

Social Deviance

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
21	Social Deviance	Report the various reasons associated with crime/cases of alcoholism/juvenile delinquency if happened in your locality.

Summary

We all live in society. Without society we cannot live because we are dependent on it from our birth to death. Every society has its norms and values. For living in a society, we obey certain norms and values. You have read in Module II about norms and values. Norms and values are expectations of society from individuals. They have social sanctions and every member of society is expected to obey them. But the behaviour of some members of the society does not conform to social expectations. As a result, social deviance takes place. Crime, truancy, vagrancy, delinquency, alcoholism and drug addiction are examples of social deviance.

Crime

Social deviance is such behaviour which is not in conformity with norms, values and expectations of the society. These behaviours do not have social sanction. They are labelled as anti-social. one type of deviance is crime or criminals.

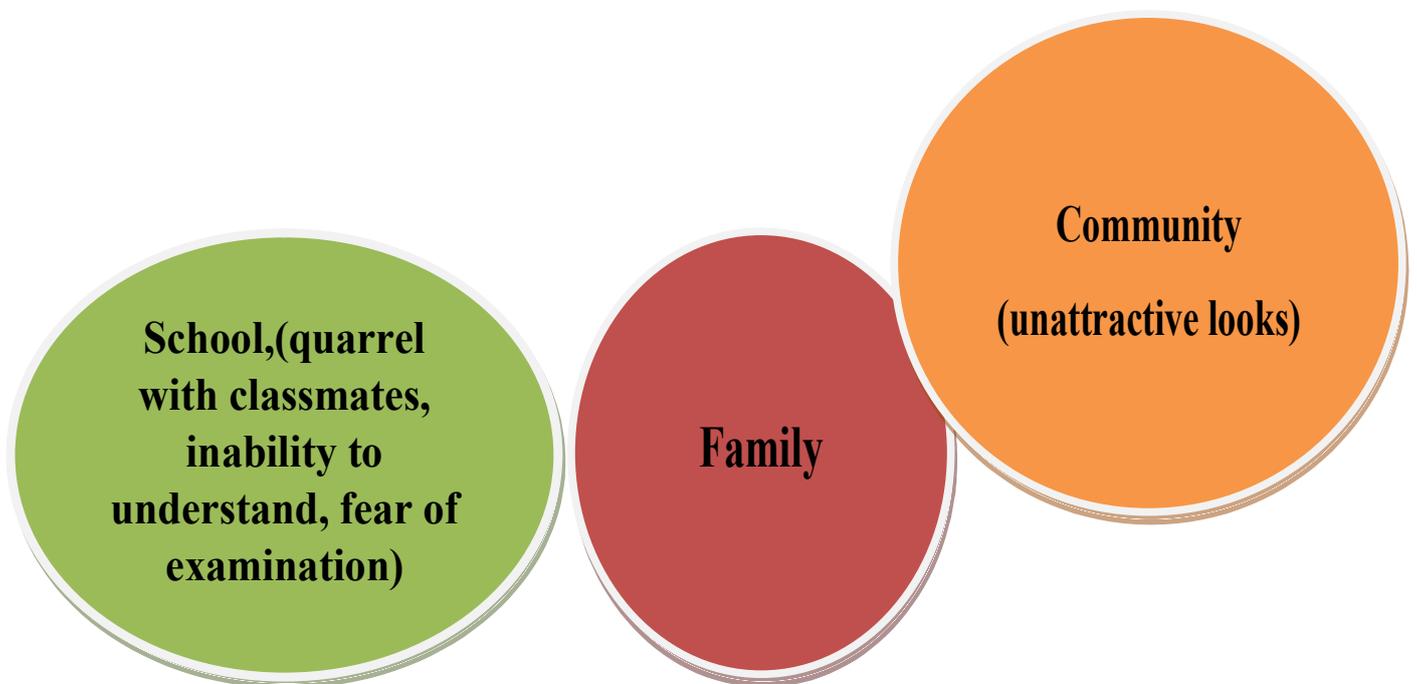
Crime takes place due to conflict between what society expects and what some members want. In other words, it is expression of discontent.

