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WHITE COLLAR CRIME AND DEVIANCE

AUTHORED BY - MUKESH KUMAR YADAV

Abstract

"White Collar Crime and Deviance" examines the complex relationship that exists between deviant conduct and white-collar crime within privileged social classes. In order to provide insight on the intricate dynamics and societal ramifications of privilege class deviance and white-collar crime, this paper explores their historical roots, theoretical stances, and empirical manifestations. The study investigates the intersections of privilege, power, and criminal behaviour in business, political, and social contexts using case studies and multidisciplinary research. It investigates how affluent people use their advantages in society, the economy, and institutions to commit immoral and illegal acts that erode social cohesion and sustain systemic injustices. In order to address white-collar crime and privilege class deviance, the study also examines the function of regulatory frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and accountability measures, outlining the prospects and problems for reform. This study adds to a deeper knowledge of the complexity inherent in contemporary criminology by critically investigating the relationship between privilege class deviance and white-collar crime. It also advocates for proactive ways to improve transparency, accountability, and equity in society.

WHITE COLLAR CRIME AND DEVIANCE

In the realm of criminology and sociology, the study of crime has historically been associated with marginalized and economically disadvantaged populations. However, the landscape of criminal behaviour extends far beyond street crime and encompasses a wide array of illicit activities perpetrated by individuals and entities occupying positions of privilege and power. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as "white-collar crime," represents a significant yet often overlooked aspect of criminality within contemporary societies. Moreover, within the context of white-collar crime, the concept of privilege class deviance emerges as a critical area of inquiry, shedding light on the intersection of socio-economic advantage and deviant behaviour.

A variety of crimes perpetrated by persons or groups in positions of trust or authority, typically in professional or commercial contexts, and motivated by financial gain are collectively known

similar to white-collar crimes. Sociologist Edwin Sutherland coined the term "white-collar crime" in the late 1930s to refer to crimes committed by people in positions of power and by people with high social status while they were working.¹ Over time, the concept has evolved to include a diverse array of offenses such as fraud, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, and corporate misconduct. These crimes are characterized by their complexity, sophistication, and often elusive nature, posing significant challenges to law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

Simultaneously, the notion of privilege class deviance highlights the reality that criminal behaviour is not confined to the margins of society but can also be found among those occupying positions of privilege and social status. Privilege class deviance refers to the violation of societal norms and expectations by individuals or groups who benefit from systemic advantages and access to resources. Unlike conventional depictions of criminality, which often focus on the actions of marginalized individuals, privilege class deviance underscores the role of power, wealth, and social capital in shaping deviant behaviour.

The intersection of white-collar crime and privilege class deviance presents a complex and multifaceted phenomenon with far-reaching implications for individuals, organizations, and society at large. On one hand, white-collar crime poses significant economic and social costs, undermining trust in institutions, eroding public confidence, and perpetuating inequality.² On the other hand, privilege class deviance challenges conventional notions of criminality, prompting critical reflections on the dynamics of power, privilege, and justice within contemporary societies.

The main causes of the rise in white-collar crime in India include rivalry, greed, and a lack of suitable regulations to discourage such crimes. For a large segment of the population, poverty is a major cause of both financial and physical deprivation. As a result, poverty can also contribute to white collar crime since it might drive people to commit these crimes in order to satisfy their desires. Criminals are now more inclined to commit crimes and hide everywhere thanks to the development of the internet and the digital world, where large transactions can be completed in a matter of seconds and communication with people worldwide can be established in a matter of minutes. Furthermore, because of legislative loopholes, the legal system is unable to hold white-collar crime perpetrators accountable after they are captured.

¹ Common White Collar Crime, <https://www.nu.edu/blog/common-white-collar-crimes/>

² White Collar Crime: Impact, Prevention and Example; <https://www.tookitaki.com/glossary/white-collar-crime>

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The research issue seeks to investigate the relationship between socio-economic privilege and white-collar crime, addressing the question of whether individuals from higher social classes are more likely to engage in criminal activities compared to those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. By exploring the intersection of privilege class deviance and white-collar crime, the research aims to identify the underlying mechanisms driving criminal behaviour within privileged social circles and to assess the implications for social inequality and justice.

WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

White-collar crime, a term coined by sociologist Edwin Sutherland in his seminal work "White Collar Crime" published in 1949, refers to financial crimes that are non-violent and carried out by people or organizations in positions of power. Sutherland's groundbreaking research challenged traditional notions of crime, shifting the focus from street-level offenses to the illicit activities of those in respectable occupations.

The origins of white-collar crime can be traced back to the rapid industrialization and urbanization of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As society underwent profound economic transformations, new opportunities for exploitation and fraud emerged within the burgeoning corporate and financial sectors. The rise of large-scale enterprises, accompanied by lax regulation and oversight, created fertile ground for unethical conduct and fraudulent practices³.

One of the earliest documented cases of white-collar crime dates back to the 18th century, with the South Sea Bubble scandal in Britain. This notorious financial scheme, perpetrated by the South Sea Company, involved speculation and market manipulation, leading to widespread financial ruin for investors. In a similar vein, the Ponzi scheme, which got its name from Charles Ponzi, the man behind an investment scam in the early 20th century, represents the historical persistence of the appeal of white-collar crime.

The 20th century witnessed a proliferation of white-collar offenses, spurred by advancements in technology, globalization, and the increasingly complex nature of modern business practices. High-profile scandals such as the Enron scandal in 2001 and the global financial crisis of 2008

³White-Collar crime: History and its evolution. (2024, February 26). Accessed from <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/finance/white-collar-crime/>

exposed the pervasive nature of white-collar crime and its devastating impact on economies and societies worldwide.

Throughout history, efforts to combat white-collar crime have evolved in tandem with the changing nature of criminal activity. Legislative measures such as the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 in the United States, aimed at curbing monopolistic practices, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, enacted in response to corporate accounting scandals, represent significant milestones in the ongoing struggle against white-collar crime⁴.

The white-collar crime has deep roots in the economic and social transformations of modern society. From its origins in the industrial era to its contemporary manifestations in the digital age, white-collar crime continues to pose formidable challenges to regulatory authorities, law enforcement agencies, and policymakers. By understanding its historical evolution and underlying dynamics, society can better equip itself to prevent, detect, and prosecute white-collar offenders, thereby safeguarding the integrity of financial markets and protecting the public interest.

WHITE COLLAR CRIME CASES

2G Spectrum Scam (2008)

The 2G spectrum allocation was a process by which the Indian government granted licenses to telecom companies to operate in specific frequency bands. The scam involved irregularities in the allocation of 2G spectrum licenses and subsequent resale of licenses at manipulated prices, causing significant losses to the exchequer. It was alleged that then-Telecom Minister A. Raja and other officials colluded with telecom companies to rig the allocation process, favoring certain companies over others. The scam exposed instances of underpricing and arbitrary allocation of spectrum, resulting in estimated losses of up to Rs. 1.76 trillion according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report. The scam came to light following a series of investigative reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was constituted to investigate the matter, leading to the arrest and prosecution of several high-profile individuals, including A. Raja and corporate executives. The legal proceedings spanned several years, with multiple cases filed in various

⁴ Kam C Wong, From White-Collar Crime to Organizational Crime: An Intellectual History, Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law, (March 5, 2024, 1:36 PM), <http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/MurUEJL/2005/14.html#n7>.

courts, including the Supreme Court of India and special CBI courts.⁵ Though In 2017, Special Court (CBI) acquitted several accused of 2G Scam including the then Telecom Minister A. Raja, Kanimozzhi and others on the grounds that Prosecution failed to prove charges against all the accused persons. After 7 years, in March 2024 Delhi High Court admits the appeal against acquittal of 2G scam accused.⁶

Satyam Scandal (2009):

Involved one of the largest corporate accounting frauds in India. Satyam Computer Services' founder and chairman, Ramalinga Raju, admitted to creating assets worth over \$1 billion and exaggerating the company's profitability. Investor trust was damaged as a result of the controversy, legal proceedings against Raju and other top executives, and the eventual takeover of Satyam by Tech Mahindra.⁷

