

Q. Define the term crime and criminals.  
Explain the type of criminals in detail.

Answer:

Understanding the concept of crime and the individuals known as criminals is essential for comprehending the complexities of law enforcement and societal well-being. In ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by the state or authority. On the other hand, criminals are those who have been found guilty of committing such acts. Based on the nature of the crime, criminals can be classified into various categories. They can be convicted of offenses ranging from minor offenses to more serious ones. Understanding the different types of criminals can help us know more about the various ways people can break the rules and cause harm to others.

**Definition of term "Crime":**

**Etymology of crime:**

The word "crime" is originally taken from the Latin term "crimen" which means "to charge".

**Literal meaning of crime:**

According to Oxford dictionary crime is defined as "An action or omission which constitutes an offense and is punishable by law."

Therefore in its simplest form, crime is a punishable act that breaks the rules of the law. Crime encompasses a broad range of behaviours that are considered harmful or threatening to individuals or society as a whole.

It can range from minor offenses such as petty theft to more serious offenses such as rape, murder or fraud.

Criminal offense is defined by criminal law of each country. While many countries have a catalogue of crimes called the criminal code.

According to Black's Law dictionary:

"Crime is a social harm which has been made punishable."

According to Black stone:

"A crime is an act committed or omitted in violation of public law either forbidding or commanding it."

It is clearly understood by these definitions that crime has the potential to cause severe damage to the communities and individuals.

People living in a society must follow the rules of that society and do not inflict harm to others by committing what is not allowed by the law and omitting what was supposed to be done.

Nature of crimes:

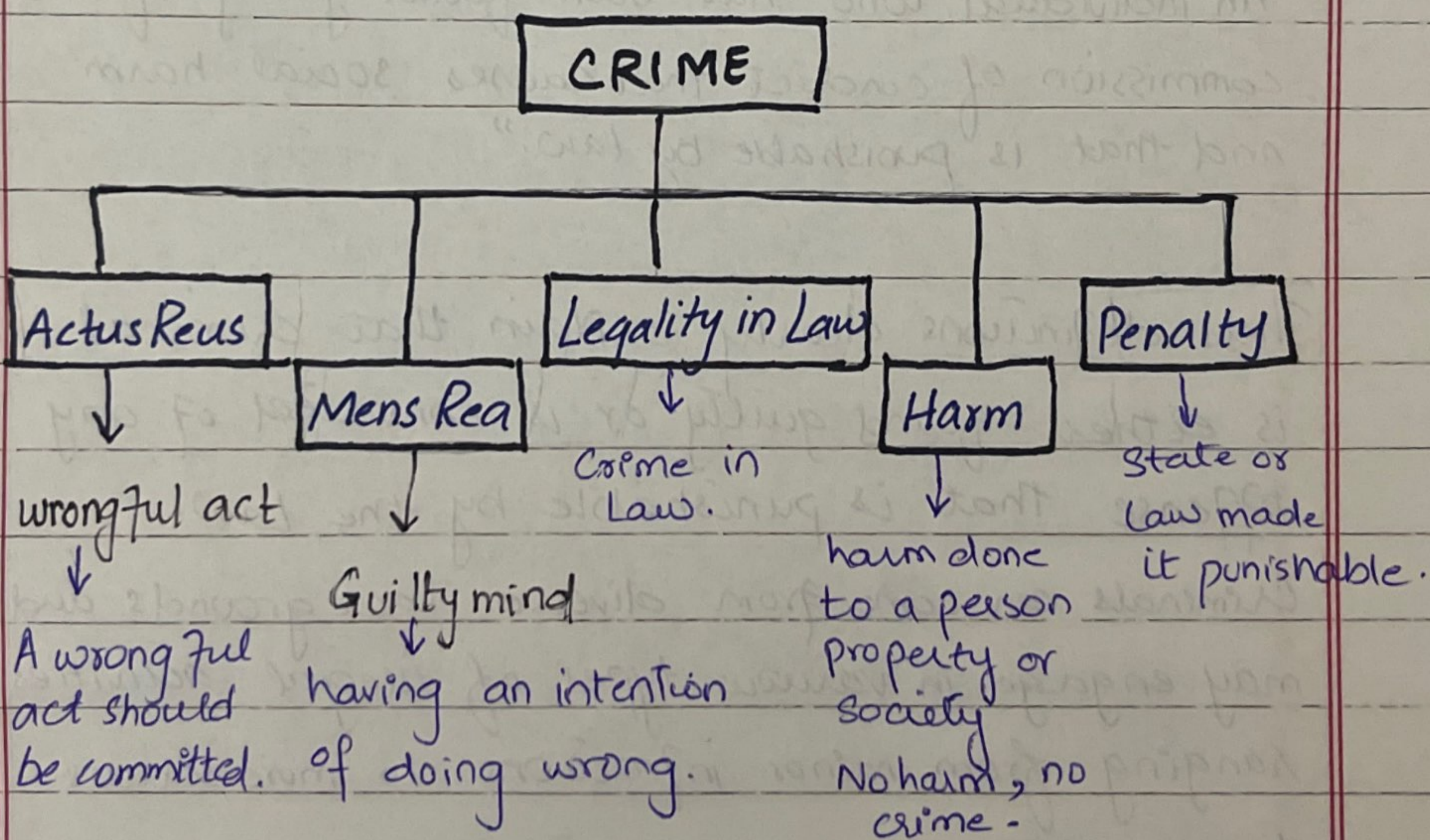
There are two major nature of crimes:

