

Introduction

- Shoplifting means taking any form of good from a retail establishment without making a form of any payment or having no intention to pay. Shoplifting is associated with theft, as it involves an intentional motive to take a merchandise, with the focus of depriving the owner. Current data has shown that shoplifting in the UK has risen from 3.7 million to 20.4 million, in the past year.
- On to my research, I have come across 3 kinds of shoplifting. One being impulse shoplifting, also known as Kleptomania, which is a mental health condition where the person is unable to stop themselves from stealing, some commit to stealing to fulfil their daily items they need. Another being amateur shoplifting, which tends to be the younger generation, as they want to impress their friends or peer group by stealing, due to it being a sense of being cool. With the stolen goods they either sell the products or give them away to peers. Lastly, are professional shoplifters, of course that's what they do for a living, and who have the intention to steal and resell the item they have stolen, normally being high value priced items. The rise of shoplifting does not come from one reasoning, there are many distinct factors such as financial reasons, to addictions, depression, anxiety and even for some the excitement of stealing. Modern factors such as social media also has had an influence on the younger generation due to immoral trends being partaken on.
- The lack of having transferable skills can result in a difficulty finding a paid employment job. As well as material deprivation, which has been a common aspect, in terms of recent situations, the after maths of COVID 19 has resulted in a lack of financial stability as most people were not earning their full salary resulting in individuals being stressed.
- COVID 19 has caused a percentage of individuals to lack the income of paying certain things such as bills, or even for some complementary goods. The result of turning to theft can be from reasons such as simply having no choice and these measures are taking simply to survive, or not having enough disposable income, to purchase external goods that are for personal means. In addition to this, the rise in inflation has an impact to the increase of theft, even though wages are occasionally increased, prices of goods and services increase to resulting in no real change of disposable income.

- As well as individual shoplifting, group shoplifting is also an issue, where more than one person can help aid an attempt of a robbery. This can be from one person distracting the workers, whilst the other personnel or group of people obtain the theft. There may be a specific person on watch duty who will communicate to the others if they have been caught or are being followed.
- The rise of shoplifting does not come from one reasoning, there are many varied factors such as financial reasons, to addictions, depression, anxiety and even for some the excitement of stealing. Modern factors such as social media also has an influence. This is because trends can become viral quickly, resulting a negative influence especially towards the younger generations as there is now a difficulty to hide these immoral behaviours away from younger generation.
- Although there is not specifically one reason to why recently shoplifting has skyrocketed, but societal influences and issues are all reasons that contribute to this. For the issue to be tackled down, it is critical that all reasons to why shoplifting occurs is investigated and solutions to how this can be resolved can then be implemented, as each country may have its own reasonings to why individuals shoplift.

References

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