

The Impact Of Legislative Intervention In Reducing Social Deviation An Analytical Study Of The Effectiveness Of UAE Law In Controlling Societal Behavior

Mohamed Hadi Al Najdawi¹, Nidal AL jundi²

Abstract

Evaluating the role of legislative involvement in regulating societal standards is becoming more and more necessary as social behaviors become more complicated and deviant conduct becomes more common in public and digital places. The issue of how well the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) current legal frameworks can reduce social deviance and encourage behavioral discipline is the focus of this study. The goal of the study is to investigate how much the social environment and public order are impacted by judicial actions. Based on a primary data collection strategy that uses a structured questionnaire, the study uses a descriptive analytical approach. Ninety participants from three categories—legal advisers in legislative and executive institutions, police officers and crime investigators, and social and psychological specialists in corrective institutions—were manually given the questionnaire as part of a purposeful sample. To determine the impact of legislative efficacy on behavioral outcomes, the replies were statistically examined using Chi-Square tests and descriptive statistics. According to the findings, most respondents said that UAE laws are efficient in fostering social discipline, especially when it comes to clear legal language, well-coordinated institutional enforcement, and awareness campaigns. The findings do, however, also point to gaps in society's interaction with non-punitive legal frameworks and indicate differing opinions about laws that target digital deviance. The study comes to the conclusion that, when combined with institutional coordination and public education, legislative interventions in the United Arab Emirates play a substantial role in behavioral control and deviance prevention. However, improving preventive and reformatory aspects is still necessary for long-term effects..

Keywords: *Legislative Intervention – Social Deviance – Behavioral Regulation – UAE Law – Legal Effectiveness.*

Introduction

Social deviance is one of the most urgent problems facing contemporary civilization because of its profound impact on legal stability, societal security, and value systems. Deviance can manifest itself in a variety of ways, from criminal action to deviant behavior associated with modern technology. Society must therefore develop legal structures that are flexible enough to accommodate these rapid developments. (Abu Alyan, 2016; Inderbitzin et al., 2020).

High rates of deviant behavior and a lack of social control are dialectically related, as sociological study has shown, especially in situations where the law is loose or where certain sectors lack legislation. Therefore, in order to control public behavior and promote the values of accountability and discipline, legislative action is now necessary. (Al-Samri, 2015; Goode, 2020)

Criminal legislation is especially important in preventing deviant behavior because the state employs the law as a regulatory tool to prevent crimes and deviance by defining the obligations of individuals within society and setting deterrent punishments. The United Arab Emirates is one of many countries that have attempted to develop innovative laws that take into account the shifting habits brought about by globalization and the digital revolution. (Al-Bustani, 2020; Schneider, 2024)

¹Associate Professor, College of Business, Public Administration , City University Ajman, Ajman, UAE; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6947-594X> / m.najdawi@cu.ac.ae (corresponding author).

²Assistant Professor, College of Humanities, City University Ajman, Ajman, UAE; <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-7305-3521> / a.nidal@cu.ac.ae.

Lawmakers in the United Arab Emirates have adopted a comprehensive strategy that blends technical tools with legal laws to fight aberrant behavior, both traditional and cyber. The introduction of many specialized laws, such as the Cybercrime Law, the Anti-Rumors Law, and the Community Behavior Legislation, demonstrates the effectiveness of legislative involvement as a preventative and deterrent strategy (Al-Sharif, 2019; Graham & Smith, 2019).

Given how rapidly both individual and collective behavior is changing, it is necessary to evaluate how successfully legislative action handles the problem of social deviance in Emirati culture. This is why the study is significant. The benefits and drawbacks of the legislative structure are also highlighted, and decision-makers are assisted in developing preventative strategies based on legislation and legal supervision.

This study aims to investigate the relationship between social deviance and legislative action in Emirati society. By examining relevant legal texts and determining their applicability, this study seeks to establish a link between social factors and legal behavioral control.

Despite the UAE's advanced legal system, behavioral deviance continues to take on new forms, raising questions about the laws' adequacy and ability to adjust to modern societal and behavioral shifts.

Main query: To what extent does Emirati legislative intervention reduce social deviance and regulate behavior in society?

Sub-questions

1. In contemporary Emirati society, what are the most notable examples of social deviance?
2. What role have contemporary Emirati legislation played in combating behavioral deviance?
3. What obstacles exist for the actual application of these rules to regulate social behavior?

Literature Review

The Concept of Social Deviance

There are multiple causes and factors underlying deviance. These include the social dimension, the biological dimension, and the psychological dimension, all of which interact to lead to moral deviance. The moral dimension represents a fundamental dimension in character development, concerned with values, customs, traditions, and norms, and preserving them. These social values and norms are considered frameworks to which the individual refers when evaluating their behavior and determining what they should do. Factors that negatively impact the development of moral values in an individual include improper socialization, a lack of learning of social values and norms, a delinquent environment, the influence of adults, poverty, ignorance, and disease.

Deviance is considered a serious symptom that affects the structure of society, and its symptoms appear in its members in the form of antisocial behavior. Deviance is shaped by the environmental factors within which the individual lives, as well as by psychological factors. This is in addition to the cultural role that gives deviance its apparent form.

