

Subculture
Student's Name
Institution of Learning



Author's Note

Subculture

The general approach to a definition of subculture is related to deviation from the norm of behavior in society. Any type of conduct that differs from standards can be treated as abnormal and may lead to antisocial behavior and criminal activity. In many cases, deviant behavior is typical of youth, as some people cannot find the right way in a traditional society. Therefore, they often choose deviant behavior as it helps them to discover benefits of recognition in other groups that may be criminal and antisocial. These are subcultures that may be defined as slightly different from sociological and criminological phenomena in traditional investigations.

Sociologists tend to define subculture in relation to social stratification in a traditional society and divisible groups in terms of interrelation between them. Criminology develops this point of view regarding stratification by placing it in the legal constraints. The problem is that people who belong to subcultures are often involved in various criminal activities that break law and social order within a particular country. It leads to the antisocial behavior that cannot be recognized as normal, especially when it comes to juvenile delinquency.

The reasons for antisocial behavior can be found deeply in the essence of a subculture. Many young people commit non-utilitarian crimes, even if they get no benefits. They are obsessed with yearning for respect and recognition within a group and achieve it by means of demonstrating their deviant behavior. In this way, there is no need for them to follow the rules of the society that they neglect up to committing crimes.

Many researchers dedicate their studies to the antisocial behavior within the deviant groups that follow various subcultures. In general, the researches, particularly in relation to Chicago youth gangs and subcultures, began to appear in the beginning of the 20th century. Cohen (1955) paid much attention to the development of such deviant groups, studying them from sociological perspectives with an emphasis on the lack of employment and educational opportunities for young people of the low classes in the United States. Ellis (2009) and other modern researchers study subcultures from the perspective of criminology. They provide an analytical research dedicated to



the correlating factors that stimulate antisocial behavior within the deviant groups. These factors are “physical aggression, cognitive and personality factors, alcoholism, drug abuse (regardless of legality), mental illness, mental disorders, familial factors, physiological factors and biochemical factors” (Ellis et al, 2009, p. xii). Such problems contribute to criminal activity, and, in many cases, they are driven by subcultures, to which people belong. There are many examples when subcultures contribute to crime. These are different types of vandalism, when young radicals destroy valuable monuments of architecture or even gravestones. In other subcultures, it can be gang violence, which involves stealing from innocent people or from each other in tricky ways. Frequently, crimes originate from a craving for excitement, including satisfaction from addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, sexual violence, etc. Many situations are related to young people, who become victims of various subcultures, as once they accepted the overcoming rules of deviant groups, it becomes difficult to find the way out of them.

Subculture is not an advantageous phenomenon for a society. Both sociology and criminology study it in terms of deviation from traditional norms of social activity. The problem is that subculture usually leads to criminal activity that intends to satisfy the needs for recognition and respect among the members of the deviant group. It happens more often in societies of developing countries, where people do not have equal opportunities in education and traditional social activities.



References

Cohen, Albert K. (1955). *Delinquent boys: The culture of the gang*, Glencoe. IL: Free Press.

Ellis, L., Beaver, K.M., Wright, J. (2009). *The handbook of crime correlates*. Elsevier Science.
Academic Press.

