

Introduction

Homans' Social Exchange theory outlines the effects of costs and rewards on human behavior. While, Social Exchange Theory has often been applied to perpetuating conformist ideology, this research applies costs and rewards to the continuation of gang counterculture. Violent value systems operate using costs and rewards as internal sanctions, thus, resulting in behavioral modifications within deviant populations.

Coverage

- Included Materials:
 - This presentation includes original literature authored by George C. Homans' as means to apply his theory from an undiluted perspective.
 - This presentation also includes government statistics regarding gang prevalence and perspectives from peer reviewed journals.
- Excluded Materials:
 - This presentation excludes newspaper/magazine articles as a means of protecting the integrity of this theoretical application.

Methods

- Secondary Data Analysis
 - Peer reviewed journals
 - Government publications
- Theoretical Application
 - Homans' Social Exchange Theory
 - Gang Counterculture
- Empirical Analysis
 - Defines behaviors, populations, and social phenomena

Results

Upon completion of this study, the correlation between costs and rewards and behavioral modification, remains applicable to deviant value systems. Costs and rewards do not merely serve to promote norms, laws, mores; but also deviance, lawlessness, and criminality. The six propositions presented in Homans' Social Exchange Theory are evident in gang countercultures as a means of perpetuating violent value systems. Thus, deviance is just as dependent on the use costs and rewards as behavioral reinforcers, as conformity.

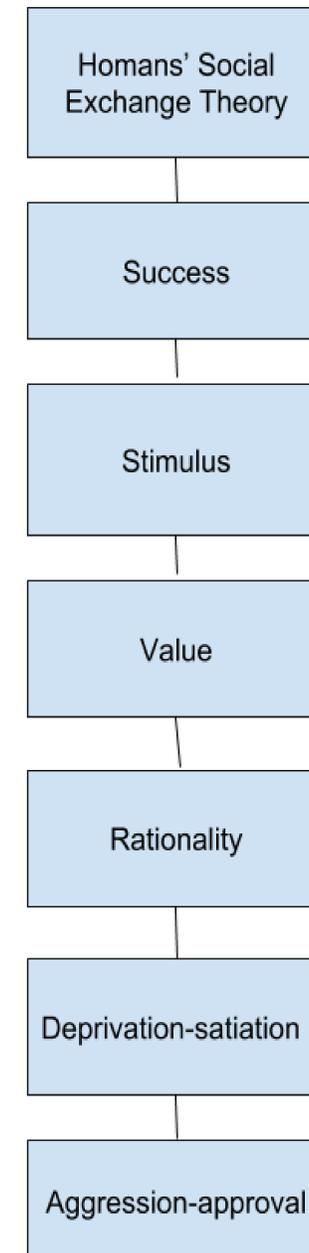
Conclusion:

Homans' Social Exchange Theory examines behavioral modification through the means of costs and rewards. Behaviors that are rewarded will become persistent, whereas behaviors that result in a costs will end. The principles of Homans' Social Exchange Theory enable social scientists to understand behavioral modifications. Society has numerous sanctions that reward conformity and punish deviance, therefore perpetuating conformist ideology. However, in the context of gang counterculture, internal sanctions promote deviance. Thus, Homans' Social Exchange Theory can be applied to large scale society in both the context of deviance and conformity. Just as with conformity, when deviant behavior is rewarded, it persists. Within a gang environment, juveniles are rewarded for deviant acts, thus, perpetuating criminality through the process of behavioral modification. Homans' Social Exchange Theory is applicable to research as it enables social scientists to understand both conformists and deviant ideology and from where these behaviors stem.

Significance

- Gang violence is largely misunderstood and misrepresented by statistics
- Recognizing the counterculture that exists within gangs, both enables and promotes a greater understanding of violence
- Applying theories that are typically applied to conformist ideology as a means to understand deviance, serves to bridge gaps in understanding
- Understanding the behavioral reinforcers that perpetuate gang violence, allows for progress to be made in combating the problem
- Applying the six propositions outlined within Homans' Social Exchange Theory to deviant populations promotes understanding of counterculture
- The gang hierarchy system serves to enforce violent value systems
- Recognizing similarities between deviant and conformist value systems enables greater understanding of criminality
- Understanding behavioral similarities in behavioral reinforcement as a means to perpetuate both conformist and deviant value systems

Gang Hierarchy Pyramid



References

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