

Essay TGCIT2-1 -“Discuss the relationship of criminal behaviour to gender, social class, locality, and ethnicity.”

Plan

Intro – define criminal behaviour and state a link between the factors

Para 1 – Gender and criminal activity. – most victims are men of violent crime, domestic abuse is both, use the statistics from the programme on youth crime, statistics of men committing to women committing crimes. Evaluate the link.

Para 2 – Social Class on criminal behaviour – majority of prison population is lower class men. Explain why it is more likely that the lower classes commit crimes, statistics to back up point. Evaluate the link.

Para 3 – Locality in relation to crimes – state where crimes are more likely to happen – country or cities. Posh areas or rented flats (relate to programme). What streets are crimes more likely to happen on and explain how it links to criminal behaviour; is the reason alcohol, drugs, desperation ect ect. Evaluate link.

Para 4 – Ethnicity and crime – discrimination and racism play a part in crimes. Which groups are more likely to victims of which crimes and why, explain. Evaluate the main reasoning behind these ideas and evaluate the link.

Conclusion – Summarise the links found between each group and criminal behaviour and evaluate the reasons for the relationship between them.

Statistics Research

Gender

- The majority of our prison population are males from the lower classes of society.’

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/pdf/AQA-2100-W-TRB-U03TTK.PDF>

- Home Office (2004) statistics, for example, show around 25% of the male and 31% of the female prison population was from an ethnic minority group (ethnic minorities currently make up around 8% of the UK population).

- Men broader range of crimes.

http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision:AQA_A_Level_Sociology_-_Crime_and_Deviance

Social Class

- The majority of convicted offenders are drawn from the working class, for example, and different classes tend to commit different types of offence (crimes such as fraud are mainly middle-class).

<http://www.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk/ecclesbourne/content/subsites/sociology/files/Crime%20and%20Deviance%20Factsheets/Distribution.pdf>

Locality

- Where people are differently placed (in the workforce, for example) they have greater or lesser criminal opportunities. Corporate crime is largely carried out by the higher classes.

- Clarke et al. (2004) The highest crime rates are in city centre areas, with the lowest in the most rural.

<http://www.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk/ecclesbourne/content/subsites/sociology/files/Crime%20and%20Deviance%20Factsheets/Distribution.pdf>

Ethnicity

- Macpherson Report 1999
- "Arrest levels from stop-and-searches were eight times higher for black and three times higher for Asian than for white groups").
- Asians, higher risk of being victims of household crime
- Black minorities are at greater risk of assault.
- gun crime and murder rates (as both victims and offenders) among young Afro-Caribbean males.
- 37% of Black prisoners were serving sentences for drug offences (compared to 13% for White prisoners)

http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision:AQA_A_Level_Sociology_-_Crime_and_Deviance

Essay

Criminal behaviour can be defined as "behaviour in violation of the criminal code (law)"¹. There are many things which make up criminal behaviour; not just the acts themselves but also the motive, means and the extent of the crime. Other than these factors many others such as the social class, ethnicity, gender and locality of the crimes can determine which crimes are likely to happen and why.

Gender and Criminal Activity

Criminal behaviour can be linked to different genders in different ways. There seems to be a division in certain crimes and the gender which are likely to commit them or be victims of them. In an audit in the Oxford area over a two week period the BBC team found that men aged 18-30 are mostly likely to be the victims of violent crimes and consistently this seems to be due to alcohol consumption. Other violent crimes such as domestic abuse are more likely to be carried out by men; however there is the small figure of "2 in 5 men"² were victims of it.

Although men and women are both likely to commit crimes for reasons linked with social class and locality it is seen that men and women are both likely to commit offences. In most cases it is men who are known to have committed or acted out criminal behaviour in a broader variety of crimes. Female criminals are less heard of; this could be due to less publication of female criminals or less females committing crimes. It has been stated that "the majority of our prison population are males from the lower classes of society"³, this substantiates that there is more than just gender when considering criminal behaviour. Prison population is a majority of men, does this mean there is just men committing crimes or that women get lesser charges? In either case men and women can be linked to criminal behaviour. However when discussing the relationship between gender and criminal behaviour, it is safe to say to get a clearer and more likely view other aspects of the person's identity have to be taken into consideration as both men and women commit criminal offences.

¹ http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Define_criminal_behavior

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kmtl7>

³ <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/pdf/AQA-2100-W-TRB-U03TTK.PDF>

A2 Citizenship Essay

Social Class and criminal behaviour

When assessing which social class are more likely to commit criminal behaviour it can be seen that there is a distinction between which crimes are committed and the social class someone is in.