Harshad Mehta Scam (1992):

Harshad Mehta, a stockbroker, manipulated the stock market by exploiting loopholes in the banking system. He engaged in the practice of "circular trading" and used forged bank receipts to secure massive loans from banks. The scam exposed systemic flaws in India's banking and financial regulatory framework, leading to reforms in the securities market and banking sector.⁸

Vijay Mallya - Kingfisher Airlines Debacle (2012):

Former Kingfisher Airlines chairman Vijay Mallya was accused of financial irregularities and loan defaults totalling thousands of billions. Mallya was accused of diverting funds from the airline for personal use and failing to repay loans taken from various banks. The case garnered widespread attention due to Mallya's extravagant lifestyle and subsequent legal battles with Indian authorities over his extradition from the United Kingdom.⁹

Nirav Modi - Punjab National Bank Fraud (2018):

The millionaire jeweler Nirav Modi and his businesses were charged with stealing more than \$2

⁵ <https://www.indiatoday.in/fyi/story/what-is-2g-scam-in-india-2g-scam-verdict-upa-a-raja-cbi-judge-op-saini-verdict-things-to-know-1113444-2017-12-21>; Accessed on March 23, 2024)

⁶ Delhi HC allows CBI to challenge A. Raja's acquittal; (accessed on March 23, 2024)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/delhi-hc-allows-cbi-to-challenge-a-rajas-acquittal-in-2g-spectrum>

⁷ Case Study of Satyam Scandal; <https://blog.iplayers.in/case-study-satyam-fraud-case/>

⁸ The Harshad Mehta Scam, <https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/harshad-mehta-securities-scam-india-legacy-of-bank-fraud-1733374-2020-10-20>

⁹ Vijay Mallaya Scam: Biggest Corporate Scam in Indian Histroy <https://www.finowings.com/Corporate-Scams/vijay-mallya-scam>

billion from Punjab National Bank (PNB). In order to secure credit from Indian bank branches abroad, false letters of undertaking (LoUs) were issued as part of the scheme. The case exposed weaknesses in the banking system's risk management practices and led to increased scrutiny of corporate governance standards.

Saradha Group Chit Fund Scam (2013):

The Saradha Group, a conglomerate operating chit fund schemes, collapsed, leaving thousands of investors defrauded of their savings. Sudipta Sen and other group promoters were charged with operating a Ponzi scheme, in which money from new investors was used to pay returns to previous ones. The scam had significant political ramifications, implicating several influential figures and leading to public outcry and protests in affected regions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVIANCE IN VARIOUS PROFESSION

Professional deviance refers to behaviour that violates professional norms, standards, or ethical codes within a specific occupation or profession. It encompasses actions or conduct that deviate from the accepted norms of behaviour expected within a particular professional context.¹⁰ It refers to behavior that departs from the social norm within a professional context. In the legal profession, it can manifest as white-collar crime, a term coined by American sociologist E.H. Sutherland. White-collar crime is non-violent, committed by individuals of high social status in their profession, with the motive of illegal monetary gain. Though professionals involved in wrong practice in almost every profession like Legal, Medical, Journalism, Education, Bureaucracy, etc.

THEORIES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVIANCE

Strain Theory: Robert K. Merton's strain theory states that people may act in ways that are considered abnormal when they feel pressured to fulfil socially acceptable objectives, like achievement or prestige, despite having little possibilities to do so. In the context of professional deviance, individuals within certain professions may experience strain due to factors such as performance targets, financial incentives, workplace stressors, or organizational constraints, leading them to engage in unethical behaviour to alleviate this strain¹¹.

¹⁰ Vaughn, M. S. (1983). Uncoupling coercive sanctions from the class of deviants: A research note. *Criminology*, 21(2), 273-281.

¹¹ Becker, H. S. (1963). *Outsiders: Studies in the sociology of deviance*. Free Press.

Differential Association Theory: The differential association theory, formulated by Edwin Sutherland, posits that individuals learn deviant behaviour through interactions with others who endorse or engage in such behaviour. In the context of professional deviance, professionals may be influenced by the norms and values prevalent within their professional networks or peer groups. If they associate with colleagues or superiors who condone or normalize unethical practices, they may be more likely to engage in similar behaviour themselves.

