

Date: _____

Day: _____

Name :- Asad Ali
LMS ID :- 30306
Batch :- 54

Question :-

Enlist the Criminological Perspectives. Briefly describe three perspectives on Crime study and Criminal Behavior.

Introduction:-

Criminological theories provide frameworks for understanding crime and criminal behavior. These theories cover the making and breaking of the law, criminal and deviant behavior. The classical theories cover rational decision-making and deterrence, while the positivist perspective focuses on biological, Psychological and sociological factors influencing criminal behavior. These theories perspectives continue to guide policy-making and contribute to the study of crime and criminal justice.

Classical School of Thought

1) Background of Classical Perspective

a) Origin from Age of Enlightenment:

The classical theory owes its start at "Age of Enlightenment" which brought radical changes in philosophy, political, scientific and sociological thought.

b) Thomas Hobbes argument on Crime

Thomas Hobbes argued that the human beings naturally pursue their desires without taking care of others. For instance in order to accumulate wealth, one may feel no qualm or hesitation in killing someone else.

c) Social Contract Perspective :

The social contract view also gave impetus to debate on criminal law and reforms leading to the emergence of classical school of thought.

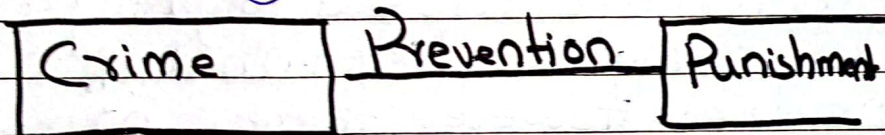
2) Cesare Beccaria: The founder of Classical School :-

Cesare Beccaria was actually a critic of the cruel punishments inflicted upon the offenders in capricious manner. He wrote an essay "On crimes

and punishments" in which he criticized the method of barbaric punishment and personalized criminal justice system where punishments were inflicted on the basis of personal whims.

3) Thoughts of Cesare Beccaria on Crime in preclassical period :-

Beccaria's thoughts centered on the concept of "utilitarianism" i.e. people commit crime out of the desire to seek pleasure so crime can be prevented by inflicted punishment



4) Basic element of Classical theory :-

There are several basic element of Classical theory

- i) People have free will to choose criminal or lawful solutions to meet their needs or settle their problems.
- ii) Crime is attractive when it promises great benefits with little effort.
- iii) Crime may be controlled by the fear of punishments
- iv) Punishment that is or is perceived to be severe, certain, and swift will deter criminal behavior.

Positivist School of Thought :-

Body theories provide that there is link between physical appearance of mind.

1) Physiognomy Practice in ancient times :-

Physiognomy is the idea that a person's facial features can be used to determine their character or personality. This idea has been around for centuries and it has been used to justify a wide range of discriminatory practices. However, there is no scientific evidence to support the idea.

2) Phrenology idea of shape of skull and human :-

Phrenology was a pseudoscience that attempted to access a person's mental traits and character by examining the shape of their skull. It developed by Franz Joseph Gall and Johann Christoph Spurzheim in the late 18 and early 19th centuries. Phrenology was based on the belief that the

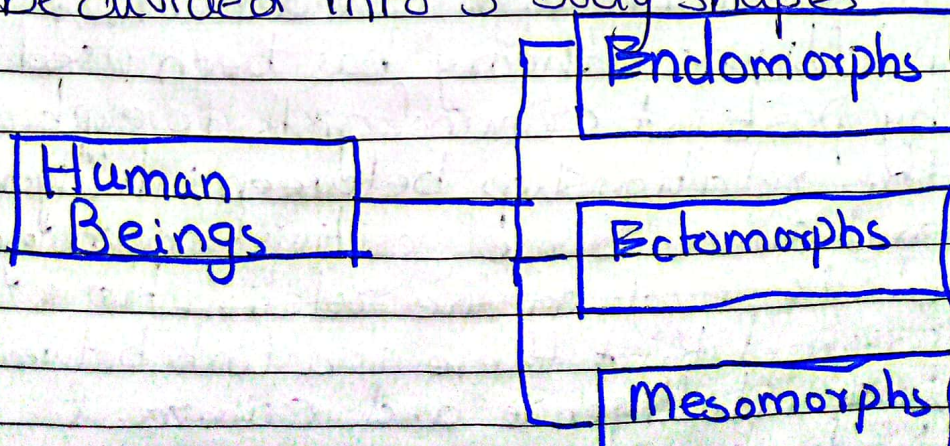
brain is composed of different organs each of which is responsible for a particular mental faculty or character trait. These organs were thought to be larger or smaller depending on the strength of the corresponding trait.

