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Serial Killers and Theory

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Serial Killers and Theory

Question 1

Understanding why people commit crimes is a reliable way to determine how the practices could be controlled. Many criminology theories have been developed that could be tied to serial killing. Serial killers murder more than two people within a short time, and the instances are related. One of the theories useful in understanding this crime is the rational choice approach, stating that people act in self-interest whereby they weigh the risks and consequences of their actions when making the decisions (Cox, 2017). The approach connects to serial killers because they compare meeting the urge to project their anger to others who are being punished. Therefore, if the consequences of committing murder are strict, the killers would avoid it. The social learning theory states that people become motivated to commit crimes because of their people in society. For example, if one socializes with a group that accepts crime, chances of indulging are high. On the other hand, the social control theory claims that people participate in crime because of the controls or restrictions put in society, for example, in workplaces and families. Using these theories, serial killing would be stopped as the community members would mind how young people are integrated. For example, if they are given freedom of choice and the right guidance done, society's crime would reduce.

Question 2

The different motives of serial killing and how individual childhoods of serial killers shape certain theories revolving around the crime as a whole. The trait theory of criminology states that individuals indulge in crimes due to personality traits (Cox, 2017). Personality is what makes a person where factors like biology and environment play a role. For example, a person grown in a violent family is likely to commit a crime later in life than those in peaceful families. It happens due to the social learning process, where children accept what is

accepted by the family and the society and reject those prohibited. If they see their parents expressing differences through fighting, they take it as the right action and therefore engage in crime later. By that, their personalities are shaped in line with anger and harming others, so they find fulfillment in causing pain. The idea links to serial killing, as these individuals' traits are based on harming many people in a certain period, which makes them feel satisfied. For example, Jeffery Dahmer, one of the popular serial killers had been piling dogs and cats' skeletons in his place, implying that he was fascinated by death and seeing animals suffer. Since the behavior was not corrected on time, it became a trait making him enjoy killing people. The nature versus nurture concept also helps understand the concept, saying that peoples' behaviors are influenced by biology and the environment. For example, if a person has a gene making them easily angered, and the surrounding enhances the aspect, they engage in serial killing.

Reference

Cox, A. (2017). CJFS3750-01. Theories of Criminal Behavior. Sp17. Cox, Amanda.

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