

Q: Write a critical note on increasing importance of criminology in Pakistan. Also discuss the historical development of criminology as a scientific discipline.

Understanding Criminology

According to Webster: Criminology is the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon or of criminals and their behaviors and family conditions.

Definition of Criminology in the Views of Different Scholars

According to Edwin Sutherland:

Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon.

It includes within its scope the process of making laws, breaking laws and reacting towards breaking of law.

According to Donald Cressey: The scientific approach to study criminal behavior is called

Criminology.

Historical Development of Criminology as a Scientific Discipline

Origin of the term Criminology:

- The term "Criminology" was coined by an Italian jurist and criminologist Raffaele Garofalo (1832-1934), in 1885. Raffaele was student of Cesare Lombroso (father of modern criminology).
- A french physician Paul Topinard used similar term "criminologie" during the same period.
- However, Criminology as a distinct field of study owes its origin to scholars of different disciplines who studied various aspects of crimes. The brief evolution of criminology is explained below.

Todd Clear and Natasha Frost
has thrown light on evolution of
criminology in following words

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Notably, the early criminologists were drawn from various disciplines (sociology, psychology, medicine) and would likely not have self-identified as "criminologists". Nonetheless the early writers of social science like Emile Durkheim, (south) sought to explain the existence of crime in society and also explained patterns of crime. In the late 1800s, Cesare Lombroso launched the "science of criminology" through his explorations into differences between criminal and non-criminal populations."

* Classical criminology started in 18th century when Cesare Beccaria believed that people have free-will

to choose between criminal and non-criminal behavior. But criminal behavior can be controlled by punishments.

* Nineteenth Century - Positivism

Biological determinism of criminal behavior was done by Cesare Lombroso.

He gave scientific evidences to distinguish between criminal and non-criminal. In this way, criminology ^{emerged} ~~emerged~~ as a scientific discipline.

* Foundations of Sociological Criminology

Emile Durkheim studied anomie as the cause of criminal behavior.

He focused on the fact that increase in crime rates can signal the need for social changes.

- The social ecology or Chicago school of thought explains the reaction of

- People to environment.
- The views of Edwin Sutherland and Walter Reckless linked criminality to the failure of socialization.

Increasing Importance of Criminology in Pakistan

Pakistan is facing extreme increase in crimes (white collar crimes or street crimes) which is the main cause of increasing importance of criminology in Pakistan.

- (i) Aids in Understanding the Causes of Crimes
- (ii) Policy formulation vis control of crime.
- (iii) Provide theoretical base for enactment of crime.
- (iv) Helps in rehabilitation and offenders

of crime

v) Helps in modification of Juvenile Justice System

vi) Helps in study of socio-economic factors instilling criminal behavior

Eradication of Crimes from Pakistan in the Light of Theories of Criminology

R.K. Chambers gives the concept of Relative Deprivation Trap that completely fits on economically suppressed community of Pakistan.