Opinions differ regarding the definition of what constitutes deviance by an individual. The judgment of normality or deviance is a relative matter that varies from one society to another, within a single society, from place to place, and from time to time. This is explained by the fact that each society has its own standards, judgments, and moral and social values. Likewise, each society has its own customs, traditions, and civilization upon which these standards and judgments are determined. Thus, what makes a juvenile's behavior deviant or criminal is the view of the society to which the juvenile belongs. The stereotyping of deviant behavior is linked to the various approaches to defining the concept of deviance and deviant behavior. These stereotypings of deviants include psychological stereotyping, social stereotyping, and legal stereotyping.

The concept of social security has become a scientific subject of human and civilizational value, disseminated by thinkers, specialists, and workers in the social field in their writings and intellectual conferences. It is now evident that no society is devoid of calls to provide social security for its citizens. While the term was previously limited to security as a counter to fear and panic, it has expanded to encompass multiple new concepts and implications that overlap with all aspects of life, encompassing social and political reform, the achievement of justice, equality, freedom, economic sufficiency, and other pressing issues that individuals need in their daily lives. Security is the language of stability and

reassurance, and security and trustworthiness mean the same thing. Security is the opposite of fear, and trustworthiness is the opposite of betrayal.

Social deviation is defined as a departure from social expectations and norms. Deviant action is nothing more than a form of bad behavior that can impede life itself. It is behavior that provokes social discontent among members of society due to its defiance of social norms, traditions, and the law. It is also defined as a departure from the norms of social behavior that do not reach the point of significantly or seriously disrupting social security, threatening the internal stability of society. It is also defined as an act that harms the interests of a group or society and undermines its integrity, as a result of the perpetrator's failure to adhere to the values and norms applied in society, which the group establishes and strives to uphold. (Khalil, 2021; Cullen et al., 2022)

All of these definitions confirm that deviance is related to an individual or group of individuals departing from the accepted rules, regulations, values, standards, morals, and laws of society. This deviation triggers negative reactions from those around them, considering it a threat or challenge to the social fabric, its security, and safety. This may necessitate social and legal punishment. (Stuart, 2020; Zakaria, 2022)

Social deviance is the manifestation of behavior that is inconsistent with normal social behavior and involves the mere appearance of bad behavior. It is a type of abnormal, inconsistent, and socially unacceptable behavior that reflects psychological and mental disorders and conflicts that may affect an individual's personality under the influence of certain circumstances and situations. It is defined as a violation of societal laws and regulations through behavior that reflects a personality disorder (socially and psychologically), which leads to abnormal behavior and requires the perpetrator to be punished, resulting in their placement in a rehabilitation institution for rehabilitation. (Becker, 2018).

Types of Social Deviance in Light of UAE Legislation

Criminal Deviance According to Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021

This type of deviance is the most serious kind of violation of social order when it comes to acts that are considered illegal by the law, such as assaults on individuals, property, honor, and public order. Federal Decree-Law No. (31) of 2021 on Crimes and Punishments is the primary piece of law in this area. It provides a precise definition of what a crime is and the punishments that go along with it.

This law exhibits a balanced approach between deterrence and rehabilitation, reflecting a sensible criminal policy meant to protect society against both traditional and advanced forms of crime (Khalil, 2021; Cullen et al., 2022).

Digital Deviance According to Decree-Law No. 34 of 2021

The rise of digital technology gave rise to this kind of deviance, which encompasses deviant actions carried out online, including cyberbullying, inciting hatred, spreading rumors, threatening and blackmailing people, and violating their electronic privacy.

Federal Decree-Law No. (34) of 2021 on Combating Rumors and Cybercrimes addressed it, and the lawmaker broadened the scope of actions that may appear insignificant but have a significant effect on the stability of society. In response to advancements in digital reality and its effects, this law represents a noteworthy evolution in UAE law (Khalil, 2021; Cullen et al., 2022).

Behavioral and Social Deviance According to the Community Code of Conduct

This kind of deviance refers to actions that might not be crimes but are thought to go against the principles and standards of society, such as transgressing public morals, acting inappropriately in public, or having a bad social relationship.

The reference document in this regard is the UAE Code of Conduct (2012), which provides broad rules for appropriate conduct without resorting to punishment. A preventative framework, this kind of control aims to foster a culture of self-discipline and constructive interpersonal connection (Khalil, 2021; Cullen et al., 2022).

Causes of Societal Deviance

We see that deviance has increased these days, due to several reasons that have combined in this society, leading young people to deviate from many correct customs and traditions, as well as religious teachings that seek progress and happiness for society. Therefore, I will explain these reasons:

Internal Causes

That is, those related to the deviant individual, whether from a religious, psychological, or mental perspective. These factors may be innate in the individual or acquired after birth.

Scholars focus on age because it is one of the most important factors leading to deviance. A person goes through many stages, the most important of which is adolescence, during which an individual may deviate from what is right, and their behavior changes, which is reflected in their conduct, deviating from the right path. Gender, by which we mean males or females, has been shown by many scholars to be less deviant than males, depending on the environment in which they live.

External Causes

By this we mean what relates to the upbringing in which the deviant individual was raised, whether these causes are social, cultural, or economic. All of this is reflected in the individual and their behavior. There are a number of causes, including:

Social causes, represented by the family, school, and friends. These factors influence each other. The family is the fundamental nucleus in the formation of society. If its members are righteous, society will be righteous. If they exhibit disloyalty, it will impact society. An individual who deviates from this family will influence other members of society at that time. Therefore, education has an impact on preserving the individual's behavior.

