



ISD Virtual Learning

# Sociology: Deviance and Social Control

May 4, 2020



# Sociology: Deviance and Social Control

## Lesson 31: May 4, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

The student will be able to define identify different kinds of deviant behavior.

## Warm-Up

- What are the first things you think of when you hear the word deviant or deviance?

## Warm-Up Follow-Up

If you said things like crime, jail, breaking rules, villain, or things like that, you're not alone. We often associate deviance as being a bad thing. However, deviance isn't always bad! This lesson and the ones to follow will hopefully help us to realize that there are different types of deviance, and sometimes it's a good thing to be deviant!

# What is Deviance?

**Deviance** is ANY behavior that departs from societal or group norms (behaviors that are expected in our groups or society).

A wide range of behaviors from criminal behavior to wearing heavy make-up to never missing school could be considered as deviance.

One of the problems that we run into with deviance is that it's not always easy to identify as we would think and there are several reasons why:

1. Deviance can be subjective making it vary from group to group, society to society.
  - a. Example: Look at slavery during the early to mid-1800's - Southern society said it was okay, Northern society said it wasn't.
2. Deviance can also change over time.
  - a. Example: Several decades ago, it was considered deviant for a person to have tattoos, but today, they are much more commonly accepted and it's not an issue for many groups now.

Can you think of any other examples like the ones above? Try to think of 1 example for each!

# What is Deviance (cont).

A person who breaks significant societal or group norms by committing an act of deviance is known as a **Deviant**.

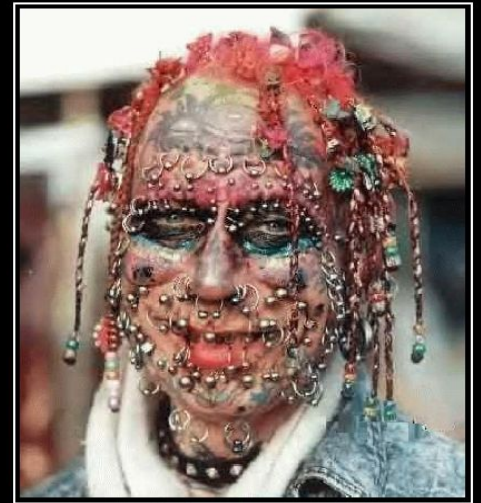
- Reactions to deviants are usually negative and involve attempts to change or control the deviant behavior.

Look at the image on the slide. What about this would most people consider this person to be a deviant?

- *It's not normal for most people to have all the face tattoos/piercings and strange hair (it's not the norm).*

Is there a chance that this isn't deviant behavior?

- *Maybe he is a part of a group where all the other members have similar characteristics (this is the norm).*



**DEVIANCE**

A way to make daddy mad.

# 2 Types of Deviance

When we talk about Deviance, there are 2 main types that we focus on. They are called positive and negative deviance. The key here is not think of positive meaning good and negative meaning bad.

1. Positive Deviance - Behavior that over-conforms to social expectations.
2. Negative Deviance - Behavior that under-conforms to social expectations.

To illustrate the differences, let's examine America's expectation for body composition: LEAN IS MEAN. The average person isn't overly obese, but not too skinny either...it's somewhere in the middle. Now, look at the images below. How is the one on the left an example of Negative Deviance and the one on the right Positive Deviance?



If you imagine that we've "set the bar" for our expectation to be lean, the lady on the left has not reached our expectation of being on the lean side (she's below the bar we've set). Therefore, it's negative. However, the lady on the right met the expectation, but didn't stop and has become way too skinny (she's above the bar we've set) making it positive deviance).

# Practice

Read the scenario on the left. After you've read it, try to identify if this is an example of Positive Deviance or Negative Deviance and be able to explain why. The answer is on the left.

Scenario:

- Bob just robbed a grocery store.
- 1. What is the norm or expectation?
- 2. Did the person not reach the norm or did they go beyond the norm?