- ① Mala in se
- ② Mala prohibita.

- 1- **Mala in Se:** Crimes that are wrong and evil within themselves such as murder, robbery etc.
- 2- **Mala Prohibita:** Crimes that are not evil in themselves but violate a law of a society.  
For example: public drinking or smoking etc.  
They may not be illegal in different jurisdictions.  
As it is not evil in itself, person committing it may be unaware of it. For instance, someone is unaware of the traffic rules.

### Elements of Crime:

Crime must consist of the mental thought of doing specific action and physical movement while doing it.



### Definition of term "Criminal"

#### Etymology of criminal:

The word "criminal" is derived from late Latin "criminalis" from Latin "crimen".

Literal meaning of criminal:

According to Merriam-Webster's definition criminal is "A person who has been convicted of a crime."

Therefore in simple words criminal is a person who has committed a punishable offense against the public law.

According to <sup>The</sup> People's Law Dictionary:

"Criminal is a popular term for anyone who has committed a crime whether convicted of the offense or not. More properly it should apply only to those actually convicted of a crime."

According to West's Encyclopedia of American Law:

"An individual who has been found guilty of the commission of conduct that causes social harm and that is punishable by law."

These definitions clearly explain that criminal is either found guilty or is convicted of any offense that is punishable by the law.

Criminals can come from diverse backgrounds and may engage in various types of illegal activities, ranging from minor infractions to more serious transgressions.

Classification of criminals:

Criminals can be classified into various categories based on nature of their offenses and other factors. Many criminologists have classified the criminals according to their own perspectives.

1- Havelock Ellis' book *The Criminal* published in 1890 was about the classification of criminals.

2- Enrico Ferri was one of the earliest criminologists who attempted to classify criminals during 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- Born criminals
- Criminal manmade
- Criminals by passion
- Occasional criminals
- Criminals by contracted habit.

This classification was not considered valid due to the overlapping.

3- An American writer Mr August book *The Criminal* was the first to propose a simple and clear classification of criminals.

- Instinctive criminals - inborn defects.
- Habitual criminals
- Single offenders - committed crime once.

4- Cesare Lombroso's classification of criminals.

- Born criminals
- Insane criminals - psychopaths.
- Criminaloids - difficult to identify

These are the classifications done by the criminologists. There are few other types of criminals too such as occasional criminals, professional criminal (subtype of habitual criminal) and corporate criminals. Also the juvenile delinquents, cybercriminals, white collar criminals etc. These categories overlap based on specific circumstances.

# Defining the types of criminals:

## 1- Instinctive Criminals:

An instinctive criminal is someone who is believed to naturally have the tendency to commit crimes without being influenced by outer factors. They have inborn defects such as biological abnormality or psychotic behaviour.

