

BEHAVIORAL DEVIATIONS AS A SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM

To'rayev Ozodbek Uyg'un ugli

Lecturer, Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, Turon University

Sadatova Nodira Musurmonovna

Lecturer, Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, Turon University

Abstract: This article examines deviant behavior as a complex socio-psychological problem. The study analyzes the psychological and social causes of behavioral deviations, as well as their various forms and types, in detail. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of a comprehensive approach and interdisciplinary cooperation in the prevention and management of deviant behavior.

Key words: Deviant behavior, socio-psychological problem, biological factors, psychological factors, social factors, crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, suicide, social deviations, prevention, treatment, comprehensive approach, society, individual, family.

Introduction . Behavior that does not conform to socially accepted norms and rules represents a complex socio-psychological problem that negatively affects not only the individual but also their family, society, and the state as a whole. Behavioral deviations may manifest in various forms and degrees of severity; therefore, understanding their nature and developing effective prevention strategies require a comprehensive and systematic approach.

The term deviant originates from the Latin word *deviatio*, meaning “to deviate,” “to depart,” or “to diverge from the norm.” Deviant behavior refers to human activities or actions that do not correspond to the moral standards established within a society. Such behavior includes lying, theft, alcoholism, drug addiction, suicidal behavior, and other forms of social deviation. In contemporary society, the most common manifestations of deviant behavior are crime, alcoholism, prostitution, drug addiction, and suicide [1, p.284].

Literature review . In the scientific literature, the term “deviant behavior” is widely used to describe actions that deviate from socially accepted moral norms and standards. The word deviant originates from the Latin *deviatio*, meaning “deviation” or “departure from the norm.” In academic discourse, the terms deviant and deviant behavior are often used interchangeably; however, the latter is considered more precise and scientifically grounded. Given the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of the concept, it has been examined across multiple fields, including psychology, pedagogy, sociology, psychiatry, and law [2, pp. 75–81].

Currently, deviant behavior is interpreted in two main conceptual frameworks. First, from the perspective of psychology, pedagogy, and psychiatry, deviant behavior is understood as actions or patterns of behavior that fail to conform to officially established or socially accepted norms. Second, within sociology, law, and social psychology, deviant behavior is viewed as a form of social activity that contradicts public expectations, legal standards, and socially institutionalized rules.

Behavioral deviations are closely linked to individual characteristics and social environmental factors, including physical and mental health, personality traits, temperament, social norms, and conflicts between the individual and society. These factors often interact, leading to difficulties

in social adaptation and increasing the risk of deviant behavior.

In academic terminology, the concept of behavioral deviation is frequently associated with related terms such as abnormal behavior, deviant behavior, delinquency, and illegal or criminal actions. However, each of these terms reflects only specific aspects of the phenomenon, such as everyday behavioral deviations (e.g., educational difficulties), legal violations (criminal behavior), or social maladjustment [3, p. 163].

Behavioral deviation is understood as the manifestation of internal desires and impulses that diverge from social norms and are expressed through observable actions or verbal behavior. Various classification systems of behavioral deviations exist, depending on different criteria. From the perspective of social orientation, researchers distinguish between socialized antisocial behavior and aggressive behavior resulting from inadequate socialization. From a destructive perspective, behavioral deviations are categorized into individual aggressive behavior, group aggressive behavior, disobedient behavior, and demonstrative behavior.

Based on social and psychological criteria, A. G. Ambrumova and L. Y. Jezlov identified four main types of behavioral deviations in children and adolescents: antisocial behavior, discipline-related violations, delinquent (illegal) behavior, and autoaggressive behavior. Similarly, A. A. Alexandrov classified adolescent behavioral deviations into three groups: situationally reactive behavior (including running away from home and suicidal tendencies), behavior associated with low moral development, and disciplinary deviations, such as criminal activity and alcoholism [4, p. 834].

According to V. T. Kondrashenko, behavioral deviations should be differentiated into non-pathological deviant behavior observed in mentally healthy individuals and neuropsychiatric behavioral disorders. The latter are further divided into non-psychotic disorders (such as personality disorders, intellectual disabilities, and neuropsychiatric conditions) and psychotic disorders, including schizophrenia, epilepsy, and reactive psychoses [5, p. 138].

Research methodology. To achieve the objectives of this study, an appropriate and well-structured research methodology was applied. The research focuses on modern approaches to the study of deviant behavior and is based on relevant scientific hypotheses that are significant in the context of contemporary socio-psychological research. The primary objective of the methodology is to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications related to the prevention of behavioral deviations.

At the initial stage of the research, a comprehensive analysis of existing scientific literature was conducted to examine the theoretical foundations of modern approaches to the prevention of deviant behavior. Subsequently, various methodological approaches to the study of behavioral deviations were compared in order to identify their strengths and limitations. This comparative analysis made it possible to determine the distinctive features and current development trends of modern approaches in this field.

The applied research methodology enables a comprehensive and objective examination of deviant behavior, ensuring a systematic understanding of the problem and providing a reliable basis for further analysis and discussion.

Results and Discussions . The formation of human behavior is influenced by three main groups of factors: biological, psychological, and social. Modern psychology conceptualizes behavior as a dynamic process that develops over time and within specific social contexts. This process

includes several key stages: awareness of needs, the emergence and formation of motives, goal setting, selection of means to achieve goals, planning and implementation of actions, prediction of outcomes, decision-making, behavioral control, and subsequent correction.

One of the primary tasks of psychology is to identify the underlying determinants of human behavior and actions. Every individual possesses a unique inner world that includes personal perceptions, emotional responses, feelings, and mental representations. Understanding the laws that govern behavior requires an analysis of both internal psychological processes and external social influences.

Behavioral deviations may result from improper personality development, psychological trauma, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. In addition, ineffective parenting styles, family violence, and lack of emotional support play a significant role in the emergence of deviant behavior. Social factors such as economic disadvantage, social inequality, unemployment, poverty, high crime rates, negative peer influence, and limited social opportunities can further intensify behavioral deviations. Children raised in economically disadvantaged families often face difficulties in social adaptation, which increases their vulnerability to deviant behavior. Moreover, social pressure and negative stereotypes can contribute to the development and reinforcement of behavioral deviations.

Conclusion . The research demonstrates that deviant behavior is a complex, multi-factorial problem, which requires a comprehensive and integrated approach for its prevention and management. Biological, psychological, and social factors interact to influence the emergence of deviant behavior; therefore, studying these factors together is essential for developing effective strategies to prevent and reduce such behaviors.

In other words, deviant behavior represents a complex socio-psychological problem, and its prevention and control require coordinated efforts by the state, society, and individuals. A comprehensive approach, combined with cooperation across multiple sectors, is crucial to achieving effective results in addressing and mitigating the negative impacts of deviant behavior.

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