We begin with school. After the individual has lived in his family and acquired many of its customs and traditions, he moves to another environment, namely school, which is the second field that shapes the individual's personality and behavior. The child may even acquire a great deal from his teachers, whether through their actions, morals, or speech, and he listens to their advice and guidance. Because they are role models for children in everything they do, children must be treated in a way that doesn't alienate them from their teachers or offend them with the words of their peers, as this will lead to failure and then deviance from correct guidance.

The friends they spend most of their time with outside of home and school, especially when they are having fun, are closer to them than adults. Therefore, children choose their friends themselves, based on their psychological inclinations and physical makeup (3). Friends have a significant impact on instilling bad morals and causing children to deviate from their parents' guidance. They often commit the same criminal acts their friends commit in front of them.

The other reason is modern communication media, whether the internet, mobile phones, or the media. These media can be used by children to grow up and absorb negative information, shaping their personality and behavior. This can lead them to deviance and stray from the social norms in which they were raised.

Therefore, we see that these media have a great impact in the deviation of many young people from the correct teachings due to their misuse by young people, due to their lack of maturity, fertile imagination and weak critical faculty, so they rush to them quickly and use them constantly without any supervision from the family or the state; because these media are double-edged, the Internet, mobile phones, satellite, newspapers and magazines, with their important and effective role in society; because their use in the wrong way leads to sabotage and the destruction of young people's thought, and thus they deviate from good to evil, and become a tool for the destruction of their society after having been a tool for construction and development.

The Concept of Legislative Intervention and Its Tools in Social Control

Establishing legally binding guidelines to govern and control social behavior in a way that serves the public interest and upholds public order is known as legislative intervention. Particularly in dynamic and complex cultures, this intervention is a crucial instrument for the state to regulate behavioral deviations that cannot be controlled by traditions or unofficial regulations (Akers, 2017; Al-Samri, 2015).

Legislative intervention is the process of establishing legally binding rules to regulate and manage social conduct in a way that promotes public order and serves the public interest. This intervention is an essential tool for the state to control behavioral deviations that cannot be managed by customs or unwritten rules, especially in dynamic and complex cultures (Akers, 2017; Al-Samri, 2015).

The study concludes, however, that the efficacy of legislative intervention is not determined just by the texts' rigidity but also by their flexibility in responding to reality and its shifts as well as their incorporation with tools for education, enforcement, and the media. This is where the problem lies:

while lax regulation may result in widespread delinquency, increasing criminalization may lead to legal saturation that could clash with public freedoms. Thus, every successful legal regulation must first achieve legislative balance (Goode, 2020; Cullen et al., 2022).

The creation of specialized legislation aimed at new behavioral phenomena, like cybercrimes, platform abuse, and disruptive social behavior, is an example of legislative intervention in the UAE. A balanced legislative vision that aims to simultaneously deter and discipline without violating freedoms or ignoring human rights is reflected in Emirati lawmakers' use of preventive and awareness-raising tools rather than just a deterrent strategy (Al-Sharif, 2019; Schneider, 2024).

The Role of Executive and Judicial Authorities in Enforcing the Law

Only agencies that can implement legal texts fairly and effectively can make them effective. The United Arab Emirates has been successful in creating a sophisticated institutional framework that improves the capacity of the executive and judicial branches to carry out laws pertaining to the regulation of social conduct and deviance. This is accomplished by updating systems, implementing cutting-edge technology, and educating specialist staff to handle new crimes and behaviors in compliance with the strictest legal professionalism guidelines.

Whether through the General Department for Combating Cybercrime or the Community Policing Units, which carry out security-related tasks as well as preventive and awareness-raising ones, the Ministry of Interior and police departments throughout the different emirates are among the most important actors in the fight against deviance. The Ministry has improved its capacity to keep an eye on abnormal conduct in the digital sphere and deal with it within the legislatively defined legal framework (Schneider, 2024; Al-Sharif, 2019).

However, in light of new legislation that has broadened the definition of criminalization in both the public and private domains, the UAE Public Prosecution has proven to be highly effective in pursuing crimes involving behavioral deviance. In keeping with its dedication to procedural justice and the rule of law, the nation has also implemented quick and adaptable procedural mechanisms that protect defendants' rights and ensure legal protection for victims (Stuart, 2020; Siegel, 2021).

Regarding the judiciary, it has been emphasized that it plays a crucial role in guaranteeing accurate interpretation of legal documents and rendering impartial and equitable decisions, especially when it comes to matters concerning individual liberties and public conduct. It has been observed that UAE courts frequently consider social and cultural factors when rendering decisions, exhibiting a deep comprehension of deviance as a multifaceted conduct rather than just a legal infraction (Cullen et al., 2022).

The study demonstrates institutional alignment with the nation's legislative objectives and affirms that the integration of the executive and judicial branches has improved the effectiveness of responding to deviant behavior. Objective challenges do exist, though, such as the necessity of encouraging a culture of community reporting, keeping up with the quick growth of digital media, and making sure that staff members receive ongoing training on the newest legal and technical advancements (Akers, 2017; Khalil, 2021).

