

Research and Enlightenment of Emile Durkheim's Social Anomie Theory

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Abstract: The French sociologist Durkheim pointed out in his important book *Suicide* that "the so-called anomie of society, the general understanding refers to the lack of norms in a certain society, or although there are norms, they lose (or do not have) the due binding force, so that the behavior of members of the society presents such and such disorder. "Social anomie" is an important sociological category put forward by Durkheim. The prominence of social contradictions urgently requires the analysis and study of social anomie, which is especially important in the period of social transformation. This paper discusses the meaning of social anomie and its influencing factors: social anomie refers to the social disorder and disintegration caused by the absence of social norms (social standards) or the loss of the original social norms.

Keywords: social reconstruction, morality, professional ethics

1. Introduction

Social anomie theory is an early and influential sociological theory, which mainly attributes the deviant behavior of individuals or groups to society. That's what environmentalists say. The famous French sociologist Durkheim is the representative figure of anomie theory. Through his research, he found that anomie occurs during and after drastic and rapid changes in social, economic or political structures. Durkheim argues that this is a transitional phase in which the values and norms that prevailed at a certain time are no longer valid, but new values and norms have not evolved to replace them [1]. For example, taking on a role at one company may require overtime and conflict with a role at another organization (such as dining with your wife), but cancelling family meals to accommodate work schedules. Anomie measures the real society. When society tries to achieve different goals, it leads to social anomie. I should correctly understand his thoughts on social anomie and reconstruction, which has enlightenment significance to our era of accelerating transformation.

Such societies, Durkheim argued, produced in many members a psychological state characterized by a sense of futility, lack of purpose, and hopelessness. Effort is considered useless.

1.1. The Basic Content of Durkheim's Anomie Theory

Durkheim's theory of social anomie can be explained from the following two aspects:

The meaning of anomie: Durkheim first mentioned anomie in his 1893 book *Division of Labor in Society*. In this book, Durkheim writes about an unorganized division of labor, a term he uses to

describe an unorganized division of labor, in which some groups no longer fit in, even though they once did [2]. A result of the division of labor and partial inappropriate led to the drastic restructuring of the social structure, at the same time, the development of moral standards and failure to keep up with the failure of social regulation, unable to maintain the connection between people, people's desire and behavior can not be effectively controlled, resulting in social anomia. Durkheim argued that social anomie cannot occur in the context of organic solidarity because this form of solidarity allows the division of labor to evolve according to need, so that no one is excluded and all play a meaningful role.

Social reconstruction: For Durkheim, since the crisis of modern society is a moral crisis, in essence, the main measure to rebuild the social order should be to play the regulating role of moral norms and establish a multi-level social moral system suitable for the structure of the modern social division of labor [3].

In 2006, a young man named Peng Yu, out of kindness, helped an old lady who had fallen down stand up and sent her to the hospital. But later, the young man was sued by the lady's family, who claimed that Peng knocked the lady down. In the last sentence, the court thought the old lady collided with Peng Yu was injured, so Peng Yu should bear the responsibility, and gives the opinion is that if Peng is a good hero, "a more realistic approach is to arrest people who strike the plaintiff, rather than kind holds", "not strike you, why do you want to help?" This is a typical deviation in the direction of social values. "so How can I expect every ordinary member of society to have a noble spirit under the logic of a system that punishes goodness and sanctions justice [2].

Based on the above theories and empirical research evidence, social anomie exists in every era. Therefore, social anomie affects everyone in modern society. Therefore, it is necessary to do a research on the enlightenment of social anomie to society.

2. Literature Review

According to professional morality, collective morality, individual morality and public morality, Durkheim's ideas are expounded respectively. Secondly, the phenomenon of anomie theory in Chinese society is studied. Including fast class mobility, reorientation of moral ethics, value orientation, and the cultivation and improvement of citizens' personal character.

2.1. Professional Ethics

Durkheim believed that professional groups could not only serve as a bridge between the state and the individual, but also generate a moral authority that regulates the lives of their members: "In the professional community, in particular, I see a moral force which checks the expansion of self-interest, which fosters the great enthusiasm of the working man for solidarity, and which prevents the rule of power from prevailing in industrial and commercial relations." Through the establishment of various professional groups and professional ethics, it is possible to prevent the centralization of state power and the decentralization and incompetence of individuals, to rebuild the harmony of society, that is, the state of organic solidarity [3].

2.2. Collective Morality and Individual Morality

In Durkheim's later ideological theory, to deal with the relationship between individuals and society, he hopes that society as a collective consciousness is internalized in individuals. Society becomes materialized as an abstract impersonal force of external compulsion which was manifested earlier. [4]. The possibility that social collective morality can be transformed into individual morality lies in the fact that there exists duality in every socialized individual morality, including the inner individual and the inner society, rather than an external structure in a natural state.

