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**Strength and Weakness of Criminal Behavior Theories**

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### **Strength and Weakness of Criminal Behavior Theories**

Individuals involved with the criminal justice discipline speedily learn that appreciating criminal behavior theories for why societies turn to delinquency is crucial to decreasing crime rates and encouraging a safer society. Following years of study on the criminal mind, three primary criminal theories have evolved.

The psychodynamic hypothesis focuses on an individual's early youthful experiences and how they impact their proclivity to commit a crime. Additionally, this idea is primarily based on the work of famous psychologist Sigmund Freud. He contended that everyone possesses innate urges, which is referred to as the ID that requires satisfaction. Moral and ethical norms, referred to as the conscience, governed these urges. Adults eventually acquire a logical personality denoted as the ego that regulates the id and the conscious mind. According to this theory, criminal behavior is essentially a shortcoming of the conscience. Ideally, according to psychodynamic theory, criminal conduct, in general, is viewed as an engagement between the ego, ID, and superego. The tension can result in persons engaging in risky conduct and delinquency. The advantage of this theory is that it includes the individual, which means that the theory examines personality from birth to adulthood. Another advantage of this theory is that it considers both nurture and nature (Nurture: Childhood experiences, parents/ Nature: Ego, ID, and Conscience).

On the contrary, one of the theory's drawbacks is that it cannot be validated. Thus it is not easy to test. Another weakness is that it is predictable, implying that people's behavior is preset and do not have free choice (Point Park University, 2021).

Behavioral theory is concerned with how one's perception of the environment impacts one's conduct. This hypothesis is based on the concept that human conduct is formed via experience. Specifically, the behavioral theory is concerned with the concept that people form their conduct in response to the reactions of others. This condition shows a type of habituation in which conduct is taught and perpetuated by plunders or retribution. As a result, if an individual is in the company of people who tolerate and even encourage illegal activity, particularly those in positions of authority, they will actively engage in such behavior (White et al., 2017). One advantage of this theory is that favorable reinforcement behavioral theories have been proven to have long-term positive outcomes. On the contrary, the major disadvantage of the theory is that they are a learned process. Therefore, identifying specific actions that match circumstances requires deductive reasoning.

Cognitive theory centers on ways that people's insights might result in a criminal existence. This theory has been broken down into three levels known as moral development by most cognitive theorists. Burke. (2018) argues that the pre-conventional degree focuses on youngsters and how they pick up the outward repercussions of their activities. Conventional measure affects teenagers and early adults, who begin to base their conduct on the ideas and prospects of society. Lastly, the post-conventional level, with the attention of individuals above 20 years of age, focuses on determining the ethical worth of social norms and regulations and their connection to the ideals of authorization, human wellbeing, and rights. The significant advantage of this theory is that it contributes to understanding how individuals evolve morally in their cognitive processes. However, the cognitive theory's primary drawback relates to cognitive processes that we cannot directly see. It mainly relies on inference. Another flaw of the cognitive method is that it overlooks other elements demonstrated to influence behavior.

To conclude, behavioral theory is most relevant to the cause of unlawful behavior today because the cultural and psychosocial surroundings are primarily to blame for the behavioral choices that a person makes. A community with disintegrating social systems, in particular, is more likely to experience strong crime rates. Poor educational institutions, damaged and empty buildings, substantial unemployment, and a combination of dilapidated commercial and domestic property might be situated in such regions, thus fueling crime.

## References

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