*Answer:*

1. *In our society, the expectation is that you don't rob grocery stores or anybody/anything for that matter.*
2. *Bob did not meet the expectation of not robbing the store.*

*Therefore, since Bob did not "meet the bar" that we expect of not robbing stores, this would be **Negative Deviance**. Yes, this is a bad act, but what makes it Negative Deviance was he did not meet society's expectation.*



# Practice

Read the scenario on the left. After you've read it, try to identify if this is an example of Positive Deviance or Negative Deviance and be able to explain why. The answer is on the left.

Scenario:

- Because of Sarah's exceptional hard work and above average GPA (4.5), she was recognized by her community school board and given a huge scholarship.

1. What is the norm or expectation?
2. Did the person not reach the norm or did they go beyond the norm?

*Answer:*

1. *We expect our students to make good grades and pass all of their classes.*
2. *Sarah went above and beyond, not just passing her classes but getting A's in every class including weighted classes to account for the GPA over a 4.0.*

*Sarah did not just "meet the bar" that we expect of passing her classes and getting decent grades, she went over the bar making it **Positive Deviance**. Yes, getting good grades can be deviant!*

# Social Control

To promote conformity to the norms and make life less unpredictable and chaotic, we use Social Controls.

There are two types of Social Control:

1. Internal Social Control - These are the controls that are inside us that we learn during socialization.
  - Example: Not stealing because you know it's wrong.

2. External Social Control - These are controls based on sanctions (rewards and/or punishments) to encourage desired behavior.
  - Example: Not stealing because you don't want to get arrested for shoplifting.

# Practice

Read the scenario on the left. After you've read it, try to identify if this is an example the behavior being influenced by an Internal Social Control or External Social Control and be able to explain why. The answer is on the left.

## Scenario:

- Anthony went to the store with his mom to pick out a present for his friend Kris. While at the toy store Anthony sees a Transformer that he has been wanting. He asks his Grandpa Rossy if he could have it. He says no and continues shopping. Anthony thinks about stealing it, but is afraid he'll get caught.
- Internal Social Control or External Social Control?

## *Answer:*

*Why did Anthony not steal the toy? He's afraid of getting caught. Anthony knows something bad will happen if he gets caught (arrested, grounded, fined, etc.). He is concerned about what will happen to him, not that he knows it's wrong to steal. Therefore, he conformed to the norm of not stealing due to an external social control (getting caught and punished).*

# Practice

Read the scenario on the left. After you've read it, try to identify if this is an example the behavior being influenced by an Internal Social Control or External Social Control and be able to explain why. The answer is on the left.

## Scenario:

- Javy is driving through the parking lot at the mall. He sees a handicapped space. He's in a hurry, so he thinks about using it even though he doesn't have a permit. Javy ends up going by it and parking farther away because he knows there might be somebody that really needs it instead of him.
- Internal Social Control or External Social Control?

## *Answer:*

*The norm is that we expect people to not park in handicapped spaces if we aren't legally allowed to do so. Javy could have parked there anyways, but since he knows the right thing to do is to leave it open for somebody that might really need it, his behavior was influenced by internal social control. He wasn't concerned about getting towed or a ticket, he was concerned about doing what is right.*

# Reflection

On a blank piece of paper, do the following activity. Use the examples from the Practice slide to guide you.

Now that we've covered the two types of Deviance (Positive and Negative Deviance), give at least 1 example of something from your life that would be considered Positive Deviance and 1 example that would be Negative Deviance.

*Examples: The expectation is that we drive the speed limit which I don't so I'm not meeting the expectation (Negative Deviance); I have perfect attendance at school which is good, but we don't expect people to be there every day (Positive Deviance).*

Now that we've covered the two types of Social Control (Internal and External), give at least 1 example of something from your life that would be considered Internal Social Control and 1 example that would be External Social Control.

*Example: I slow down in work zones on the highway because I don't want to hurt somebody (Internal); I do the dishes after dinner because I don't want to get yelled at (External).*

# Additional Resources

Check out these resources if you'd like to learn more about Deviance and Social Control!

VIDEO: [Crash Course Sociology - Deviance](#) (also includes more information on social controls)