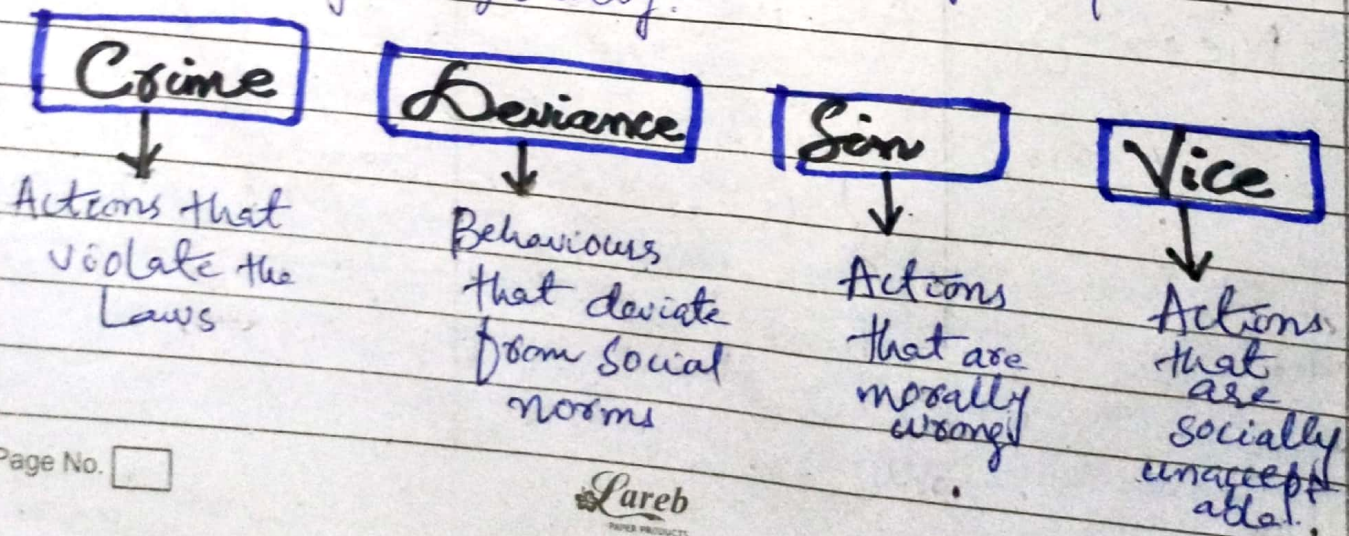


What is the difference between crimes, deviance, sin and vice? Do you believe that crime is one of the major social problems in Pakistani society? Discuss.

## 1. Introduction

In society where people are living, have to face some kind of illegal activities, that are named according to their specific definitions. As far as crimes, deviance, sin and vice are concerned, they are the two sides of the same coin with some minor differences. These illegal activities are defined by the set rules or norms of the society, however, both types negatively impact the society, depriving the people of their lives, or valuable assets. Considering the crime as a social problem is accurate, because either it be a poverty, unemployment, urbanization or white collar crimes, it directly or indirectly impacts the society negatively.



## 2 Difference Between Crime and Deviance

### Crime :

Oxford dictionary defines the crime as an illegal activity that is punishable by law, worthy of societal condemnation and punishment. Crimes impact the public at large.

### Deviance :

The term deviance implies the rule-breaking behaviour, especially ones which deviates from socially or culturally accepted norms. It is considered as public wrong which often leads to crime.

### Comparison Chart.

Basis for Comparison	CRIME	DEVIANCE
Meaning	Any illegal act or omission which amounts to violation of law often prosecuted by state and punishable by Law.	Deviance is - when there is a non conformity concerning the well established social norms and principles.

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	CRIME	DEVIANCE
Documentation	Crime is well documented in terms of laws.	Deviance is not written or documented.
Severity	Punishment is severe determined by laws.	Not severe.
Control	Controlled by police organization and judiciary.	By social organizations and groups.
Results in	Punishment	Negative social reactions.
Offenders	May receive legal sanctions.	Offender is stigmatized.
Flexibility	Law is same in different societies. However, the penalty differs with respect to crime.	Norms differ from one culture to another culture.
Examples	Murder, rape, robbery, theft etc.	Hacking of ids, domestic violence etc.

### 3 Sin and Vice

#### Defining Sin

Sin is taken in the religious context. It is any act that goes against the religious teachings, crossing the limited boundaries. In the act of a sin, there is no law enforcement agency which will make a person accountable. However, there is a belief that a person will be held accountable for his deeds on the day of judgment.

#### Definition of Vice.

Vice is an immoral act committed by a person. It is something that may not harm the society or punishable by law. But it is the reason behind guilt in a person.

Basis for Comparison	Sin	Vice
Meaning.	Any activity that is against the religious teachings is considered as Sin.	An unethical activity against social norms

	Sin	Vice.
Documentation	Different religious teachings have their own sacred texts which consider some behaviours as a sin	Social frame works of the society constitutes the boundaries for action that are considered to be vice
Severity	Severity of every sin is revealed through the teaching of Holy Books	Differ among individual and communities
Control	Several teachings and beliefs can resist a person from committing a sin	Society informally label the person to make them guilty.
Results	Accountable hereafter	Negative social reactions.
Examples.	Breaking the promises, telling lies, backbiting etc	Prostitution or using drugs etc.