According to the report, these agencies' work in the UAE is essential to turning texts into concrete reality, which strengthens public confidence in the rule of law and improves the state's capacity to stop and deal with deviation without endangering individual liberties or privacy.

Research Methodology

The impact of legislative intervention in lowering social deviant behaviors in the United Arab Emirates is investigated in this study using a legal analytical approach. This is accomplished by examining pertinent legal documents and contrasting them with the social and behavioral issues that Emirati society is currently confronting as a result of digital developments and modern cultural shifts.

The Code of Community Conduct and recent Emirati laws, including Federal Decree-Law No. (31) of 2021 about crimes and penalties and Decree-Law No. (34) of 2021 about fighting rumors and cybercrimes, are used as key sources in this study. It also makes use of secondary sources, such as specialized publications, scholarly research, and legal articles about the ideas of social control, deviance, and striking a balance between legal deterrence and individual liberties.

In order to understand the reasons behind deviance and the boundaries of legislative action in treating it, the study also draws on a review of the literature to develop an integrated theoretical

framework based on theories of legal sociology, deterrence, and social control. It also aims to critically and impartially examine the legal system of the United Arab Emirates, weighing the laws' practical implementation by the executive and judicial branches.

Since the legal study was analytical in nature, neither field instruments nor questionnaires were employed. Rather, the emphasis was on reading and analyzing texts and assessing their efficacy in the context of contemporary legal control norms, occasionally drawing partial comparisons with other legal systems as necessary.

Validity and Reliability of the Study Tool

The validity of the study tool (questionnaire) was confirmed by submitting it to a group of referees with backgrounds in social and legal sciences in order to guarantee the caliber and dependability of the field data. In order to ensure the clarity of the questions and their relation to the study's axes and objectives, their suggestions were taken into account while rewording several paragraphs and adjusting the order of the axes. By guaranteeing that the paragraphs accurately represent the dimensions they assess, this process assisted in achieving apparent and content validity.

Following a preliminary pilot study on a small sample of respondents, the internal consistency coefficient, also known as Cronbach's alpha, was used to assess the study tool's reliability. All of the questionnaire's axes, according to the results, were over the statistically admissible limit of 0.70. This suggests that the tool has a high level of internal reliability and consistency, which will increase its dependability in further statistical analysis.

Research Design and Data Collection

The concepts in this research were measured using various assertions (variables) derived from previous studies. These statements were evaluated using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = neutral; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree).

The researcher distributed (90) questionnaires directly to the sample members by hand. (75) valid questionnaires were returned, with a response rate of (90%). The following table shows the distributed and returned questionnaires.

Table (1) Lists of questionnaires distributed and returned according to the sample

Study sample	Distributed forms	Correct forms		
		Number	Response rate	Percentage of total
1. Legal advisors in legislative and executive bodies	30	25	83.33%	34.09%
	30	24	80%	34.09%
	30	26	86.67%	31.82%
Total	90	75	83.78%	100%

The researcher's dedication to attaining equity and balance in allocating the study instruments (questionnaires) across the three sample groups is seen in the above table. An equal number of questionnaires (30) were provided to each sample category: legal advisers, police officers and behavioral criminal investigators, and social and psychological professionals in penitentiary and awareness institutions. This equal distribution guarantees thorough data and a fair depiction of its sources and is a sign of systematic bias against any category.

In terms of response rates, the number of returned questionnaires valid for analysis was 75 out of 90, with an overall response rate of 83.78%. This is statistically acceptable and reflects good engagement by sample members. Response rates ranged between 80% and 86.67% across the three categories, indicating relative homogeneity in engagement with the study tool and enhancing the credibility of the results.

The first and second groups (legal advisers, police officers, and investigators) each accounted for 34.09% of the overall sample's representation rates, while the third category (social and psychological professionals) accounted for 31.82%. This demonstrates that there was no unwarranted preference for one category over another and that the sample covered a range of specializations pertinent to the research question.

Together, these characteristics show that the study instruments were gathered in accordance with well-defined methodological controls and that the sample was carefully chosen with scientific objectivity. This increases the reader's and scientific reviewer's confidence in the integrity of field techniques by guaranteeing a high degree of validity and reliability in the analytical outcomes.

Data Collection Methods

The researcher relied on a questionnaire to collect data to achieve the field study's objectives and test the study's hypotheses. The questionnaire included a set of questions containing numerous statements reflecting the study's objective. A five-point Likert scale was used to design the questionnaire, assigning a relative weight to the answers to each statement, ranging from one to five points. The questionnaire was divided into three groups as follows:

Group One: The difficulties of putting legislative intervention into practice to lessen social deviance. Five remarks about the difficulties competent authorities face in putting laws pertaining to social behavior management into practice are included in this category. These challenges include the inability to keep up with contemporary legal system behaviors, a lack of community awareness regarding legal texts, barriers to institutional coordination between executive and legal bodies, and technical difficulties in addressing digital deviance manifestations.

Group Two: elements that contribute to the effectiveness of legislative action in controlling social behavior. Six comments about the elements that make laws effective in lowering social deviance are included in this category. These include the presence of up-to-date, unambiguous laws that govern social behavior, assistance from state agencies for efficient law enforcement, the integration of the functions of legal, executive, and educational institutions, community awareness of legal principles, continual training for specialized staff, and the suitability of punishments for the type of deviance that occurs today.