3) Atavism of Cesare Lombroso's Criminological theories :-

Atavism refers to the idea that criminals exhibit physical characteristics that are reminiscent of our primitive ancestors or lower primates. Lombroso believed that these atavistic traits were evidence of a biological predisposition to crime.

4) Body type theory (somatotype) by William Sheldon :-

According to William Sheldon, all humans can be divided into 3 body shapes



- i) **Endomorphs** :- Fat and Soft
- ii) **Ectomorphs** :- Thin and Fragile
- iii) **Mesomorphs** :- Muscular and Hard

Sheldon believed that these 3 body types were not only physical but also psychological. He believed proposed each body type was associated with set of personality traits.

5) Inheritance theory of Criminal Behavior

Inheritance theory in positivist criminology posits that criminal behavior is inherited from parents through genetic predisposition. The theory was popularized by Italian physician Cesar Lombroso in the late 19th century. Lombroso believed criminal had physical abnormalities that inherited.

6) Intelligence theory of link between intelligence and Crime

Intelligence theory has been used by positivist criminologists to explain the relationship between intelligence and crime. Some positivist criminologists to explain the relation have argued that there is a link between low intelligence and criminal behavior.

Sociological Theory

i) Social Disorganization Theory :-

Social disorganization theory is sociological theory that explains how the breakdown of social structures and relationship leads to increased crime rates. The theory was first developed by scholars at the university of Chicago in the early 20th century, and it has been influential in criminology ever since.

i) Key tenets of Social disorganization Theory :-

- a) Crime is more prevalent in areas that lack strong social ties and institution.
- b) Social Organization can be caused by a variety of factors such as poverty, unemployment and population turnover.
- c) Social disorganization leads to a breakdown of informal social control which in turn leads to increased crime.

ii) Social Disorganization Theory and Crime Prevention :-

Social disorganization theory has been to inform crime prevention strategies. These

strategies typically focus on strengthening social ties and institutions in high-crime neighborhoods. Example of such strategies include community policing, neighborhood watch programs, and after school programs.

2) Strain Theory of Criminology

Strain theory is a sociological theory that explains how strain and stress can lead to crime. The theory was first developed by Robert K. Merton in his 1938 paper "Social structure and Anomie"

i) Key tenets of strain theory :-

- i) Crime is a result of strain, which is the pressure that individuals feel to achieve socially accepted goals but lack the means to do so.
- ii) Strain can be caused by a variety of factors such as poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and lack of education
- iii) Strain can lead to crime in two ways through innovation and through retreatism
- iv) Innovation occurs when individual adopt illegitimate means to achieve socially accepted goals. For

example, a person who is unable to find a job may resort to stealing to earn money.

- v) **Retreatism** occurs when individuals give up on socially accepted goals and withdraw from society. For example, a person who is chronically unemployed may become homeless and engage in substance abuse.

ii) Strain Theory and Crime Prevention

Strain theory has been used to inform crime prevention strategies.

These strategies typically focus on reducing strain by providing individuals with the means to achieve socially accepted goals.

Example of such strategies include job training programs, educational opportunities, and social welfare programs.

3) Social Control Theory of Criminology

Social Control theory is a sociological theory that explains how society maintains order and prevents crime. The theory was developed by Travis Hirschi in his 1969

i) Key Component of Social Control Theory:

- i) Crime is caused by a weakening of social bonds that bind individuals to society.
- ii) There are four main types of social bonds: attachment, commitment, involvement and belief.
- iii) Attachment is the emotional connection that individuals have to others such as family, friends and teachers.
- iv) Commitment is the investment that individuals have in conventional activities such as education, employment and hobbies.
- v) Involvement is the time and energy that individuals devote to conventional activities.
- vi) Belief is the acceptance of the norms and values of society.

Conclusion:-

In a conclusion, criminological theories provide proper framework for understanding criminal. The classical theory emphasizes rational decision making, the positivist theory focuses biological, psychological and sociological factors. The sociological theory based on social environment.