

Question

Write a detailed note on the scope of criminology.

Answer

Outline:

- 1- Introduction.
2. Scope of criminology "According to Sutherland"
3. The Sociology of law
4. Crime Etiology
5. Penology.
6. According to Elliot and Merrill
 - The nature of crime.
 - Investigation into the causes of crime.
 - Individualized study of criminal.
 - Study of prevention of crime.
7. Investigative scope.
8. Preventive scope, judicial
9. legal and justice/ scope
10. Social & policy scope
- 11- Rehabilitation and Reintegration scope.

12. Scope according to Criminal law.

Introduction:

Like many other sciences, the scope of criminology is also quite vast and extensive but criminologists have tried to limit it's scope in order to study the subject scientifically, systematically, and exhaustively.

According to Sutherland:

Scope of criminology.

Sutherland and Donald Cressey have given a best definition of criminology which also explained it's scope. Moreover, Sutherland also magnified the scope of criminology.

1130

by explaining "The sociology of law", "Crime Etiology" and "Penology".

According to Sutherland

and Donald Cressey

"Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon - It includes within its scope, the process of making law, breaking law and reaction towards the breaking of law." This definition provides the basics of scope of criminology. but then further Sutherland explained the scope of term criminology in this manner:

The sociology of law:

In this case, ^{criminologists} ~~we~~ study the nature of crime from legalistic point of

11/30

view. Legally, they look at this perspective that what are the abnormalities present in legal system that are the main reason that still legal system is unable to curb crime. So, In sociology of law they look at the legal system, problems in it and the possible reforms in it to curb crime. When criminologist studies the legal system, they realised the abnormalities of legal system and tries to do possible reforms in it.

Crime Etiology:-

In this perspective, criminologist studies the

main causes of crime
 They observe the causes
 of crime and ^{try to} identify
 this thing that either
 criminal perform crime
 due to personal causes
 or due to social
 causes. In crime etiology,
 they completely tries to
 find out the causes
 of crime in ^{order} to make
 possible reforms in
 society.

Penology :-

Penology is the third
 perspective given by
 Sutherland. In this case
 criminologists perform their
 role to curb crime
 by giving penalty ^{to criminals} or by
^{adopting} rehabilitation techniques
 on criminals. But the main

1/1/21

purpose is to control crime in society, so they make possible efforts to limit crime by providing possible solution for the causes of crime and by proper legal reforms in criminal justice system to decrease crime rate and criminal behaviour.

According to Elliot and Merril:

Elliot and Merril were two eminent criminologists. They explained the scope of criminology by focusing on four perspective. Although their perspectives are similar with Sutherland's

1/1/20

perspectives but still the
perspectives they have
given contain great
significance in under-
standing the scope of
criminology.

The nature of crime:-

In nature of crime,
they tried to focus
on the main purpose
of crime. For example,
if a person ~~act~~
commits crimes then
his mens-rea is
considered ^{to be} crime or the
actus reus is actually
crime and if the ambition
behind crime has no
significance. If ambition
has no significance then
how can we control
the bad ambitions of
criminal. If a person

1/1/20
does ^{commit} the thing then
it is necessary to
investigate this thing
that either he performed
it for personal financial
gain or he did it
on behalf of some?

The answer of this
question is basically the
nature of crime

Investigation into the causes of crime:

The next aspect is
to study the causes
of crime. To look at
this thing that what
were the causes that
changed a responsible
citizen to a thief or
murderer. Is he a born
criminal? If no, then
then when were the
causes that turned him

into a criminal. As it was the drug addiction that compelled him to commit crime or due to societal pressure he commit crime for financial gain. They are the basic thing which are being studied in the investigation of causes of crime.

- Individualized study of crime:

Individualized study is like the case history method. In which criminologists start to observe the whole life of criminal and they focus on the main ups and down in his life that compelled him to do crime.

_ / _ / 20_

Study of prevention of crime:

In this case, criminologists tried to stop the crime or to decrease the level of crime in society by the rehabilitation of criminals and by giving strict penalty according to the nature of crime.

Investigative scope:-

The scope of criminology is also investigative because it helps in analyzing evidences, reconstructing crime scenes and assisting law enforcing agencies in identifying suspects.

Preventive scopes-

It has preventive scope because it helps in reducing crime rate by implementing ^{effective} strategies, policies and programs to reduce crime rate. This includes initiative such as community policing and crime prevention and crime awareness campaigns.

Legal scope and judicial scope:

Criminology intersects with the legal and judicial system by providing insights into ~~crim~~ criminal law, courts and criminal justice system - Criminologists also collaborate with the legal professional to understand the complexity of crime.

Social and policy scope-

Criminologist first understand the root causes of crime such as poverty, illiteracy and then they help policy makers to make policies effective in eliminating these root causes of crime.

Rehabilitation and re-integration scope:

Criminology plays an crucial role in rehabilitation of criminals by providing therapeutic interventions, and vocational trainings for the successful reintegration of criminals into a responsible citizen of society.

Criminology & Criminal Law

11/20

Criminal law defends the public property, health and moral welfare of the people and it includes the punishment of the people who violates these law instead of civil law where more emphasis is on dispute resolution and victim compensation through money because civil law usually link with property disputes and some other crimes related to wealth losses while criminal law deal deals with severe crimes such as misdemeanors and felonies. If we talk about the scope of criminology interlink with

11/20

criminal law then it
decreases crime rate
by following ways

1- Reintegration
Retribution:

By giving level playing
penalty to criminal such
as murdered is sentenced
to death through lethal
injection.

2- Deterrence: A shoplifter
is fined and banned from
the store for a year.

Means, it helps in preventing
crime by giving moral
lesson to others in society.

3- Incapacitation: Designed simply
to keep away criminal from
society i.e. to keep in lockup.

4- Rehabilitation: Aims at transfor-
ming an offender into valuable
member of society.

5- Restoration: By returning the victim
into his original position before injury.