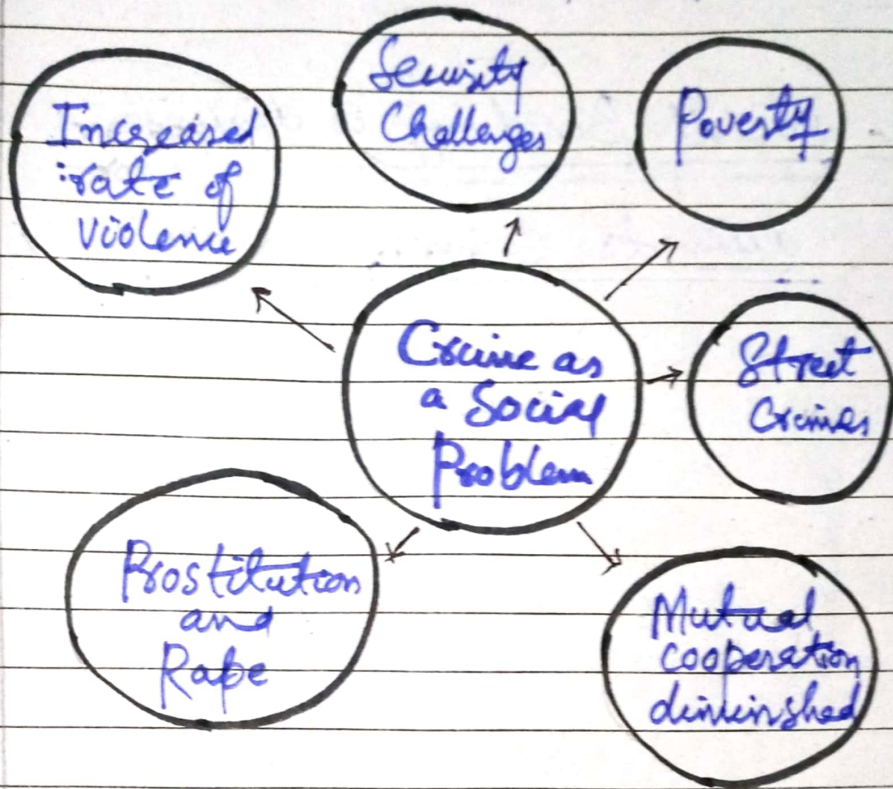
## 4- Crime as a Social Problem

Crime is considered as a social problem that disturbs the balance of the society, affecting its natural fabric. Crime of any kind and severity brings new evils and it breaks the laws of society. It affects every aspect of life in the society, be it a social, economic or disturbing the politically organized life. Because of these crimes, people most of the time faces fraud and corruption or losses in business leads the people to poverty. unemployment which opens the door of many social evils in the society.

### a Crime brings the culture of poverty.

Robbery, snatching that is common with every passing day, where people live in a constant fear of being robbed. Criminals use the techniques and powerful tools to commit the crimes. Robbery is considered as a crime, Criminals use the tactics to hack the bank accounts or people being

robbed and snatched in the streets. Such acts leads the people to lose their assets and properties and left with nothing and causing them poverty.



## b. Increasing Street Crimes.

Mostly the younger generation of Pakistan is indulged in the crimes as they are unemployed and get narrow opportunities to earn in a legal way. To fulfil their basic needs, such people get themselves into the street crimes such as robbery, snatching.

The major reason behind the street crimes is rapid and mass movement of people in the cities without proper planning, creating the unsafe environment for the people in the society.

c Social Bonding is diminished  
due to crimes.

With the increased rate of crimes, the social bonds in the society are weakened. Because of constant fear and trust issues, people are not cooperating with each other. People feel unsafe and become isolated, which ultimately breaks the social cohesion.

d Prostitution and Rape are  
becoming common.

Prostitution is considered as a crime and is prohibited in the Islamic Law. However, in today's society it is considered as an easy source of money and became common. Similarly, the rape



cases are too much common, happening almost with every passing day. This issue lies in the structure of society, people are illiterate and are not familiar with the laws and rules. Also the implementation of severe punishment is also slow, which gives easy path to criminals for which criminals can easily escape from justice system. For instance, Noor Mukhadam and Rahim Fahir case, Rainab case, Motorway incident, Fatima's case. Despite of all these, criminal finds narrow escapes from the justice system.

## e. Security concerns due to Crimes.

Enhanced security issues due to crimes every passing day are definitely a valid worry. Crimes create a atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. People are more cautious about their surroundings. This can have a negative impact on the security of the community, leading the people to live in a constant worry and fear because of the criminals.

## 5 Conflict Perspective; Crime Brings social change.

According to conflict perspective, crime being a social problem also brings the social changes in the society. Because of the crime, people become aware of the criminals, law enforcement agencies bring reforms in the laws. People acquire education and knowledge to know their duties and rights, protect themselves. They keep on changing and developing new skills to meet the modern problems with modern solutions. Therefore, any imbalance and conflict in the society always brings the change. It is up to the state and people to take it in a positive or negative way to deal it.

“Criminologists are the right people to bring such domains which can prevent happening of crime in future. Through calculating the present scenarios.”

• Criminal civil society.

## 6. Applying Strain theory:

How a normal person can be a reason behind breaking laws.

According to strain theory, there is always a reason behind the criminal behaviour and it is the strain which a person develops when one class in a society get extra luxuries and privileges and others are deprived of those benefits. Such people develops a strain in his inner self to acquire that luxury by any means. Therefore, he will go extra miles for that without worrying about breaking the laws of the state.

## 7. Conclusion.

In a nutshell, all types of crime either it be a crime, a deviance, sin or vice threatens the balance of the society. It totally disturbs the natural setting of the society. Crime, being a social problem being so many evils in the society, for which live in a

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constant fear. People commit the crimes because they don't meet their basic needs because of limited resources. That means, in a society each below factor leads towards crime. Although, the situation is quite alarming; yet these issues can be resolved by taking some pragmatic solutions?