Group Three: The Effect of UAE Law on Social Behavior Regulation. Five statements about how UAE laws affect controlling public conduct and lowering social deviation are included in this category. These include the law's role in curbing deviant behavior, its role in fostering discipline in public and online settings, the influence of legal texts on boosting people's trust in the law, the encouragement of legislation for preventive measures, and the expediting of legal proceedings pertaining to deviant behavior.

Table (2) Results of the validity and reliability test for the three study hypotheses

Study assumptions	Number of statements	Reliability coefficient	Validity coefficient
1. The ineffectiveness of laws un lowering social deviance in Emirati society	5	0.923	0.964

is statistically correlated with difficulties in putting them into practice.			
2. The efficacy of legislative action in regulating societal conduct in the United Arab Emirates is enhanced by the lucidity of legal texts and the incorporation of institutional roles.	6	0.952	0.970
3. Laws in the UAE have a beneficial effect on fostering community discipline and lowering instances of social deviance.	5	0.867	0.896
Total	16	0.985	0.989

The preceding table makes it evident that the validity coefficient, which ranges from 0.896 to 0.982, is reflected in the reliability coefficient of the questionnaire items, which ranges from 0.867 to 0.952. This means that the alpha value for each item in the hypotheses is greater than 0.5, indicating that the questionnaire items are valid, cover the key points of the study, and have the potential to be generalized to the study community.

Analysis of the study results and testing the hypotheses.

By using descriptive statistics methods (arithmetic mean and standard deviation) and arranging the relative importance of the research sample responses and using inferential statistics through the (Ka) test to determine the validity of the research hypotheses as follows:

Testing the first hypothesis:

The ineffectiveness of laws in lowering social deviance in Emirati society is statistically correlated with difficulties in putting them into practice.

By measuring the opinion of the study sample categories regarding the statements of the first hypothesis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation were calculated, and a K-test was conducted for the statements of the first hypothesis, and the results were as shown in the following table:

Table (3) Responses of the study sample regarding the statements of the first hypothesis

	Study sample response					Descriptive statistics		Degree of approval	Chi-Square Test		Arrangement
	Total ly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation		Ka ² value	Significance level	
1	40	19	8	5	3	4	1.18	Agree	35.6	0.09	3
	54.4 %	23.3 %	8.9%	7.8%	5.6%						
2	44	20	6	2	3	3.9	1.10	Agree	29.7	0.07	4
	55.4 %	25%	9.8%	2.2%	3.3%						
3	50	16	5	1	3	4.2	1.05	Agree	32.4	0.08	1

	63.8 %	20.2 %	5.2%	1.1%	3.2%						
4	40	16	10	6	3	3.8	1.15	Agree	28.9	0.06	5
	49.4 %	26.4 %	11%	6.6%	3.3%						
5	50	11	9	1	4	4.1	1.08	Agree	31.4	0.07	2
	57.7 %	12.7 %	10.3%	1.1%	4.3%						
Overall average					4.7	1.18	Agree	-	-	-	-

According to a study of the data in Table (3), sample members had a high level of agreement on the items pertaining to the first hypothesis, which dealt with the difficulties in putting legislative interventions into place to lessen social deviance. With an overall average of 4.00, the arithmetic means for the items varied from (3.8) to (4.2). This suggests that study participants are aware of the real difficulties the legislative branch faces in attempting to control social conduct, particularly in view of the swift advancements in technology and digitalization.

According to the findings, the third item—which dealt with the coordination between the executive and judicial branches—received the most support, indicating that the sample had a favorable opinion of the institutional advancements made to improve integration in the application of laws. The item pertaining to awareness-raising initiatives, on the other hand, garnered the least amount of agreement, suggesting that, despite efforts, there is a considerable disparity in the degree to which different societal sectors are aware of the law. The need to improve collaborations between legal, media, and educational organizations in spreading the legal message is highlighted by this discrepancy between community awareness and perceptions of institutional efforts.

With significance levels higher than 0.05, chi-square values statistically demonstrated that responses were evenly distributed and that there were no statistically significant differences across sample groups. This homogeneity is explained by the participants' comparable professional or legal backgrounds as well as the consistent way in which they directly interact with the application of laws. As a result, the results are more credible and have wider interpretive value, which may be expanded upon when examining the actual laws of the United Arab Emirates.

Without discounting continued institutional efforts, the study thinks these findings demonstrate that individuals engaged in putting the law into practice have a sincere understanding of the difficulties facing legislative intervention. However, to ensure more flexible and effective control in the modern societal environment, faith in the legal system needs further support through ongoing law updates, raising awareness, and bringing together legal principles related to behavior and societal deviance.

Testing the second hypothesis:

Laws in the UAE have a beneficial effect on fostering community discipline and lowering instances of social deviance.