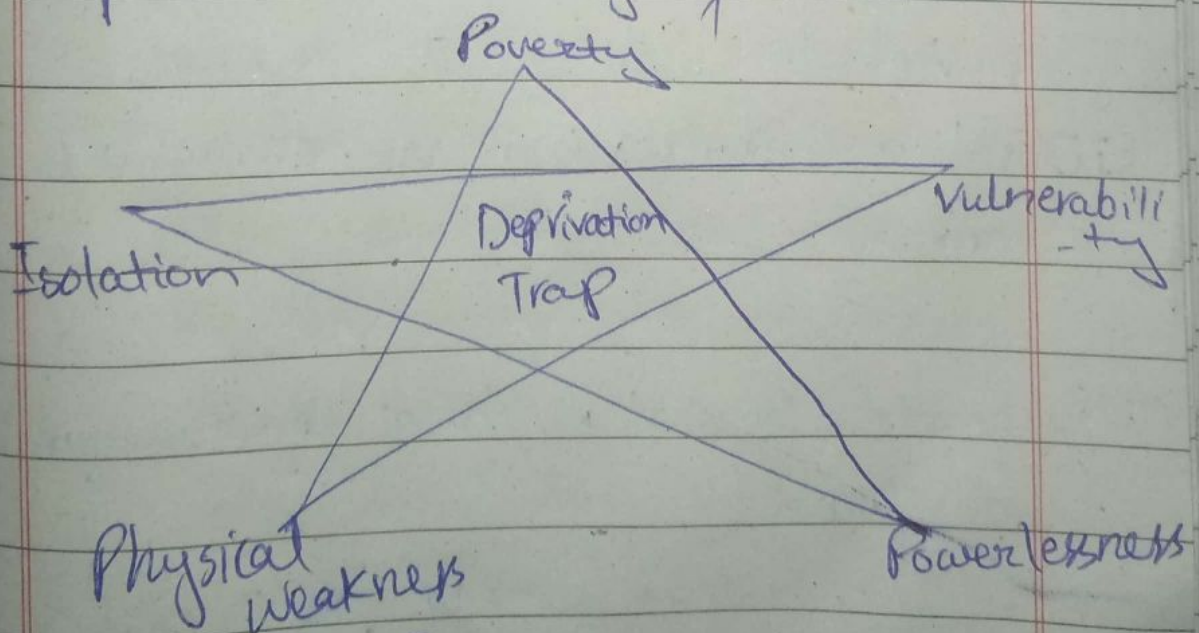
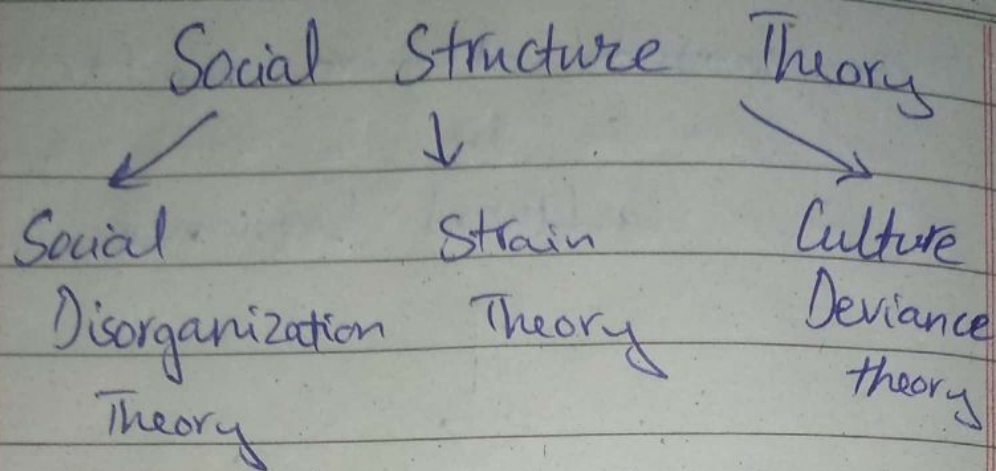


Fig :- Relative Deprivation Trap



These theories mainly focus on social disorganization (poverty, normlessness) that leads to stress in individuals and cultural deviance that ultimately result in crimes.

Social Disorganization

- Deteriorated neighborhoods
- Inadequate social control
- Law-violating gangs & groups
- Conflicting social values



Strain due to conflict between goals and means

- Unequal distribution of wealth and power
- Frustration
- Alternative methods and achievement

Combination of two results
in
Cultural Deviance



Crime

Methods to Control Crimes

i- Control on Poverty rate:

In Pakistan under privileged areas like Liazi, people are being used by law violating gangs, as safeguards because they are being exploited due to the poverty. So government should take steps to reduce poverty.

ii- Increase in literacy:

In slum areas where illiteracy is the main cause of crimes,

must be eradicated in order to uplift their economic conditions.

It is illiteracy due to which the people of these areas feel strong in getting themselves in trouble (street fighting, gambling etc).

iii- Reforms in legislation for ^{reducing} crimes:

According to Rational Choice theory:

"Punishment should be in accordance with the losses caused by crimes?"

In Pakistan, law is defined by the elite class and due to which money-laundering is legal but street crimes are strictly punished.

So necessary reforms should be made in this regard.

iv- Informal Social Control:

According to GST of R.K. Merton

"Normlessness is the main cause of crimes"

So in Pakistan informal control should be promoted to overcome

the juvenile crimes. This can be a positive step in reducing the rape cases in Pakistan.

v. Protection to rights of minorities

In Pakistan, recent Jaranwala episode is the clear example of violation of minority rights. This creates stress in these groups that causes frustration and takes them to crimes. So, protection of minority rights is a good step for eradication of crimes from Pakistan.

Concluding Thoughts

Criminology is an important discipline that highlights the causes, consequences and ways to counter increasing crimes in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, social structure is constantly damaging due to

political, economic or judicial instability that ultimately results in increasing crimes. All these crimes can be handled by addressing their causes which is ^{only} possible by understanding the theories of criminology. This clearly depicts the increasing importance of criminology in Pakistan.