## 2- Habitual criminals:

Habitual criminals are of two types.

a- Ordinary criminals

b- Professional criminals.

### a- Ordinary criminals:

These individuals engage in criminal activities as a part of their routine behaviour. They may commit crime due to situational factors, peer pressure or temporary influences.

For example: If a person lives in slums and a lot of criminal activities take place there, due to this environment or circle he will also commit crime although the chances are less.

### b- Professional criminals:

These individuals view criminal activities as their primary occupation. They earn considerable portion of their livelihood. They have criminal record and criminal career is highly developed. They have high status in criminal world. They have their own philosophy to life.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For example: Pablo Escobar - a Colombian drug lord and narco-terrorist - Sole leader of Medellin cartel.

Difference between Ordinary and Professional criminals.

### Ordinary Criminal

- not skilled
- not dependent on crime.
- It is not their source of income
- No social status required, under the influence of others

### Professional Criminal

- highly skilled.
- Dependent on crime
- It is their source of income
- Strong influence and social status

Habitual criminals are also called repeat offenders or Recidivists.

- Repeat offenders: They have history of committing similar offense multiple times
- Recidivists: Offenders repeatedly commit crimes even after serving penalties and undergoing rehabilitation programs.

### 3. Single offenders:

Individuals who commit crimes on their own without involvement of others. These offenders operate independently and do not rely on assistance or support of others in carrying out their criminal activities. They may engage in range of illegal behaviours,

from minor offenses to more serious ones, depending on nature of their actions or specific circumstances.

#### 4- Occasional criminals:

Occasional criminals only performs the act if the opportunity or necessity occurs in routine of daily life. Their acts are unskilled and unplanned. These individuals have slight moral weakness. They normally show remorse unlike habitual criminals.

For example: shoplifting, stealing pen from stationery shop.

#### Difference between Ordinary and Occasional criminals.

The key difference between ordinary and occasional criminals lies in the frequency and regularity of their engagement in criminal behaviour.

#### 5- Corporate Criminals:

They are individual or entities that engage in illegal activities or unethical behaviour within a corporate or business setting. They remain committed to conventional society and do not identify with criminality. These offenses can include various forms of fraud, bribery, money laundering etc.

#### 6- Juvenile delinquents:

Minors who commit offenses that would be considered crimes if committed by adults



often involving theft or drug related crimes.

## 7- Cybercriminals:

Offenders who use computer technology to commit crimes, including hacking, identity theft, and various form of online fraud.

There are many other subtypes of these criminals as the criminal activities depend on various factors.

## Conclusion:

A crime is an act prohibited by law, the violation of which is prosecuted by the state in a judicial proceeding in its own name. It is a public wrong as distinguished from private wrong. The individual who commits that prohibited act is called a criminal.

A person commits crime under influence of different factors. It can be psychological or environmental factors, or socioeconomic conditions that contribute in criminal activity of a person resulting in different type of criminals in a society.

### Question:

What is the difference between crime, deviance, sin and vice? Do you believe that crime is one of the major social problems in Pakistani society. Discuss.

### Answer:

In everyday life, we often hear about different types of bad behaviours, but it is tricky to understand what they really mean. Crime refers to acts or omissions that violate the laws and are subject to legal punishment. <sup>while</sup> deviance involves the behaviours that deviates from societal norms.

On the other hand, sin is about doing something that is against the religious teachings <sup>and</sup> doing what is forbidden, while vice is the behaviour that is considered morally objectionable, often leading to harmful consequences. In the context of Pakistani society, crime remains a significant social issue, with various factors such as socioeconomic disparities, political instability and cultural influences. It is very important to understand these issues and work together to make things better for everyone in country.

### Crime:

Crime is an intentional act or omission that violates criminal law. As defined by Micheal Adler "crime is violating the existing penal code of country."

When an individual commits what is prohibited by the law and omits what is supposed to be done by the law that person commits a crime and is punishable by the state for violating the law.

Crime is a public wrong as well as a moral wrong. By breaking the laws or the rules of that society where that individual is living and also by inflicting harm to other people living in that society, their property, business, or the institutes, that person is committing crime. Depending on the nature of the crime that offender will be sentenced to a form of separation such as imprisonment, penalty or execution.