2.3. Public Morality and Social Connection

The effectiveness of moral enforcement is also closely related to the nature or character of social ties. Public morality is implemented by public opinion. Because public opinion has no specific social connection or support from social units, it is often difficult to form sufficient constraints on the parties. In general, the more intense and sustained the social connection, the more effective the moral implementation. The stronger the social connection, the more frequent the interaction and contact between members, the more consensus and expectation of moral obligation formed between each other, and the more likely they are to accept and consciously fulfill the moral obligation [5]. On the other hand, close and lasting social ties can themselves help to inhibit or prevent opportunistic behavior that violates moral obligations. Therefore, rational actors are generally willing to fulfill their moral obligations in a socially connected environment.

3. Methodology

The purpose of this study is to investigate the different ways and attitudes of people of different ages towards social anomie in contemporary social transition. First, I fully understand social anomie theory by reading Durkheim's description of social anomie theory and the papers on social anomie theory over the years. Secondly, I looked for examples of social anomie around me and aroused my enlightenment and understanding of social anomie through real cases. For example, employees spend most of their time in the workplace with colleagues and sometimes have to pretend, suppress themselves and even suspect each other. Moreover, due to the rapid development of The Times, changes in living environment and ways of thinking, migrant workers in cities seem to have nothing to say to their parents in their hometown except for daily greetings. They may feel vulnerable and unable to get enough support from those around them to alleviate loneliness. Thirdly, I will interview people around me to record their behaviors of social anomie, analyze people's psychological state and moral outlook in this era, and make an evaluation. Durkheim devoted himself to explaining the problems and crises in the transformation of western developed countries from pre-modern society to modern society in the 19th century, and tried to propose solutions [6]. His theoretical thoughts are of absolute practical significance to the study of China during the transition period. All the control means of social anomie are methods and approaches to reconstruct social norms, which can only be realized through understanding and identification of social members and their behaviors. Therefore, only perfect the commodity market, perfect the system, improve the moral consciousness of the society and individuals, can realize the benign operation and coordinated development of the society. In the process of constructing harmonious society, it is urgent to construct a new social correction mechanism to resolve social anomie while constructing a new social integration mechanism.

3.1. Experiment

I released the questionnaire on the wechat platform, and the participants were 30 people of three ages selected by me after screening. My questionnaire was set as an anonymous form, and I did not let them know that I was the investigator behind the questionnaire.

The contents of the questionnaire are as follows:

An old man fell down on the road and many people around him didn't help him. Would you go to help him?

The respondents were divided into three age groups:

1. 15 to 18
2. 25 to 30
3. 40 to 50

4. Result

There were 30 participants. 16 women and 14 men, mean age 29.7. The majority of people in the first age group gave the following answer: 79 percent of people chose to take out their phones, record evidence, and then help the elderly person up. A few choose not to.

The second age group: People in this age group are very extreme. Many people choose to help them without hesitation, while others choose to leave them alone. One respondent explained that the reason is as follows: I have seen some cases where old people ask women for help and women are trafficked.

The third age group: 85% choose not to help, the reason is: they do not want to cause trouble. Very few people choose to help, and some people hesitate to leave.

5. Conclusion

Durkheim devoted himself to explaining the problems and crises in the transformation of Western developed countries from pre-modern society to modern society in the 19th century, and tried to propose solutions. His theoretical thought has absolute practical significance to the study of China in the transition period. All means of controlling social anomie are methods and ways to reconstruct social norms, which can only be realized through understanding and identification of social members and their behaviors. Therefore, only by perfecting the commodity market, perfecting the system and improving the moral consciousness of the society and individuals, can the benign operation and coordinated development of the society be realized. In the process of building a harmonious society, it is urgent to construct a new social correction mechanism to resolve social anomie while constructing a new social integration mechanism.

Durkheim's anomie theory has always been accompanied by human civilization in the long river of historical change [7]. China is a society in transition. It is making rapid progress every day. While making progress, there are also some problems brought by the changes of The Times. While people enjoy the progress of science and technology, there will also be a lack of happiness and a sense of belonging to the society. Durkheim says that if a person lacks social constraints, her personal interests are freed; She will seek to satisfy her own desires, with little regard for the impact her actions may have on others. It is a world in which individual choices about behavior multiply while strong, persistent norms and moral codes are weakened.

Ethical Issues

Given the nature of this project, there are ethical considerations that need to be taken into account. First, all participants will be treated with respect and courtesy. An "informed consent" strategy will be used to make the purpose and methodology of the study clear to all participants. I will ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of individual interviewees.

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