefully at it. Now, I'm not worried about your favorite color, that's a different question. As you look at that multitude of colors pick out which color you would be and in as much detail as possible write down why you picked that color. You may write this on the same paper as your bell work.

Activity:

Now that you have your color and why, here is the next question. If you could be any animal in the animal kingdom, what would you be and why? This doesn't necessarily mean your favorite animal, but it could be if you want to go with that. Limit your answer to animals alive today. No dinosaurs or mastodons. Also, stick to confirmed animals rather than cryptids like Sasquatch or Mokele Mbembe. Again, the more explanation you give as to "why" in your answers the better your results will be.

Now that you have your answers, here is the explanation for this reflection.

The color represents the self concept. It is how you see yourself.

The animal represents the looking glass self. It is how you want others to see you or the image you want to portray to others when they think of you.

Follow Up:

When I answered these questions as a college student, I said that my color would be green. Green to me represented vibrance and life. It reminded me of spring and summer and fishing with my family. Of all the colors, it made me the happiest. I said that my animal, after careful consideration, would be a cardinal. Cardinals are the only birds that sing year round. Both the mother and the father take care of the little ones and they are voracious defenders of the nest, often chasing away raptors three times their size. They are a flashy and proud bird that always has a knack for making themselves known. When I learned the meaning of the color and the animal, I was shocked. I had no idea that I thought of myself this way or that this was the image I wanted to portray to others.