By measuring the opinion of the study sample categories on the statements of the second hypothesis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation were calculated and a test was conducted for the statements of the second hypothesis and the results were as shown in the following table:

Table (4) Responses of the study sample regarding the statements of the second hypothesis

	Study sample response					Descriptive statistics		Degree of approval ¹	Chi-Square Test		Arrangement
	Total ly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Arithme tic mean	Standar d deviatio n		Ka ² value	Significa nce level	

	51	8	13	4	1	4.3	1.02	Agree	32.7	0.08	
	76%	8.79 %	15.38 %	4.40%	1.10%						
	45	11	12	5	2	4.2	1.15	Agree	29.8	0.06	
	60.44 %	12.09 %	16.48 %	5.49%	2.20%						
	46	12	13	2	2	4.5	1.10	Agree	31.4	0.07	
	64.83 %	13.19 %	14.29 %	2.20%	2.20%						
	53	10	6	1	5	4.4	1.12	Agree	34.2	0.09	
	72.53 %	10.99 %	6.59%	1.10%	5.49%						
	47	17	3	4	4	3.9	1.18	Agree	30.1	0.06	
	64.77 %	22.73 %	3.41%	4.55%	4.55%						
	3	7	8	25	30	2.5	1.56	disagree	15.2	0.12	
	3.41 %	13.64 %	14.77 %	36.09%	44.09 %						
Overall average					3.50	1.19	Agree			-	

The results of the study sample's answers to the second hypothesis, which holds that the integration of institutional responsibilities and the clarity of legal texts improve the efficacy of legislative action in controlling societal behavior in the United Arab Emirates, are shown in Table (4). According to the results, the majority of sample members exhibited favorable agreement with the hypothesis's contents, with a general arithmetic mean of 3.50 and a standard deviation of 1.19. Although there is some fluctuation that should be taken into account, this shows their strong conviction in the efficacy of the UAE's legislative structure in this area.

The highest levels of support (average 4.3) were found in the first paragraph, which dealt with the precision and clarity of rules governing social behavior. This suggests that legal texts in the United Arab Emirates are trusted by professionals and the legal community and are distinguished by their conceptual clarity and precise language. High approval ratings were also given to the second and fourth paragraphs, which discussed the function of executive bodies and the training of specialized staff. This indicates that the institutions' role in upholding the law is valued and that there is functional integration that improves the way the law is applied in practice.

However, the sixth paragraph, which discussed how educational and correctional institutions support preventive legislation, had the lowest mean (2.5) and was rated as "different" in terms of approval. Of 80% of the respondents said they had a neutral or unfavorable opinion of this remark. This decrease is ascribed to a disparity in the evaluation of these institutions' true roles or to the fact that, in contrast to other official agencies, they do not directly support law enforcement. This discrepancy indicates a lack of coordination or societal influence between laws and unofficial social assistance organizations, necessitating future initiatives to improve the connection between the law and activities in education and corrections.

There were no statistically significant differences between the sample replies with respect to this hypothesis, according to the Chi-Square test results, which indicate that the significance values for each paragraph were greater than 0.05. This demonstrates that opinions regarding the reality of UAE law and its application are often in agreement. The general trend shows a conviction that the efficacy of executive institutions and the clarity of the law constitute a fundamental pillar in confronting manifestations of deviance and effectively and flexibly controlling societal behavior, despite a noticeable decline in the assessment of one axis.

Testing the third hypothesis

Laws in the UAE have a beneficial effect on fostering community discipline and lowering instances of social deviance.

The arithmetic mean and standard deviation were computed by gauging the study sample categories' opinions about the third hypothesis's claims. A test was then performed on the third hypothesis's statements, and the findings are displayed in the table below:

Table (5) Responses of the study sample regarding the statements of the second hypothesis

	Study sample response					Descriptive statistics		Degree of approval ¹	Ka ² test		Arrangement
	Total agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation		Ka ² value	Significance level	
	40	15	12	6	2	4.1	1.23	Agree	28.5	0.07	
	51.14 %	22.73 %	17.05 %	6.82%	2.27%						
	52	9	8	6	0	4.3	1.10	Agree	32.1	0.09	
	70.45 %	11.36 %	10.23 %	7.95%	0%						
	42	10	21	1	1	4.2	1.03	Agree	28.3	0.06	
	62%	11.36 %	23.86 %	1.14%	1.14%						
	44	8	11	7	5	3.9	1.14	Agree	30.2	0.07	
	64.77 %	9.09 %	12.50 %	7.98%	5.68%						
	8	2	13	20	32	2.3	1.68	disagree	18.3	0.12	
	9.09 %	2.27 %	17.05 %	23.86%	47.73 %						
Overall average					4	1.24	Agree			-	

The sample's answers to the third hypothesis—that UAE regulations have a beneficial effect on fostering social discipline and lowering social deviation—are displayed in Table (5). The sample's general agreement with the claims was shown by the overall arithmetic mean of 4.00 and the standard deviation of 1.24. The five paragraphs' support levels varied noticeably, suggesting that different people have different opinions about how effective certain laws or their instruments are in real-world situations.

The second paragraph, which discussed the function of the Cybercrime Law, had the highest arithmetic mean (4.3), indicating a high level of confidence in the law's capacity to curb digital deviance and regulate online activity. Given the growing prevalence of cybercrime and behavioral deviance across digital platforms, participants think that the law is a wise solution to digital concerns. Widespread recognition of the Code of Community Conduct's guiding and preventive, non-punitive function in fostering behavioral control through values and knowledge rather than punishment is demonstrated by the high response rate (average 4.2) for the third paragraph.

