

Suicide – fill the gaps activity

_____’s major study of deviance took the form of an analysis of _____ in 1897. He looked at Sociology being the science of society and so applied these ideas to suicide. Was it an act of **individual free will** or was it a reaction to **social forces**?

Using _____ he identified the facts that:

There were different suicide rates in different societies

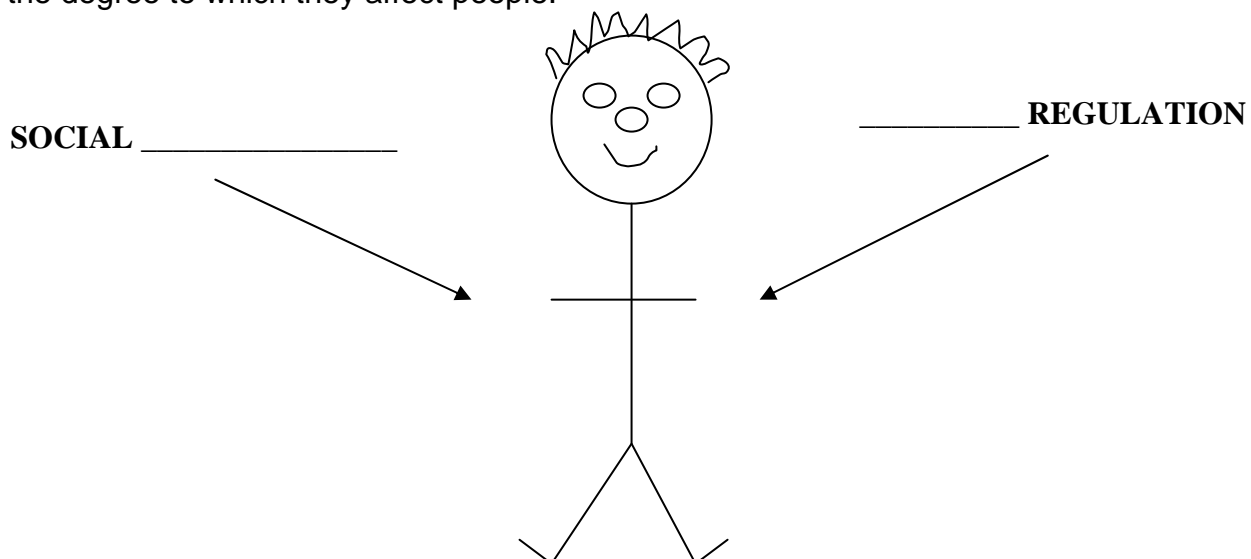
There were different rates among different groups

Suicide rates of the _____ societies or groups were consistent.

Hence the suicide rates were CONSTANT and STABLE.

As a result of this observation, Durkheim _____ facts such as mental illness, alcoholism, climates, race etc., and argues instead that the variations in the suicide rate must reflect different _____ influences on the members of different societies and on different groups within the same society.

Durkheim developed an _____ that suicide is related to 2 major concepts and the degree to which they affect people:

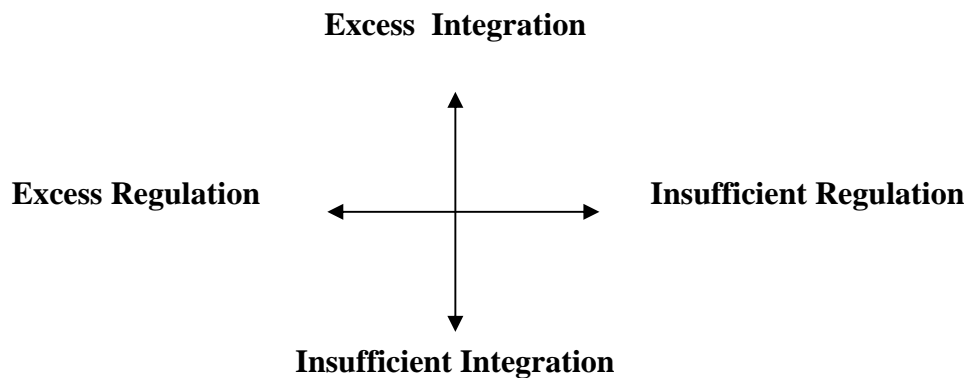


Social Integration – the degree to which society _____ the individual. The extent to which values, beliefs and attitudes are shared among members of a social group.

Moral Regulation – the degree to which society is effective in _____ and _____ the desires of individuals

Hence Durkheim argues that **“suicide varies with the degree of social integration of the group of which the individual forms a part.”**

Durkheim tested this by comparing different suicide rates, for example between societies and groups in society. He subsequently developed a classification of different types of suicide and the balance of society.



Durkheim's classification of suicide

This is where there are low levels of integration as such there are higher suicide rates amongst Protestants than Catholics, amongst single rather than married people. This is due to their lack of social attachments.

This was found to be the most common in pre-industrial society but also occurs in some close knit groups. For example Hindu women on their husbands funeral pyre, suicide bombers in Israel and Kamikaze pilots during the Second World War.

This arises from a state of normlessness or lack of regulation. For example, when people find themselves in changed circumstances and the previous norms and values, which regulated their conduct, become less relevant. This especially occurs in times of economic prosperity or recession, such as the 1929 Wall Street crash, amongst the unemployed etc.

This final category was of little importance to Durkheim. However, it occurred when the society restricted the individual too much. As such it was thought to be the cause of such high suicide rates amongst slaves. (The 'only way out').

Durkheim's study is also a positivist approach as he was trying to prove that society could be studied in a scientific manner. As a result it is largely the _____ of 'Le Suicide' which has made the topic the focus of so much sociological attention.