Social Learning Theory: Building upon the principles of the differential association theory, the social learning theory suggests that individuals acquire and imitate behavior by observing the actions of others and the consequences of those actions. In the context of professional deviance, professionals may observe and learn from the deviant behavior of their peers or superiors, leading them to replicate such behaviour in similar circumstances. Weak regulatory oversight or lax enforcement of ethical standards within professional settings may further facilitate the learning and normalization of professional deviance.

Labelling Theory: The labelling theory proposes that individuals may engage in deviant behaviour as a response to the negative labels or stigmatization imposed upon them by society or their peers. In the context of professional deviance, professionals who perceive themselves as unfairly judged or stigmatized by their colleagues or superiors may be more inclined to engage in deviant behaviour as a means of coping with or resisting these negative labels.

LEGAL PROFESSION

In the legal profession, professional deviance may involve unethical conduct, such as bribery, fraud, conflicts of interest, or violations of client confidentiality. The differential association theory proposes that lawyers may engage in deviant behavior if they associate with peers who endorse or normalize unethical practices¹². Moreover, the rational choice theory suggests that lawyers may engage in professional deviance if they perceive the benefits of such behavior to outweigh the risks of detection or punishment. It refers to actions or behaviors by legal practitioners that violate ethical standards, legal norms, or professional codes of conduct. Such deviance can undermine the integrity of the legal system and erode public trust in the profession. The most recent example of professional misconduct in India occurred during a nationwide strike that attorneys staged to oppose the Law Commission's proposals to change the Advocates Act,

¹² Ohlin, L. E., and R. A. Cloward (1960). Opportunity and Delinquency: A Theory of Delinquent Gangs. Press Free.

1961, which was supported by the Bar Council of India, the strikers were protesting what they saw as an attempt to limit the independence of the organisation.¹³

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Professional deviance in the medical profession refers to actions or behaviors that contravene ethical standards, codes of conduct, or accepted norms within the healthcare sector. In India, where the healthcare system grapples with numerous challenges, instances of professional deviance can have significant repercussions for patient care, public trust, and the integrity of the medical profession.

Unnecessary Medical Procedures: One form of professional deviance in the Indian medical profession involves the performance of unnecessary medical procedures or interventions.¹⁴

Prescription Abuse and Overmedication: Another manifestation of professional deviance is the abuse of prescription practices and overmedication. Some healthcare practitioners may engage in the indiscriminate prescribing of medications, including antibiotics and psychotropic drugs, without adequate clinical justification.¹⁵

Patient Exploitation and Fraudulent Practices: Instances of patient exploitation and fraudulent practices are also prevalent in the Indian medical profession. This may involve healthcare providers overcharging patients for services, recommending unnecessary tests or treatments, or engaging in fraudulent billing practices. Such behavior not only compromises patient trust but also undermines the reputation and credibility of the medical profession as a whole.

Negligence and Medical Errors: Negligence and medical errors represent another form of professional deviance that can have grave consequences for patient safety and well-being. Instances of medical negligence, including surgical errors, misdiagnosis, and medication errors, may occur due to factors such as inadequate training, lack of supervision, or systemic deficiencies within healthcare facilities.

¹³ Lawyer's deviance - taking law in their own hands?; journal on contemporary issues of law volume 3 issue 6

¹⁴ Bhattacharya, S., & Banerjee, P. (2017). Unwanted Cesarean Sections in India: Need for Prudent Practice Guidelines. *Journal of South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 9(3), 168-171.

¹⁵ Patel, I., Chotai, N., Thakor, P., Sharma, D., & Patel, N. (2015). Antibiotic Prescribing Pattern among Healthcare Workers in the Paediatric A tertiary care hospital's department. *Clinical and Diagnostic Research Journal*, 9(5), FC21-FC23.

Conflict of Interest and Ethical Dilemmas: Finally, conflict of interest and ethical dilemmas pose significant challenges to professional integrity within the Indian medical profession. Healthcare professionals may have conflicts of interest that make it difficult for them to put patients' needs first due to monetary rewards, connections within the industry, or interpersonal relationships.