## Deviance:

Deviance is any behaviour that violates social norms. It is a 20th-century sociological concept that focuses on the behaviours, acts, practices, beliefs and statuses of the people which are believed to be deviated from the norms, ethics, standards and expectations of the society. When a person's behaviour is opposite to the expectation of the society and it exceeds the limit of their toleration it is called deviant behaviour.

Deviance is not punishable by law but it is condemned because people consider it threat to the society and violation of the norms of the society.

The perception of deviance can vary across different communities and societies. It varies from place to place and time to time. An act maybe is deviance in a society and in other society it is not. For example: Non-conforming dress or appearance that goes against cultural expectations.

## Sin:

Sin is an act that is regarded as a transgression against divine or moral law. It involves behaviours, thoughts or actions that are considered to be immoral, unethical, or contrary to the teachings of particular religion or ethical system. Sin is often associated with the concept of guilt and need for repentance or forgiveness.

The concept of sin can indeed vary according to different religions and belief systems.

Each religion has its own set of moral codes and spiritual guide lines that defines sin.

For example: Backbiting, acts of dishonesty, not fasting in month of Ramadan are sin in religion Islam.

## Vice:

Vice refers to a habit or behavior of a person that is considered immoral or socially unacceptable. It often involves the indulgence in activities that are harmful, addictive or harmful to one's health or well-being, or well-being of others. The concept of vice is associated with the idea of moral wrong doing that can lead to negative consequences.

and personal of societal harm.  
 For example: Drug abuse, <sup>excessive</sup> drinking, gambling  
 or engaging in other self destructive  
 behaviours.

## Difference between Crime and Deviance:

### Crime

- Crimes refers to violation of law.
- Usually crimes are universal
- Crime is always punishable by criminal law.
- Police and judiciary are agents of control

### Deviance

- It refers to violation of societal norms and values.
- Deviance varies from society to society.
- Deviance results in social stigma and sanctions
- Agent of control is the society.

## Difference between Crime and Sin.

### Crime

- Crime is legal proposition.
- Criminal is punished by law
- Crime is violation of law.
- Final decision is taken by court of law.
- Remedy of crime is either penal or monetary

### Sin

- All the acts against the teachings of religion are sin.
- Sinner is punished by God.
- Sin is violation of divine rule
- Final decision is taken on basis of religious books.
- Remedy of sin is apology and repentance.

## Difference between Crime and Vice.

### Crime

- All crimes are against the law.
- Crime inflicts harm on third party or something else (property, business).  
Foreg: murder, theft etc.
- It is judged by the state according to criminal law.

### Vice

- All vices are not against the law, but they are often included in category of crime.
- Harm is inflicted on one's own self. For example: smoking, drinking, taking drugs etc.
- Assessed on the grounds of morality by the people around the person or by the person committing it.

## Difference between Vice and Deviance.

### Vice

- Vice refers to behaviors that are considered immoral, harmful and self-destructive.
- Vice are morally wrong.

### Deviance

- Deviance refers to behaviours deviated from societal norm regardless of whether the <sup>actions</sup> are negative or positive.
- Deviance are socially wrong.

In the realms of criminology and sociology it is very important to distinguish between vice, sin, crime and deviance. These were the differences to understand complex relationship

of societal norms, morality and legal frameworks.

## Crime - Social problem in Pakistan.

Crime is widely recognised as a significant social problem in various communities and societies around the world. It is indeed one of the significant social challenge in Pakistan, contributing to various societal and economic issues. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, political instability and societal inequalities have created an environment conducive to criminal activities.

Additionally, insufficient law enforcement, corruption, and weak judicial systems have led to a lack of trust on legal system.

Crime is a violation of criminal law for which formal penalties are applied by some governmental authority. It represents some type of deviation from formal <sup>social</sup> norms administered by the state. There is no society in the world, which is without crime.

"It is often defined as a condition which many people consider undesirable and wish to correct."

