

Arbeidsverdeling, normatieve integratie en typen van afwijkend gedrag

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SUMMARY

This book reports the results of an investigation into the causes of differential rates of deviant behaviour in 176 Dutch municipalities ranging from 5.000 to 200.000 inhabitants.

A large number of data was collected, including rates of various types of deviant behaviour and measures of socio-cultural, economic, physical and demographic characteristics of the 176 municipalities. Most data were obtained from the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics for the period 1958 - 1962, the 1960 census being the latest for which data were available.

The study consists of two parts. The first part concentrates on an empirical analysis of the relation between various rates of deviant behaviour and measures of municipal characteristics. In the second part an effort is made to construct and test a theoretical model, in which concepts and propositions found in Durkheim's 'Suicide' and 'The Division of Labor in Society' are combined and modified to explain the differential distribution of deviant behaviour.

Chapter 1 deals with the choice of the unit of analysis. Attention is paid to the problem of 'the ecological fallacy'. Deviant behaviour is operationally defined as offences against institutionalized norms, generally considered to be serious enough to justify their treatment, correction and registration.

Chapter 2 gives a description of the variables selected as indices of the various forms of deviant behaviour. Reliability and validity of the variables are discussed and in this connection the concept 'rates producing institutions' is introduced. In order to test the validity of the behavioral variables, their relations with indices of the size and scope of municipal 'rates producing institutions' are investigated. Intercorrelations among the behavioral variables are analyzed by means of the technique of factor analysis. The three common factors that could be extracted were interpreted as 'Flight', 'Agression' and 'Vulnerability'.

Chapter 3 reviews relevant studies referring to causes of deviance and its differential distribution. The selection of indices of the various municipal characteristics is described and again the intercorrelations among the variables are investigated by means of factor analysis. Six common factors

could be extracted. They were interpreted as 'Welfare - urbanism', 'Stagnant growth - ageing', 'Religion', 'Educational facilities', 'Urbanism - deprivation' and 'Industry'. Correlations of these factors with the behavioral factors were analyzed.

Chapter 4 presents the basic ideas and concepts of the theoretical model. Its essential presupposition states, that differences in rates and types of deviant behaviour between communities can be seen as the effects of specific qualities of the social control system of the communities.

Chapter 5 gives a further elaboration of the conceptual model. Induced by an earlier attempt by Webb, the presupposition of the model is worked out in terms of Durkheim's propositions concerning the consequences of an increasing division of labour for the integrative basis of the community. Key concepts are normative integration, functional interdependence and variability of behaviour.

In chapter 6 the conceptual model is summarized in fourteen propositions. The most important ones are propositions 8 and 13, respectively: 'An increasing division of labour leads to a weakening of the normative integration of the community'; and, 'The weakening of the normative integration is correlated with an increasing variability of behaviour in the community'.

In chapter 7 the conceptual model is translated into an operational model which can be empirically tested. A description is given of the selection of the variables used as correlates of the theoretical concepts. The factor 'Flight', the divorce rate and the suicide rate are chosen as indices for a relatively great variability of behaviour; the factor 'Aggression', the property crime rate and the personal, violent crime rate are selected as indices for the expected consequences of a relatively great invariability of behaviour. These behavioral variables are regarded as the dependent variables of the model.

Chapters 8 and 9 report the testing of the operational model. The hypotheses concerning the interrelations among the independent variables are tested by using the technique of the partial correlation-coefficient (of the fourth order). To test the effects of the independent variables on the dependent variables a multiple regression analysis is used.

Chapter 10 discusses the results of the testing and their significance for the conceptual model. Though not all propositions are confirmed, the theory proves to be successful in predicting the differential distribution of different types of deviant behaviour. The main conclusions are:

- an increasing level of education, a high frequency of social interaction and a growing socioeconomic diversification (division of labour) lead to a weakening of the normative integration of the community;
- the greater variability of behaviour in less normative integrated communities is reflected in higher scores of the factor 'Flight' and in higher divorce and suicide rates; the factor 'Aggression' and the crime rates score relatively low;
- the greater invariability in communities with a relatively strong normative integration results in higher scores of the factor 'Aggression' and in higher crime rates; the factor 'Flight', the divorce and suicide rates score relatively low in these communities;
- the division of labour has no direct relevance for the differential distribution of these types of deviant behaviour.

Chapter 11, finally, presents suggestions for further testing of the theory and discusses the possibility of an elaboration of the theory by considering the consequences of a growing functional interdependence. It is suggested that further weakening of the normative integration and an increasing functional interdependence might lead to a loss of social autonomy of the individual, a growing moral constraint, thus to a greater invariability of behavior. Increasing incidence of aggression and unlawful behaviour might be the result.