Crime is found in all society because every member of society cannot be equally committed to the "collective sentiments", the shared values and moral beliefs of society". Since individuals are exposed to different influences and circumstances, it is "impossible for all to be alike".

Criminals are not born. They are made. it is the society which makes an individual criminal. criminals can be

Truancy

- ✚ The term truant is used for those children who leave school without any information. This is such a behaviour of a child which keeps him absent from school without any permission of school authorities and parents. Some truant children engage themselves in anti-social activities like vagrancy, delinquency and gambling etc.
- ✚ The reason a student misses' school will for different depending on the age and circumstances of each student. Sometimes a student will skip school because they feel unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. Other students may miss school because of family issues, financial demands, substance abuse, or mental health problems. Factors contributing to truancy commonly stem from three core areas:



- ✚ Truancy leads to personality disorganization, social disorganization, bad company, evil habits and characterlessness.

Vagrancy

The condition of an individual who is idle, has no visible means of support, and travels from place to place without working. Vagrancy is a social pathological behaviour found in some children who wander here and there without any reason.

At Common Law, the term vagrant referred to a person who was idle, refused to work although capable of doing so, and lived on the charity of others. In addition, the term vagrant has been replaced by Homeless Person as a way of describing a person who is without means or a permanent home.

Traditionally, communities tended to regard vagrants with suspicion and view them either as beggars or as persons likely to commit crimes. Some of the behavior associated with vagrancy are

- Passing vulgar remarks on passers-by
- May abuse any person without reasons
- Conflict with any person
- Irresponsible towards family, community and society

Vagrancy is attributed to family background, behavior of parents, bad company etc.

Juvenile delinquency

Juvenile Crime, in law, term denoting various offenses committed by children or youths under the age of 18. Such acts are sometimes referred to as juvenile delinquency.

Juvenile delinquency can be seen from social and legal viewpoints.

From the social view-points, disrespect shown towards norms, customs and traditions of the society can be called juvenile delinquency .

From the legal view –point ,breaking of laws established by the

Juvenile delinquency is a social pathological behaviour in which a child commits crime. It is a social disease which creates social disorganization in the society. Both crime and juvenile delinquency are anti-social behaviour. Both lead to social and individual disturbance.

Poverty, lack of basic amenities, Industrialization, Urbanization and modernization have influenced the incidence of juvenile delinquency in our country.

Alcoholism

- ✚ Alcoholism is the most severe form of problem drinking. Alcoholism involves all the symptoms of alcohol abuse, but it also involves another element: physical dependence on alcohol. If you rely on alcohol to function or feel physically compelled to drink, you're an alcoholic.
- ✚ The person addicted to alcoholism do not share any kind of responsibility and obligations. They deviate from the norms and values of society. They indulge in anti-social behaviour.

Drug Addiction

- ✚ Taking intoxicating materials other than wine as part of habit is called Drug Addiction. Drug addiction is prevalent in all parts of our country in one form or other.
- ✚ Habitual taking of drug is called drug addiction. There are two types of drugs to which people of our country are addicted. These are traditional drug and modern drug.
- ✚ Drug addiction is harmful in many ways. It makes a person mentally weak. It also leads to premature death. It is responsible for personality, family and social disorganization. It also creates problems related to administration. There has also been a close relation between drug addiction and crime. Drug addicted people commit crimes like suicide, quarrel, sex crime and murder etc.
- ✚ The youth of our country start taking drug for fashion, in bad company, to remove despair and to feel pleasure. They also start drug addiction to face poverty and unemployment. They are also attracted towards drug addiction to see modern drug addiction in T.V. and cinema.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Describe why does crime take place?
2. Find out few important reasons which result in truancy.
3. Explain various behaviours associated with vagrancy?
4. How do you justify that drug addiction is harmful to society? Describe with example