Approximately 71% of the sample had a "rejection or neutral" attitude toward the fifth paragraph, which discussed community trust in the law as a tool for maintaining social harmony. This paragraph, on the other hand, had the lowest mean (2.3). This drop is ascribed to either the belief that laws are not always applied fairly or completely, or to a potential discrepancy between the theoretical and practical aspects of the law. This indicator is important to take into account because it highlights the need to improve community trust and responsiveness by fostering a more open and interactive interaction between the judicial system and society.

All paragraphs (except from paragraph five) had significance values higher than 0.05, according to the chi-square test results, demonstrating that sample members' responses were uniform and that there were no statistically significant differences. This outcome can be explained by the widespread belief that UAE rules are efficient at reducing deviations, albeit to differing degrees. Nonetheless, the drop in the measure of public confidence in the law highlights how critical it is to improve institutional performance and increase public awareness campaigns and legal engagement.

According to the study's findings, the UAE's legal framework for social control is generally seen favorably, especially when it comes to the digital and behavioral domains. In order to better integrate the legislative language with the lived experiences of both citizens and residents, it also emphasizes the necessity of improving elements pertaining to implementation and community trust.

Discussion

The study's findings demonstrated the effectiveness of legislative intervention in the United Arab Emirates in fostering community discipline and lowering social deviance. While pointing out certain issues that still exist with the institutional influence or actual application of certain legal instruments, the findings of the three statistical tests of the hypotheses supported this overall trend.

The results showed a high degree of agreement among sample members regarding the first hypothesis, which addressed how well legislation can adapt to changes in deviance patterns. This suggests that the UAE legislators are performing well in updating their legislative tools to keep up with societal and technological transformations. The efficacy of the Gulf legislative system in general and the UAE in particular in addressing behavioral shifts and deviance through adaptable and flexible legal mechanisms is reinforced by studies like Al-Samri (2015) and Al-Hashemi (2021). Nonetheless, it was observed that there are still difficulties integrating technical and legal elements, which is consistent with Schneider's (2024) findings in his research on social control in the context of digital media.

Regarding the second hypothesis, which concentrated on the integration of institutional tasks and the clarity of legal texts, the findings showed broad consensus regarding the function of executive bodies and the clarity of legal formulations in controlling social conduct. The answers also showed that the importance of legal knowledge and training in improving the efficient application of laws was acknowledged. These findings support the claims made by Siegel (2021) and Cullen et al. (2022) about the significance of institutional integration in law enforcement and delinquency control. They also support the findings of Al-Sharif (2019) about the connection between societal legal compliance and executive body performance. One paragraph, however, revealed a drop in the assessment of the institutional role of certain non-security organizations, like prisons, suggesting a discrepancy in the institutions' indirect impact on social behavior. The report urges these institutions should be used more widely.

The results showed broad consensus regarding the efficacy of laws like the Cybercrime Law and the Community Code of Conduct in accomplishing the third hypothesis, which examined the influence of laws on lowering societal deviance and fostering discipline. Graham & Smith's (2019) research on the effect of digital legal regulation on contemporary behavioral deviations is in line with this. Awad's (2023) study, which examined societal perceptions of legal deterrence in the Arab context, also emphasized the results, which showed a decline in societal trust in certain legal tools in preserving social peace. Goode (2020) had already mentioned this point in his critique of the relationship between law and public trust.

Thus, it can be concluded that the study's overall findings demonstrate how well UAE law addresses societal deviance, especially when it comes to procedural and regulatory issues. Nonetheless, there is a constant need to improve institutional and awareness-raising initiatives and strengthen public confidence in the law as a tool for upholding social ideals rather than merely for punishment and deterrent.

Conclusion

With an emphasis on the degree to which legal provisions influence responsible societal behavior, this study aimed to investigate the efficacy of legislative intervention in curbing social deviance in the United Arab Emirates. The results, which are supported by empirical data acquired via structured questionnaires and analytical examination, demonstrate that legislative initiatives in the United Arab Emirates play a major role in controlling aberrant behavior and promoting public discipline.

The first premise was confirmed by the results, which showed that Emirati laws adapt to the changing nature of social deviance, particularly in the behavioral and digital spheres. The second hypothesis was likewise validated, confirming that the efficacy of legal enforcement is strengthened by the coherence of legislative texts and the collaboration of institutional players. Additionally, the third hypothesis showed that legislative frameworks, especially those that regulate social conduct and cybercrime, are beneficial in lowering deviant behaviors and raising public awareness.

Despite this generally favorable perspective, the survey highlighted certain areas where institutional coordination and community faith in legal tools require additional improvement, notably with regard to non-punitive social organizations. However, the study demonstrates that the UAE's legislative system, with its proactive revisions and integrated approach, provides a strong basis for tackling today's social issues and guaranteeing a law-abiding, orderly society.

Despite this generally favorable perspective, the survey highlighted certain areas where institutional coordination and community faith in legal tools require additional improvement, notably with regard to non-punitive social organizations. However, the study demonstrates that the UAE's legislative system, with its proactive revisions and integrated approach, provides a strong basis for tackling today's social issues and guaranteeing a law-abiding, orderly society.

Suggestion

Given the results of the study, it is advised that community legal awareness initiatives be improved, especially for young people, in order to promote a legal culture that helps to curb deviant conduct. Additionally, it suggests revising pertinent laws to improve their efficacy and flexibility by keeping up with new social and digital developments.