MEDIA PROFESSIONAL

Professional deviance within the media profession refers to actions or behaviors that contravene ethical standards, norms, or professional guidelines within the field of journalism, broadcasting, or digital media. This phenomenon encompasses a range of unethical conduct, including but not limited to fabrication of news stories, plagiarism, biased reporting, conflict of interest, and invasion of privacy.

Fabrication and Sensationalism: One form of professional deviance in the Indian media involves the fabrication or sensationalization of news stories for the purpose of garnering attention or increasing viewership.

Bias and Partisan Reporting: Professional deviance in the form of bias or partisan reporting occurs when media professionals exhibit favouritism towards certain individuals, organizations, or political ideologies in their news coverage.¹⁶

Regulatory Challenges and Accountability Mechanisms: Addressing professional deviance in the Indian media profession requires robust regulatory frameworks and accountability mechanisms to uphold ethical standards and maintain media integrity. The Press Council of India (PCI) and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) play crucial roles in setting ethical guidelines and adjudicating complaints of professional misconduct within the media industry.¹⁷

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

White collar crimes not only put victims through financial hardship, but they may also have a big impact on the country's economy. The stability and governance of the country are seriously jeopardized by economic crimes like money laundering, financial scams, bribery, and

¹⁶ Dhavan, R. (2017). Media Bias in India: A Study of the Indian English Press. *International Journal of Media Studies*, 5(2), 87-101.

¹⁷ Press Council of India. (2020). *Press Council of India: Norms of Journalistic Conduct*. New Delhi: Press Council of India.

counterfeiting of currency, among others. The following table enumerates different economic offenses, relevant legal statutes, and law enforcement agencies in India:

Sl.	Name of Legislation/Act	Enforcement Authority	Name of the offence
1.	Import & Export (Control) Act, 1947	Directorate General of Foreign Trade/ CBI ¹⁸	Illegal Foreign Trade
2.	Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988	State/Anti-Corruption Bureau /Vigilance Bureau/ CBI	Corruption and Bribery of Public Servants
3.	Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973	Directorate of Enforcement	Money Laundering
4.	Customs Act 1962 / COFEPOSA ¹⁹ , 1974	Collectors of Customs	Illegal Trafficking in Contraband Goods (Smuggling)
5.	Indian Penal Code, 1860	State Police/ CBI	Land Hijacking/Real Estate Fraud, Banking Fraud, Insurance Fraud
6.	Banking Regulation Act, 1949	CBI	Fraudulent Bankruptcy

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The institutional framework for addressing white-collar crime in India consists of a network of government agencies, regulatory bodies, and specialized courts. These institutions are responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and regulating white-collar offenses, as well as ensuring

¹⁸ Central Bureau of Investigation

¹⁹ Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

compliance with financial and economic laws.²⁰ The key components of the institutional framework for tackling white-collar crime in India include the following:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the top investigative body in India, handling cases involving financial fraud, economic offenses, and corruption, among other things. White-collar crime is the focus of the CBI's economic offenses wings and special crime branches. It is run by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions' Department of Personnel and Training.

Enforcement Directorate (ED): The ED is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. It investigates money laundering offenses, which often accompany white-collar crimes. The ED plays a crucial role in identifying and confiscating assets acquired through illegal means.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI): The RBI is India's central banking institution responsible for regulating the country's financial sector. It plays a significant role in preventing financial crimes by enforcing compliance with banking and financial regulations.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the body in charge of overseeing the capital markets and securities industry in India. It controls different financial products, middlemen, and stock exchanges. SEBI is instrumental in ensuring transparency and investor protection in the financial sector.

Corporate Affairs Ministry: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs plays a key role in regulating corporate entities and companies operating in India. It enforces company law, investigates corporate misconduct, and ensures compliance with corporate governance standards.²¹

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO): The Ministry of Corporate Affairs oversees this specialist fraud investigation organization. It looks into corporate malfeasance and intricate financial crimes with an emphasis on safeguarding investor interests. The central organization in India in charge of gathering, processing, evaluating, and sharing data about questionable financial activities is the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND). It is

²⁰ Centre Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and criminal justice, jodhpur. Accessed from <https://policeuniversity.ac.in/centers.php?id=4>

²¹ Fraud Triangle, *Corporate Finance Institute*, Accessed from corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/accounting/fraud-triangle/.

essential to the fight against money laundering.

