COVENANT UNIVERSITY NIGERIA

TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER

PROGRAMME: SOCIOLOGY

COURSE: SOC 313

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SOC 313: SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY II

Question1.

Write a comprehensive essay on Uniform Crime Record.

Question 2

What are the major attributes of human act that qualifies to be regarded as crime?

Question 3

What is National Crime Victimization Survey and its uses in criminological inquiry?

Question 4. Briefly explain the contribution of Self Report Survey to the Criminal Justice System especially in an attempt at measuring crime.

Question 5. Briefly describe the nature of crime trend in the measurement of characteristics of crime.

Question 6. What is the implication of location and time of crime in crime control?

Question 7. Locus of crime is quite important in considering the impact of crime on victim. Discuss.

Question 8. What is the role of severity or effect of victimization in awarding punishment?

Question 9. Explain the relationship between age and crime.

Question 10. Discuss gender factor in crime involvement for all category of offender.

Q 11. Establish the relationship between social class and crime participation among Nigerian people.

Q 12. Explain the correlates of race, ethnicity and crime in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Q 13. Present a comprehensive essay on Routine Activity theory.

Q 14. Decision making process is central to participation in crime for most offender in the principle of Rational Choice theory. Discuss.

Q 15. Vulnerability to crime is closely tied to the lifestyle of victims of crime. Discuss.

ANSWERS
Question1.
Uniform or official crime statistics consist of data collated by law enforcement agencies on incidence or prevalence of crime.
 It includes information on
- reports documented by the police

- Cases adjudicated by the law courts and

- Intake of inmates into prisons

There are two major categories of offences contained in UCR
Part 1(offence or crimes against person), these include the following offences: Criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault etc.
Part 2 (Crime against property) Burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Part 1&2 offences are called index crime because of their seriousness victims tend to report their occurrence. All other offences are part 2 crimes. Other crime include, fraud, embezzlement, weapon offences vandalism simple assault etc.
To analyze UCR, criminologists frequently present them as crime rate. Crime rate is computed by using the following formula:

Crime rate=   number of reported crime
                        total population   * 100000

Apart from crime reported, the UCR also include crimes cleared by arrest. Characteristics of crimes (geographical location, time & place), Characteristics of criminals (gender age and race), Distribution of law enforcement personnel's.
There are number of criticism against data obtainable through the use of UCR. These criticisms against UCR are both methodological and reporting practices.
Non-reportage of some crimes (It presents offences known to the law enforcement agencies. Several offences are committed in one event only the most serious one is included in the UCR thus neglecting other such as robbery.
Other crimes are recorded as separate offences (robbing 6 people, 1 offence is listed but assaulting 6 people will attract separate recording.

Police politics in crime data reportage

New record keeping

Many other crimes go unreported

Question 2

For an act to be regarded as a crime, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Act must be perceived as norm violation

- Act must be defined or classified within the purview of criminal justice system

- Actual reportage of crime

- Police re-classification or redefinition of crime

- Adjudged worthy to be recorded.

Question 3

What is National Crime Victimization Survey and its uses in criminological inquiry?

Victimization surveys measure the extent of crime by interviewing individuals about their experience as victims. It is often referred to as National Crime Victimization survey (NCVS)

Researchers for the NCVS estimate the total number of crime committed by asking respondents from a national sample.The NCVS measures the extent of victimization by rape, robbery, assault, larceny, burglary, personal theft and motor vehicle theft. It omits homicide and arson because the NCVS covers only crimes whose victims can be interviewed. It also disregards victimless crime.

NCVS covers characteristics of crime such as time and place of occurrence of crime, number of offenders, use of weapons, economic loss and time lost from work. It also covers characteristics of victims, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, household composition and educational attainment.

Perceived characteristics of offenders, such as age, gender, and race. Circumstances surrounding the offences and their effects, such as financial loss and injury. It include patterns of police reporting, such as rates of reporting and reasons for reporting and for not reporting.

There are few limitations reducing the effectiveness of NCVS in the measurement of crime rates across major societies of the world. While NCVS gives us information about crimes that are not reported to the police, these data also have significant limitations

- NCVS covers crimes that is more limited

- Variations in interviewing and recording styles are inevitable, as a result, the information recorded may vary as well.

- It can also suffers from the fact that memories may fade overtime, some facts are forgotten while others are exaggerated.

- Some interviewee may try to please the interviewer by fabricating crime incident

- Respondents also have the tendency to telescope events-that is to move events that took place in an earlier time period into a time period under study.

- Like the UCR, the NCVS records only the most serious offence committed during an event in which several crimes were perpetuated.

Question 4.

In an attempt at measuring the rate of crime the CJS often ask people to report their own criminal acts in a confidential interview or, more commonly, on an anonymous questionnaire. These investigations are called self-report surveys.

Self-reported surveys have produced several important findings since their development in 1940's. First, they quickly refuted the conventional wisdom that only a small percentage of the general population commits crimes. James Wallerstein and Clement Wyle's study 1947.

However, there are few limitations to the use of SRS and these include:

S-RS like the other methods of data collection have drawbacks. One of its drawbacks involves its tool for data collection.

