Assignment Studio

Assistance with University Projects? Research Reports? Writing Skills?

We have got you covered!

www.assignmentstudio.net

WhatsApp: +61-424-295050

Toll Free: 1-800-794-425

Email: contact@assignmentstudio.net

Follow us on Social Media

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/AssignmentStudio

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/AssignmentStudi

LinkedIn:

https://au.linkedin.com/company/assignment-studio

Pinterest:

http://pinterest.com/assignmentstudi

Discuss the sociological concept of 'Deviance', and how it is commonly associated with the social entity of youth.

Deviance can be defined as nonconformity to societal customs or expectations. Many of us perceive the word 'deviance' only in relation to ethical, religious, or political norms. The 'deviant' is tagged as a person whose conduct deviates from normal moral standards, like those related to sexual behavior or who digress from a political or religious belief. The sociological perception of deviance nevertheless has an expansive point of view and identifies that there can be deviation from social norms of all kinds and considers it a normal social occurrence.

From the sociological perspective, deviance can be defined as demeanor which is usually thought to need the concentration of social control agencies – that is, behavior about which "something should be done"[1]

It is an ordinary practice in sociology to observe deviant behavior as a foreign constituent in society. Deviance is measured as a nomadic type of human activity which has in some way drifted away from the more contemporary systematic currents of social life and is required to be managed. Since the common perception is that this kind of abnormality could take place only if something were erroneous within the institute of society itself, deviant behavior is depicted almost as if it were seepage from equipment in poor condition: it is a subsidiary consequence of chaos and anomie, an indication of in-house breakdown.

Behavior can be deemed as compliant or deviant only within a specific social framework; conduct stamped as deviant in one society may be satisfactory and even encouraged in others. Hence deviance is a relative term and varies from group to group inside the same society. Conformity to norms of one group may receive severe condemnation from another. That is the reason why teenagers, are usually confused between conforming to the requirements of their peers and meeting the expectations of their parents.

---

[1] Rainwater, L (2011) Deviance and Liberty: Social Problems and Public Policy. Transaction Publishers

Deviant behavior in youth is resultant of a gathering of a set social, cultural and physical situation with an individual or group owning specific characteristics, various kinds of previous experiences, and particular drives. Each act of deviance has a distinctive number of causes, outcomes and contributors. Like other social events, deviance is essentially a social organization because constituents of society understand its significance and allocate importance to it.

The case of "saggy pants" usually worn by young males from particular cultural subgroups reveals a number of important things about deviance. Even though the source of saggy pants as a distinguishing style is rather indistinct, it's most likely to originate from the fact that many correctional institutions do not supply inmates with belts since they can be used as a weapon. Hence most inmate population has a common feature of constantly falling pants which the wearer needs to pull up repeatedly. Most wearers outside the walls of prison have taken up this fashion merely because it conforms to fashion trends among the cultural subgroups of which they are member.

As expected not everyone is a fan of sagging pants as a fashion statement. New York senator Adams rented two Brooklyn billboards on which he pasted the message "stop the sag" along with a picture of a male model wearing low-slung revealing pants.[2] Some local jurisdictions in Florida have attempted to criminalize the wearing of sagging pants by proclaiming them as a form of indecent exposure.

American culture is tremendously unsure about the adolescence and youth, on the one hand coloring these ages as 'the best times of life,' and on the other hand maintaining broad institutional forces planned to manage and curb young people's implementation of inventiveness. This trigger deviance and produces sexual deviants, political deviants and religious deviants whose behavior counteract the legal or customary norms more generally – criminals, the mentally ill, alcoholics and many others.

---

[2] Eric Adams, (2010),Senator Adams Unveils Billboard and Viral Campaign to Tell Youth: End the Sagging Pants Culture! [online]March 28th, 2010. Available from: http://www.nysenate.gov/press-release/senator-adams-unveils-billboard-and-viral-campaign-tell-youth-end-sagging-pants-culture. [Accessed on: August 25, 2011.]

The issue of youth deviance is of great interest in society and criminology.3 Especially the ideas of gangs and youth subcultures have developed numerous ethical uproars and media highlights. The center of the study of gangs when observing youth deviance would be the age of the members that belong to gangs. Klein (1995) affirms that 'gang members are adolescent, typically amid the ages of 12 and 30 and averaging most likely about 20 years of age'.4 It can consequently be proposed that training into a gang is something which is utterly pandered towards youth.

Social exclusion and difficult childhood often results in deviant behavior among the youth.5 Along with that various other common justifications for youth's deviant behavior include:

1. Parental irresponsible attitude toward their children.
2. Broken families and child abandonment issues (especially amongst the working class).
3. Lack of authority and respect for the law.
4. Dwindling community values.
5. The deficiency of order in schools.
6. The "permissive society" which openly claims gay marriage, drugs and social activities which are not only morally detrimental but degrades health as well.
7. The negative inspiration of the mass media (television and film in particular).

Youth is the reflection of our social norms and how society embraces or shuns these customs. Deviancy will always be an integral part of our social world but its exponential increase especially in youth should be noted sincerely by the societal patrons, our religious leaders, educators and policy makers and practical measures must be taken to curb its wild spread.

---

3 Deuchar, R. (2009) *Gangs, Marginalised Youth and Social Capital*, Stoke on Trent: Trentham books.
4 Klein, M. (1995) *The American Street Gang: its nature, prevalence and control*, New York: Oxford University Press.
5 Whyte, W. (1981) *Street Corner Society: the social structure of an Italian slum*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.