

## CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

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### INTRODUCTION

Society is the building block of an individual. A person is formed as per his surroundings. When we deal with crimes, we have always looked at the statistical figures, surveys of different institutions, comparison with different countries, and percentage of crimes unreported, measures by the government, strict laws and new amendments. We have never gone beyond this to actually question why crimes occur in the world. First, approach is to blame our own self for the crimes we become a part of unknowingly. We are in this era of evolving from one definition to another definition, finding out new terms for new crimes, upgrading our laws to bringing amendments and we think we have changed, but the perception of looking towards a problem has not changed.

The defences available in-front of us are considered as normal human behaviour like the emotion of {Aggression, Greed, Lust, Ego, Jealousy}. This qualities in extreme nature led to perform such grievous acts which they don't hold themselves responsible for. At the time, when someone is in verge of committing such crime, he/she does not think about the consequences of the act. There comes our attention that our justice system has failed in dealing with criminals. Until and unless someone is realised of his act leading to create havoc in the society, change could not be brought.

### DEVELOPMENTAL EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME

Delinquent development depends on the study of behaviour which includes relationship with peers, size of family, parental behaviour, school performance, employment, sexual history, criminal history. These all factors contribute in the initial phase of criminal behaviour and his development.

Criminal behaviour till 20 years of age is in spike which leads to **persistence** i.e., committing crime again and again whereas **desistance** leads to commit crime at younger age and stop after they get older. So, factors important to understand that childhood plays a major role in impacting upon early offending. If a person in family is formerly convicted of crime there are high chances of another person committing a crime.

## **SOCIAL COGNITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

They determine a very significant role in pre-conceived conceptions related to crime. Social-Cognitive explanation of crime means that how we perceive ourselves and others and how we determine behavioural response to social problems. We can prevent this by “Cognitive Behavioural training” which addresses impulsive nature of the criminals. Enrolling children at a younger age in pre- school intellectual enrichment training. So, social behaviours are also determined as per the social inequalities which is person’s attitude and social status.

## **DOES POVERTY LAEDS TO CRIME?**

It could be seen as a contributing factor because of the unequal distribution of wealth where we could identify one section of people receiving whole wealth and other group of people receives nothing. So, wealth inequality is related to the visible manifestation which means how people showcase money. Comparison of one’s wealth with others is the reason of spike in violent crimes. Social beliefs equate success in monetary form which is necessarily adopted as a social goal to be fulfilled by every individual.

## **CRIME**

[WRONG ACT + WRONG INTENTION = CRIME]

Crime involves two basic components which are **ACTUS REUS** and **MENS REA**. Present of one component is held mandatory and the act is given more importance than the purpose behind the act. And, hence the important factor of the crime which is guilty mind or intention is

considered as an exception and not mandatory. Criminal intention needs to get more attention and hence be considered more important than the act.

Law acts as a remedy when crime has already taken place. If the criminal does not believe that his actions were wrong, would justice be served? The concern related to any criminal case rises when crime takes place and loses its momentum within some days.

Speedy trial should take place, so justice will not be denied. One best solution we could figure out is fixing tenure for a particular case but in India this is also led to the judicial discretion and for that one such solution could be shifting attention towards reasonable evidence and proper investigation.

## **EFFECTS OF PRISON ON THE CRIMINALS**

We need to understand the adverse impacts of prison on a criminal. The image of prison resembles with fear. The psychological factors focus on the trait of fear and hatred spread among jailers. Thus, obligatory suppression of their instinctive nature in prison promotes to criminal activity afterwards. The relief that is obtained through punishment is an additional factor considering it as a very serious drawback. The artificial atmosphere, no interaction with social life, mental sufferings, unconscious guilt etc. turns out to be having more adverse impact on their normal life afterwards.

So, to have understanding of their act we need to have psychotherapist in every prison so that the prisoner could have temporary relief for the things they couldn't control or they don't hold themselves responsible for. The role played by criminal psychologist would help in modification of offender behaviour, research-based evidence to support facts and responding to the needs of changing prisoners and staff.

## **CONCLUSION**

It's very important to understand the criminal behaviour as well as society's response towards criminals. A criminal is influenced by many unconscious factors. One way could be adopting

a rational approach in determining crime and ensuring their right to life with dignity. Prevention of crime and fair treatment to criminals must derive a sensational appeal. The history of penal methods has shown that abolition of brutal punishment in the past has not led to increase in the rate of crimes.

In my view, I believe that the chief significance of punishment lies in its psychological value. Just seeking punishment would not let crimes go away. Society's behaviour towards criminals holds a remarkable significance for those parents who brought up their child to hostile, difficult and unsatisfactory and hence turning themselves to criminals. Crime exists since so long but the situation today demands some strict behavioural changes and proper system to deal with such serious offences that impacts every individual's life on a daily basis. The rate of crime is more increasing below 20 years of age which is a serious concern as the youth of the country determines the future of a country. So, the pride of the country depends on us and let us make a stand that we will not contribute in this rape culture in any manner. These are the five vices (ANGER, GREED, LUST, EGO, JEALOUSY) which is making huge impact in the society and the solution is by reciprocating the qualities to peace, love, happiness, blissfulness and knowledge to contribute towards the main purpose of life to save humanity.