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Opportunity structures and Crime

Benson and Simpson’s Suggestion that criminal activities intersect with opportunity structures, it meant that the criminals tend to make choices based on opportunities that are available to them thus the targets present them with a big opportunity but with little risk. In addition, criminal activities are likely to thrive in the presence of an offender willing to take part in crime and the environment he or she is located presents him with a perfect chance for engaging in criminal activity (Lee p 77).

Opportunity for committing a crime may be a limiting factor for people and it directly influences the overall outcome of the environment that is prone to criminal activity. An offender in most cases has no control on the conditions within an environment. There are various situations that tend to permit different kinds of crimes that are rare and can be practically prevented if the opportunity structures are not blocked in any way whatsoever by the prevailing factors in the society (Benson & Simpson p 14).

Before any criminal activity is executed, the criminals look for an opportunity available to them to execute their criminal acts. As such, a fully motivated criminal is highly likely to take part in crime because of what they intend to gain in return.

In a bid to solve criminal activities, the authorities in a justice system have to look at various situations that increase the chances of a criminal activity taking place. The solution lies in understanding different situations that may make one be motivated to commit crime in different settings in a society.

Opportunity structures mean that there are opportunities available in any society and the institutions are mainly shaped by social organization and structure of a particular entity. In this regard, when an opportunity structure is blocked, people tend to find other means of success available in other opportunity structures within the society (Benson & Simpson p 14).

Works Cited

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