

Q: Define Criminology. Discuss the Scope of Criminology in Pakistan

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Introduction

In the society various types of crimes exist. i.e. areas Liyan and Kati pahau in Karachi, Kachi abadi in Islamabad, Chotu Gang's Khaicha area of Daganpur play a role in producing notorious criminals and why the United States has almost highest number of crimes rate than Germany? Criminology

is the discipline to answer the such questions.

Definition of Criminology

* According to Merriam Webster Dictionary

"Criminology is the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminals, and of penal treatment"

* For Sutherland and Cressey, "Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the process of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting towards the breaking laws."

The objective of Criminology is the development of a body general and varied principles and of other types of knowledge regarding this process of law, crime and treatment"

* According to another definition, Criminology is the study of nature, extent and cause of crime

Scope and importance of Criminology in Pakistan

The discipline of Criminology has gained importance in recent decades with in surge in crime rates in Pakistan and also across the globe. So like other subjects, today's Criminology

is very vast in its scope.

Crime as a social phenomenon

Crime as a social phenomenon, and society play important role in shaping the criminal behaviour. Some criminologist believe that individual traits and characteristics may play some role and cause criminal anti-social behaviours, most believe that social factors are at the root cause of crime. Even the most disturbed people are influenced by their environment and their social interactions and personal relations.

The process of making laws

Humans have always had laws. Allah Almighty gave laws to humans through his holy books like the holy Torah, The Holy bible and the Holy Quran. Then human societies made law throughout history like the Code of Hammurabi, Egyptian laws, Roman laws and the Islamic law. How and why laws are created and why some are strengthened and others eliminated is of great interest to criminologist. Over the years Pakistan had made laws regarding all type of crime.

In Pakistan, Criminal laws are made in legislature at two level. the federal and provincial legislature.

Major laws regarding crime include

- * Pakistan Penal Code, 1860
- * Federal investigation act, 1974
- * Anti-Terrorism act, 1997
- * Anti-Money Laundering act, 2010
- * Anti-Narcotics Force act, 1997.

Breaking of Laws

Those who break laws of the society are called Criminals. There are many types of criminals as there are crimes. At its core, the purpose of criminology is to understand both the onset of crime and most effective method for its eliminating. What are the causes of crime or do people commit illegal acts, and what can be done to convince them. and other who are contemplating crime - that it is in their best interest not to commit crime? These concepts are naturally bound together it is impossible to effectively control crime unless we understand its cause. Although risk factors at all level of social and personal life contribute to youth violence, young people in all nations

Who experience change in societal-level factors such as economic inequalities, rapid social change, and the availability of firearms, alcohol and drugs seem the most likely to get involved in violence.

Reacting toward the breaking of laws
When somebody breaks the laws the society reacts to it. People don't react themselves. Instead every country in the world has formed institutions to react to crime and provide justice to the criminal and the victim. In Pakistan the main institutions which react to the breaking of laws include:

- * Police
- * Courts
- * FIA
- * NAB
- * FBR
- * Counter Terrorism department
- * Intelligence Agencies

Theory Construction and Testing
Theories of Criminology also help people understand various factors which influence people's criminal behaviour. For example, Strain theory

Predicts that the economically deprived segments of society are more likely to engage in street crime and other theft crimes.

Penology and Social Control

The scope of the discipline of Criminology also includes studying the correction and control of criminal behaviour. The discipline also includes using scientific method to assess the effectiveness of crime and offender treatment programmes like prison management structuring the rehabilitation centres.

Victimology and Victimization

It includes studying the nature and causes of victimization and victimization risk. What is the role, if any, of victims in the causes of crime?

Role of Criminology in Government Policy Making

The discipline of Criminology certainly has the potential to help Government in formulating effective policies for crime prevention and for improvement of the criminal justice

System it also assists the Govt legislature, in legislating practicable laws to deter and then punish Criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Contemporary Criminology rests on two foundations (1) the interdisciplinary explanation of Crime and (2) the analysis of the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal justice system.