~ Houston and Leslie

Moreover, the rise of organised crimes, terrorism, and extremism has further exacerbated the situation causing widespread fear and insecurity among people. It has far-reaching implications, impacting not only the immediate victim but also disrupts the social fabric and well-being of the society.

## Characteristics of social Problem:

Characteristics of a social problem often includes:

- Adverse effects on well-being and stability of a society
- Affects large number of individuals and communities leading to wide-spread consequences.
- Generate discussion among general public, policy makers and various stakeholders.
- Connected with the social, cultural, political and economic issues within the society.
- Requires collective action from institutes and community members.

## Causes of crime in a Society:

The causes of crime in a society can be complex, often stemming from various social, economic and individual factors. Some common causes of crime include:

### 1- Socioeconomic Factors:

Poverty, unemployment, lack of access to education or other resources can contribute to criminal behaviour.

- a) **Poverty:** It is an important cause of all sort of crimes. It results in corruption, committing suicide, prostitution as well as bribery. Directly or indirectly poverty is responsible for the crimes. In fact it is said to be the root cause of many crimes.
- b) **Educational System:** Unfortunately present day education system of Pakistan is very defective



The system of education does not lay stress on morality and character building of youth. It does not even get the young people to get timely employment, which encourages the tendency towards crime.

- c) **Unemployment:** In economic field unemployment plays an important role in committing of crimes. An unemployed young person becomes of thief or becomes violent and takes law in their own hands. That is why in <sup>countries with</sup> undeveloped economy, where there is unemployment the crime rates are high.

## 2. Family and Community influence:

Family and community can play a significant role in influencing individuals to engage in criminal behavior. Some ways in which family and community factors can contribute include:

- a) **Broken families:** Children from broken families may lack adequate emotional support and guidance, leading to feelings of neglect resulting in delinquent behavior.
- b) **Peer Pressure:** Negative influence of peers involved in criminal activities can encourage other individuals to participate in illegal activities to gain acceptance of social circle.
- c) **Exposure to violence:** Aggressive behavior of family members and high level of violence plays role in making the child violent and getting engaged in criminal activities.
- d) **Lack of positive role models:** Absence of positive role models within the family or community can leave individuals without appropriate guidance.

### 3. Psychological factors:

Various psychological factors can contribute to individual tendency to engage in criminal behavior. Some of these factors are:

- a) **Mental health issues:** Certain mental health disorders such as conduct disorder, personality disorder or psychopathy can increase likelihood of engaging in crime.
- b) **Experienced trauma:** Individuals who have experienced significant trauma such as abuse, neglect <sup>during</sup> childhood may lead to criminal behaviors.
- c) **Anti-social Personality:** Individuals with traits such as aggression or lack of remorse may be more prone to engaging in crime.

### 4- Substance abuse:

Substance abuse can indeed contribute to an increase in criminal activities. Some ways in which substance abuse can lead to criminal behavior include:

- a) **Drug related offenses:** Individuals may engage in criminal behavior such as drug trafficking, distribution or possession to support their addiction or to finance drug habit.
- b) **Theft and robbery:** Some individuals may resort to theft, burglary or robbery to obtain money for purchasing drugs or alcohol.
- c) **Increased risk taking:** Substance abuse can lead individuals to take greater risks, including engaging in dangerous and illegal activities.

### 5. Cultural and Societal norms:

Cultural and societal norms can indeed engage in criminal behavior. Cultures that glorify and

and normalise violence whether in media, entertainment or everyday life. Cultural norms that emphasize traditional gender roles and masculinity may foster aggressive and violent behaviors contributing to higher rates of violence and crime.

## Prevent crime in the society.

Understanding these underlying causes is essential for developing effective strategies to prevent crime and address the root issues within a society.

It often requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses social welfare programs, educational initiatives, mental health services and community based interventions. Also improve the efficiency and transparency of Law enforcement agencies and ensure the fair and just application of the law to deter criminal activity.

## Conclusion:

In summary, it is understood that crime is when someone breaks the law, deviance is doing things that most people don't consider normal, sin is going against religious beliefs and vice is doing things that are harmful. In Pakistan, crime is a social problem due to poverty, political inequality and other problems. It is very important to put collective effort to make country a safer and better place.