

2) Explore the multifaceted scope of criminology, including its role in crime prevention, criminal justice policy making and the rehabilitation of offenders.

Ans) ① INTRODUCTION:-

The nature and scope of criminology encompass a complex and multifaceted field of study that seeks to unravel the mysteries of crime, understand the individuals who commit criminal acts, critically examine the mechanisms of the criminal justice system and also the rehabilitation of the offenders. The nature and scope of criminology refer to the fundamental characteristics and the extent of this discipline, which delves into the study of crime, its origins and its impact on society.

1.1) Definition of Criminology.

"Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the processes of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting toward the breaking of laws."

(Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey)

"The scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminals, and of penal treatment."

(Merriam Webster)

1.2) Explanation — What is criminology?

Criminology is the scientific approach to studying criminal behaviour. It is the study of crime, criminals and the intricate web of factors influencing criminal behaviour within society. This interdisciplinary field draws from psychology, sociology, law, economics, biology and other sciences to explore the causes, patterns and consequences of criminal activities. Criminologists aim to understand why individuals engage in unlawful acts, whether driven by social, economic, psychological or environmental factors.

They also investigate functioning of the criminal justice system and policymaking, including police, courts, corrections and rehabilitations etc; seeking to improve its effectiveness and fairness. It also delves into various sub-fields like penology, bio-criminology, feminist criminology and criminalistics. Therefore it addresses specialized aspects of crime, punishment and the biological underpinnings of criminal conduct.

② NATURE AND SCOPE OF CRIMINOLOGY

Understanding nature and scope of criminology is crucial as it encompasses various aspects. But this knowledge equips us to develop effective strategies for crime prevention, punishment, control and rehabilitation while fostering fairness and efficiency within the legal system.

2.1) A dynamic and multifaceted field :- Criminology delves deep into understanding of crime, criminals and criminal justice system. Its nature can be characterised by several key attributes :-

① Interdisciplinary :-

- Inherently interdisciplinary
- draws insights from wide range of social, natural, behavioural sciences
- eg :- Sociology, Law, Psychology, Anthropology, biology etc.
- allows holistic understanding of crime and its origins

② Empirical :-

- * rooted in empirical research
- * collecting and analyzing data to study criminal behaviour, patterns, control strategies etc.
- * By relying on real evidence, criminologists develop evidence-based policies.

③ Theoretical :-

- * Heavily theoretical
- * Various theories to explain causes and motivations behind crime.
- * help criminologists understand and predict criminal behaviour.
- * Theories range from classical to contemporary.

④ Applied :-

- applied field
- application to real world problems.
- criminologists along with lawmakers, policymakers, agencies etc develop practical crime prevention strategies and justice improvement.

⑤ Policy-oriented :-

- has a policy oriented focus
- Research has direct impact on policy development.
- Allows judges, lawmakers, enforcement agencies and correctional facilities to make evidence-based decisions.

⑥ Employs a scientific method :-

- relies on scientific method
- formulation of hypothesis, data collection, analysis, testing theories.
- ensures systematic and empirical research.

NATURE
OF
CRIMINOLOGY

"KEY

ATTRIBUTES"

3

SIGNIFICANCE OF CRIMINOLOGY:-

Criminology is very essential field of study having great significance to society, -

- (i) Aids society in understanding, controlling and reducing crime.
- (ii) Aids in discovering and analysing causes of crime.
- (iii) Aids in understanding criminal mindsets.
- (iv) Aids in criminal reform by providing practical strategies for criminal rehabilitation.
- (v) Aids in minimizing the causes that influence criminal behaviour.
- (vi) Aids in understanding the legal system, criminal law, crime prevention, rehabilitation programs etc.
- (vii) Aids in understanding white collar crime, corporate crime etc.

SCOPE OF CRIMINOLOGY:-

The scope of criminology is expansive and includes various subfields and areas of focus:-

i) Crime Causation

One of the fundamental aspects of criminology is the study of factors contributing to criminal behaviour. This includes examining the influence of socioeconomic conditions, socialisation, mental health and even genetic and neurological factors.

ii) Criminal Typologies Understanding the impact of crime on victims and their experiences is a crucial component. This knowledge is used to design support systems and services

that cater to the needs of victims.

iii) Criminal Justice System - Effective policymaking.

Criminology evaluates the functioning of the criminal justice system, which encompasses the police, courts and correctional institutions. It assesses the effectiveness and fairness of the system in dealing with crime and criminals. It facilitates in effective criminal justice policymaking.

iv) Crime Prevention and Control/Rehabilitation :-

Criminologists are actively involved in developing, implementing and assessing crime prevention strategies. This includes rehabilitation programs, community policy and measures to reduce recidivism.

v) Comparative Criminology :-

This subfield involves comparing crime rates, criminal justice policies and cultural differences across different countries and societies. The aim is to identify effective approaches to crime control and to learn from international practices.

vi) Specialized Areas

Criminology also encompasses specialised areas like white collar crime, which focuses on non-violent crimes committed by individuals in positions of trust or authority and cybercrime, which investigates crimes committed in the digital realm like hacking, identity theft, and online scams etc.

5) Scope of Criminology in Pakistan — A

Daunting reality.

Despite the immense significance of the discipline and need of it in countries like Pakistan, where crime rate is escalating with time, the situation of criminology in Pakistan is quite daunting. There is only one HEC-recognized journal of criminology, which is not enough source of information for the public and even the criminologists.

Moreover, when it comes to the post-graduation in criminology, masters in criminology is offered only by 10 universities while no P.H.D degree is offered in criminology.

'The University of Zindli produced several criminologists but they are still jobless. No job is announced for them.'

(Shantal Aqaz Mazhar, Dawn)

6) CONCLUSION -

Thus, the above mentioned discussion clearly states the multifaceted nature and scope of criminology.

It has great significance to society. It encompasses a wide range of aspects related to study of crime, criminals behaviour and criminal justice system. Criminology allows criminologists and lawmakers to develop effective strategies for crime prevention, criminal justice policymaking and rehabilitation programs. Its empirical and theoretical approaches analyze crime patterns in a systematic manner and develop effective prevention strategies.

"It is better to prevent crimes
than to punish them."

(Cesare Beccaria)

