Taboos & Norms

Social Norms

What is a Social Norm?

Social Norm - Shared standards or expectations of **acceptable** behavior by a group or culture.

These norms can be:

1) Unofficial rules - the standard created by the norm does NOT break any legal rules.

2) Official Rules - the norm or expectation of the culture agrees with the legal code. Violating would break the law and the societal expectation.

What is a taboo?

Taboo - a social or religious custom prohibiting or forbidding discussion of a particular practice or forbidding association of a particular person, place, or thing.

Taboos are norms that reflect the society in which they function

Types of Taboos

Social Taboos - An agreed upon action or subject that is deemed to be off limits or frowned upon in society.

Religious Taboos - Agreed upon actions or subject matter that is deemed to be off limits by one's religion. Religious taboos in Catholicism stem from the Bible, Jesus, and the Word of GOD.

Are taboos the same in all countries?

NO!!!

Taboos are only relevant in their own contexts and cultures.

What are some Taboos in western society?