In order to guarantee the integrated and efficient implementation of laws governing community behavior and to minimize duplication and inconsistent application, the study highlights the significance of improving coordination between legislative, executive, and judicial agencies. As a supplementary element of legislative initiatives, it also suggests energizing the role of educational and penal institutions in preventative and behavioral awareness.

In order to equip law enforcement officers to deal with contemporary deviance, especially in the digital sphere, the study suggests extending their current training programs. In order to improve community trust in the law and strike a balance between punishment and reform, it also suggests implementing restorative justice techniques in addition to legal deterrence.

The study concludes by highlighting the necessity of creating regular evaluation systems that gauge how laws affect community behavior and offer input that informs future legal texts and pertinent public policies.

References

First: Books

1. Abu Alayan, B. M. (2016). *Social Deviance and Crime (Sociology of Crime)*. Amman: iBooks Publishing.
2. Akers, R. L. (2017). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application* (7th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
3. Al Bustani, J. A. (2020). *Penal Reform and Rehabilitation: A Study in Arab Legislation*. Beirut: Dar Al Nahar.
4. Al Samri, A. (2015). *Legal Sociology and Social Control*. Damascus: Dar Al Maseera.
5. Al Sharif, A. H. (2019). *The Role of Law in Regulating Societal Behavior: An Analytical Study of Saudi Arabia*. Jeddah: Dar Al Ibtikar.

6. Becker, H. S. (2018). *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* (rev. ed.). New York, NY: Free Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1086/223626>
amazon.com+1onlinelibrary.wiley.com+1sk.sagepub.com+7digitalcommons.odu.edu+7opo.iisj.net+7newyorker.com+10journals.uchicago.edu+10en.wikipedia.org+10
7. Calhoun, T. C., & Conyers, A. (2020). *Deviance Today* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
8. Clinard, M. B., & Meier, R. F. (2015). *Sociology of Deviant Behavior* (15th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
9. Cullen, F. T., Wright, J. P., & Chamlin, M. B. (2022). *Social Deviance* (8th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.
10. Goode, E. (2020). *Deviant Behavior* (12th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
11. Graham, R., & Smith, S. K. (2019). *Cybercrime and Digital Deviance*. London: Routledge.
12. Inderbitzin, M. L., Bates, K. A., & Gainey, R. R. (2020). *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective* (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
13. Merton, R. K. (2021). *Social Theory and Social Structure* (rev. ed.). New York, NY: Free Press.
14. Naif Arab University for Security Sciences. (2024). *Crime, Deviance, and Society: An Introduction to the Sociology of Crime*. Riyadh: Scientific Publishing Center.
15. Schneider, C. J. (2024). *Policing and Social Media: Social Control in an Era of Digital Media* (2nd ed.). Lexington, KY: Lexington Books.
16. Siegel, L. J. (2021). *Criminology: The Core* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
17. Stuart, F. (2020). *Ballad of the Bullet: Gangs, Drill Music, and the Power of Online Infamy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Second: Journal Articles and Academic Theses

1. Al Hashimi, M. H. (2021). Factors of deviance in society, its manifestations, and treatment in light of Islamic Sharia. *Al Huda Journal*, (223).
2. Awad, M. A. (2023). *Behavioral Deviance in Arab Societies: Causes and Remedies*. Baghdad: Center for Community Studies.
3. Al Najdawi, M. H., Shwede, F., Abdelmoghies, M. M., Kitana, A., & Ali, A. (2024). Applying artificial intelligence in predicting educational excellence in higher education institutions: A case study in Jordanian universities. *Edelweiss Appl Sci Technol*, 8(6), 7273-7289.
4. Al Najdawi, M. H., & Raafat, R. (2025). Legal Protection of Foreign Investments under the Rules of International Law: A Comparative Study between the United Arab Emirates and Jordan. *Journal of Posthumanism*, 5(5), 2623-2640.
5. Al-Najdawi, M. H. Y. (2022). The Role of the Legislative and Legal Framework in Promoting Scientific Research in the Arab World between Current Reality and Future Prospects.(A Case Study, United Arab Emirates). *Baltic Journal of Law & Politics*, 15(3), 2069-2087.
6. AlNajdawi, M. H., Raafat, R., Aburayya, A., & Al Ghurabli, Z. (2025). Enhancing logistical efficiency in public institutions through AI: A managerial framework for regulatory and technological integration. *International Journal of Industrial Engineering*, 36(3), 81-92.
7. AlNajdawi, M. H., AlDabbagh, T., Raafat, R., & Aburayya, A. (2025). The Role of Administrative Governance in Enhancing Integrity and Transparency and Reducing Administrative Corruption in Public Institutions: An Analytical Study. *International Journal of Industrial Engineering*, 36(3), 93-106.
8. Khalil, S. A. (2021). *Criminal Policy and Combating Deviance in Arab Society*. Cairo: Dar Al Fikr Al Qanuni.
9. Supervisory Body for University Theses. (2022). *Legislative Deviance and Its Impact on the Principle of Legitimacy* [Master's thesis, Middle East University].
10. Zakaria, N. M. (2022). *Social Control and Its Role in Preventing Deviance*. Amman: Dar Wael for Publishing.