The questionnaires are often limited to petty acts, such as truancy, and therefore do not represent the range of criminal acts that people may commit.

Another drawback of S-RS is that most of them are administered to high school or college students, so the information they yield applies only to young people attending school

Many S-RS measures lack validity; the data obtained do not correspond with some other criterion that measure the same behavior.

Question 5.

Crime trend involve the increases and decreases in crime occurring in a given environment. Research has found in many instances that it is only one quarter of violent crimes that took place near or at the victims house.

- Common locations for violent crimes are streets other those near the victim's home.

- It has also been found that about 60% of crime committed against the strangers are committed at nights 6p.m to 6a.m.

In most cases, crime trend is considered in order to capture the number of crime occurring in a given environment. The aim is to determine if the police enforcement is effective. It also enables for planning policing activities. Crime trends equally assist policy makers to gauge the pulse of the society with the view of remediating the any situation.

Question 6.

- Locations and time of crime is quite important in arresting the problem of crime. There are many factors to consider in crime control. There are location prone to the commission of crime while several others can be adjudged as relative peace considering the volume of crimes occurring in a society. Statistics on the characteristics of crimes are important not only to criminologists who seek to know why crime occurs but also to those who want to know how to prevent it

- Two statistics used in prevention efforts are those on where crimes are committed and when they are committed.

Question 7.
Locus of crime represents the hot spot of crime in most environments. These centres generate substantial number recordable by the Criminal Justice System. Research has enlightened us on the occurring points of crimes. 75% of household crimes are committed in the nights. Most personal thefts, however are committed during the day.
- Crime rate also vary by seasons. It has been found that ladies engage more in shoplifting during festive seasons than normal periods. Men rapes their girl friends more during holidaying.

Question 8. What is the role of severity or effect of victimization in awarding punishment?
Answer
- In measuring crime, variation of crime and time is very important, and also the variation of people's perception of the severity of crime.

- Severity of crime is reflected in state legislation and to some extent in the dispensation of justice.

In measuring the severity of crime, there are several factors to be considered:
- In ranking severity, people seems to base their decisions on such factors as the ability of the victims to protect themselves, the amount of injury and loss suffered, the type of business or organization from which property is stolen, and in case of drug offences, which types of drug involved

- Respondents on severity always agree that violent is more serious than property crime.

- There are mixed reactions on the severity of white collar crimes in Nigeria

Question 9.
The criminologists in their analysis of crime are interested in the characteristics of the people who commit those crimes. Criminal population can be differentiated by age, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic class and other criteria. These variables allow us to categorize criminals and to determine why some people are more likely than others to commit crimes or particular types of crimes.

In Nigeria, significant number of arrest made by the police reveal that individuals under age 25 are responsible for majority of index crimes. The juveniles engage in Robbery, cyber fraud, homicide, and other related crimes.

People of age 65 and above make up fewer than 1% arrests. The decline in criminal activities with age is known as the aging-out phenomenon.

Crime decreases with age, even among people who commit frequent offences because they have less strength, less mobility, peer factor, family influence and so on.

Young offender may have parental support but lack the resources to support themselves; they band together with other young people who are equally frustrated in their search for legitimate way to get sex, money, alcohol and status. Together they find illegitimate sources.

With adulthood, the small gains from criminal behavior no longer seem so attractive. Legitimate means open up, they marry, peer no longer endorse law breaking and they learn to delay gratification.

The opposing side in the earlier debate featured what is referred to as "life-course perspective," argues that the decrease in crime rates after adolescence does not imply that the number of crime committed by an individual offenders decline. Because the factor which influence any individual's entrance into criminal activity

vary, and the factors that eventually induce the individual to give up criminal activity vary.

The frequency of criminal involvement depends on such social factors as economic situation, peer pressure, and life-style; and it is these social factors that explains the aging-out phenomenon.

Relationship between age and crime is not same for all offenders. Various conditions during the life-cycle affects individuals behavior in different ways.

Question 10.

Except for such crime as prostitution, shop-lifting and welfare fraud, male traditionally commit more crimes than females for all ages. In major crime population, the arrest ratio is typically about 4males offenders to one female offender.

There are many studies on gender and crime.

Morash and Chesley-Lind (1991) found relationship between family background, social situation and crime. Presenting the factors responsible for the imbalance between male and female crime, It was argued that girls raised in lower-class, father dominated households grow up in a cult of domesticity that reduces their freedom and thus the likelihood of their delinquency. They equally argue that there are differences in female and male crime.

Pollack reported that female crime has a 'masked character' that keeps it from being properly recorded or otherwise noted in statistical reports. Protective attitude towards women make police officer less willing to arrest them, make victims less eager to report their offences, makes judiciary less enthusiastic about prosecuting them and less likely to find them guilty.

Women social roles as home-makers, child rearers and shoppers furnish them the opportunity to conceal criminal activities. Victims are less likely to report female crime and the women are less likely to co-operate with the police. Female criminality was limited by the various psychological and physiological characteristics inherent in the female anatomy.