Lower class people are more likely to commit crimes of a physical nature and drugs crimes. This is stated as after watching the "Truth about crime" BBC programmes it is seen that lower class people are more likely to commit crimes in which they can benefit – whether this be financially or by feeling superior over someone else. In lower classes crimes such as robbery and theft occur when someone is in desperation for money or occasionally for the thrill of it. Many youth in lower classes use criminal activities as a source of income due to not being able to find a job. This compared with the crimes committed by middle classes is very different.

Middle class people are more likely to commit crimes such as fraud and embezzlement as they have the means in which to do so. They generally work for the company in which they are taking money and are doing so purely for self-gain reasons; not like lower classes who sometimes do it out of desperation for money.

This isn't to say other crimes in all classes do not happen; just that again other factors are taken into consideration. It is generally unheard of for upper classes to commit crimes or if they do so, it is generally of a small standard such as drink driving. When thinking of social class and criminal behaviour, "Where people are differently placed (in the workforce, for example) they have greater or lesser criminal opportunities"⁴ has to be taken into consideration and this can be seen as the relationship between criminal behaviour on different social classes.

Locality

Where a crime happens can be linked to criminal behaviour. Statistically crimes are more likely to happen in "city areas than rural areas."⁵ Thefts, burglaries and robberies can be assumed to take place in upscale areas, however the truth is a run-down area or an area with people renting – for example student houses in Oxford – are more likely to be broken into and raided due to the likelihood of more easily accessible and easier to carry items being stored in the home. Also the items can be easily sold on and make money from. Also, if it is a run-down area there will be less security in which you have to get through to get the 'loot'.

Other crimes such as violent crimes and muggings are more likely to happen in areas with low CCTV and lots of people and entertainment, such as; pubs, clubs, and sports areas. This is due to these crimes being linked mainly with alcohol and with less CCTV people are more likely to get away with the crime they commit.

The relationship between crimes is linked to where you are placed just like with social class and criminal behaviour. Although it is also linked by the security and type of area in which crimes are committed.

Ethnicity and Criminal Behaviour

The link between ethnicity and criminal behaviour can be seen in many different way, institutional racism, background and the crimes in which are being committed.

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<http://www.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk/ecclesbourne/content/subsites/sociology/files/Crime%20and%20Deviance%20Factsheets/Distribution.pdf>

⁵ http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision:AQA_A_Level_Sociology_-_Crime_and_Deviance

“The Home Office (2004) statistics, for example, show around 25% of the male and 31% of the female prison population was from an ethnic minority group (ethnic minorities currently make up around 8% of the UK population).”⁶ This shows that a large percentage of the prison population is made up of ethnic groups, although this is because their crimes deserve a criminal sentence it can also be linked with institutional racism. It is seen that the police and legal system are more likely to harsher on ethnic people - youths in particular-. There is no other reason other than institutional racism to justify this.

Racism is illegal however it still goes on today as “arrest levels from stop-and-searches were eight times higher for black and three times higher for Asian than for white groups”⁷. It seems that although times were supposed to change after the Macpherson report incident in 1990 things have changed much. Ethnic minorities are more likely to be stop and searched and questioned by police in relations to crimes.

Other relationships between ethnic groups and crime are what crimes they commit, gun crime and murder are more likely to be committed by Afro-Caribbean males and 37% of black prisoners are there due to drug offences. This shows that ethnic groups are also more likely to commit serious offences. Although it can also be seen that ethnic groups like Asians and blacks are likely to be the victims of violent crimes.

The relationship between criminal behaviour and ethnicity can be linked back to a thing which has been causing problems for years – racism.

Conclusion

The relationship between gender, social class, locality and ethnicity and criminal behaviour can all be linked together by the opportunities available to the people and the background in which they have. If they have a disrupted home, live in a bad area, come from a poor background criminal activity is more likely to be apart of their lives. This isn't to say all crime is committed by these people, it just shows the relationship is more complicated than just one thing. It is a mixture of all these elements and person's own choice to commit the crime which can define the relationship between criminal behaviour and gender, social class, locality and ethnicity.

Bibliography

1. Truth about crime programmes BBC
2. <http://www.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk/ecclesbourne/content/subsites/sociology/files/Crime%20and%20Deviance%20Factsheets/Distribution.pdf>
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4. <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/pdf/AQA-2100-W-TRB-U03TTK.PDF>
5. http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Define_criminal_behavior

⁶ http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision:AQA_A_Level_Sociology_-_Crime_and_Deviance

⁷ http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision:AQA_A_Level_Sociology_-_Crime_and_Deviance