Specialized Courts: India has established specialized courts to handle white-collar crime cases, often referred to as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) courts or economic offenses courts. These courts are designated to expedite the trial process and provide judges with expertise in financial and economic matters.

State Police Economic Offenses Wings: Many states in India have established specialized economic offenses wings within their police departments to investigate financial and economic crimes at the state level²².

Forensic Labs and Cybercrime Cells: As white-collar crimes increasingly involve digital elements, various states in India have established forensic laboratories and cybercrime cells with expertise in digital forensics.

International Cooperation: India actively cooperates with international agencies, such as INTERPOL and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to combat transnational white-collar crime and enhance information sharing. **Legislative Framework:** The legal framework for white-collar crime is primarily governed by the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which includes provisions related to fraud, cheating, and other financial offenses. In addition, some legislation, such as the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) of 2002, are crucial in reducing white-collar crime.

This institutional framework reflects India's commitment to addressing white-collar crime comprehensively and efficiently. However, challenges related to legal delays, bureaucratic hurdles, and the need for specialized judges and forensic experts persist, necessitating ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the framework.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

white-collar crime is a complex issue with broad economic and social repercussions. Even while the nation has made progress in creating a legal and judicial system to deal with these kinds of

²² A study on White Collar crimes; <https://lexforti.com/legal-news/white-collar-crimes/> (last accessed September 10, 2023)

crimes, issues including bureaucratic roadblocks, lengthy legal proceedings, and intricate investigations still exist. India's response to white-collar crime is still developing; new laws are being introduced, specialized cells are being established, international collaboration is being cultivated, and asset recovery is becoming a more important focus. In the face of evolving financial and cybercrimes, India must continue to confront these issues, improve the effectiveness of its legal and judicial systems, and acquire the know-how required to prosecute white-collar criminals. Securing justice and preserving faith in the country's banking and judicial systems relies on a more efficient and effective response to white-collar crime.

The complex phenomena of privilege class deviance and white-collar crime converge at the intersection of social rank, wealth, and power. Throughout history, people from privileged backgrounds have abused their advantages in terms of money, social standing, and institutions to commit a variety of immoral and illegal acts, frequently with disastrous results for the people involved, the organizations they work for, and society at large.

White-collar criminals have caused significant financial losses, eroded public trust, and increased social inequality by abusing regulatory gaps, manipulating markets, and prioritizing personal gain over ethical considerations. Their crimes range from corporate fraud to financial misbehaviour.

Similar to privilege class deviance, which highlights the fact that deviant behaviour is not limited to underprivileged or marginalized groups, privilege class deviance goes beyond traditional conceptions of criminality. Those from affluent socioeconomic classes may also transgress social norms and expectations, using their financial standing as a shield against punishment or as a means of avoiding detection. Privilege class misbehaviour, such as insider trading on Wall Street or nepotism in prestigious educational institutions, sustains structural inequality and a climate of impunity among the powerful and wealthy. The intricate relationship between privilege class deviance and white-collar crime necessitates a multidimensional strategy that includes socioeconomic, legal, and regulatory actions. To dissuade and hold white-collar offenders accountable for their activities, it is imperative to fortify enforcement tools, improve transparency, and foster ethical corporate governance. To address privilege class deviance and advance social justice, it is also essential to challenge ingrained systems of privilege, promote social responsibility, and cultivate an ethical leadership culture.

Society can endeavour to create a more equitable and accountable framework that preserves the

rule of law, safeguards the interests of all stakeholders, and promotes a culture of integrity and trust in institutions by realizing the interconnectedness of privilege class deviance and white-collar crime. We can only advance the ideals of justice, equity, and fairness for all by uniting in our joint efforts to confront the epidemic of privilege class deviance and white-collar criminality.

