

Explain the nature and importance of criminology in detail.

“Criminology is correctly understood and best practiced as a major social science.”

- J. Mitchell Miller

Introduction:-

The word criminology originated in 1890. The general meaning of term is

- the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon of criminals and of penal institution.

Larry J. Seigal explain criminology as:

“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 of laws. The objective of criminology is the development of body of general and varied principles and of other types of knowledge regarding the process of laws, crime and treatment.”

Nature of Criminology:-

Criminology basically deals with crime and criminals.

Crime:-

Crime is an act of conduct, forbidden by the criminal law, committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor.

(Criminology & Penology, 1908)

- Edwin H. Sutherland

- Donald R. Cressey

Criminal:-

Criminal is a popular term used for a person who has committed a crime or has been legally convicted of a crime.

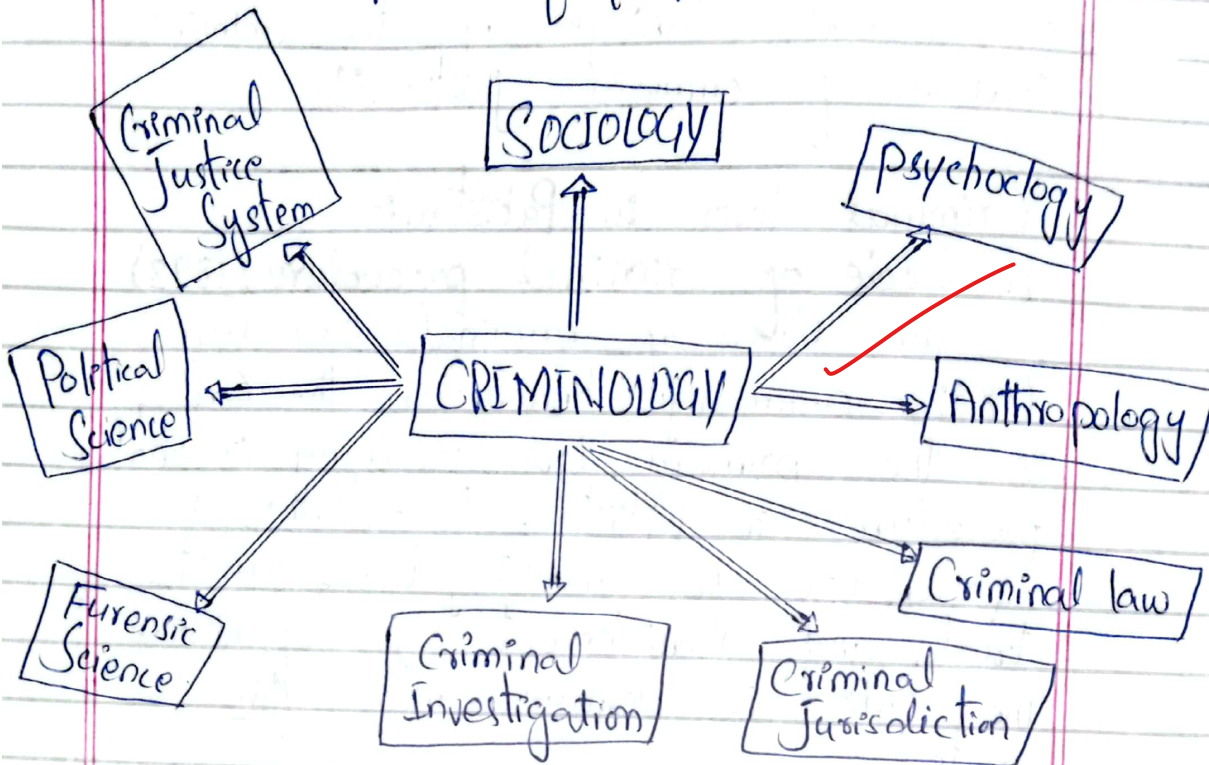
Reasons to commit crimes:-

Some criminologists believe one of the main reasons people commit crime is because it is in their 'nature'. i.e. some people are more psychologically predisposed to committing criminal acts. There is evidence to suggest that some people are naturally more likely to commit crime. There are also other factors behind this like poverty, peer pressure, drugs, politics, religion, background, society, unemployment, unequal rights and unfair justice.

system etc.

Interdisciplinary Nature of Criminology:-

Criminology is the new emerging scientific study to check for both social and individual criminal actions. It is divided up into several separate disciplines including psychology, economics, natural science, biology and the development of people.



Services Of Criminology:-

The principles of criminology serve as effective guideline for formulation of penal policy. The modern clinical methods and the reformatory measures such as probation, parol, indeterminate sentence, open prisons, and other correctional institutions are essentially an outcome of intensive criminological researches during the

twentieth century. These measures have sufficiently demonstrated the utility of clumping offenders inside the prisons and infliction of barbaric punishments.

Prof. Gillin has rightly observed as "It is not the humanity within the criminal but the criminality within the human being which needs to be curbed through effective administration of criminal justice."

Criminal laws in Pakistan:-

(i) Code of criminal procedure (1898)

The Code of criminal procedure (1898) commonly known as the CrPC, is the primary law governing criminal procedure in Pakistan. It outlines the procedure for investigation, arrest, trial, and punishment of offenses. The CrPC is divided into five parts.

(ii) Pakistan Penal Code (1860):-

The Pakistan Penal Code (1860), commonly known as the PPC, is the primary law governing substantive criminal law in Pakistan. It defines and punishes various offenses, such as murder, rape, robbery, theft, and fraud. The PPC is divided into 23 chapters, each dealing with the different category of crime.

Difference between CrPC and PPC:-

The CrPC and PPC are two distinct pieces of legislation, each serving a specific purpose. The key difference between the two are:

CrPC

PPC

Scope:-

- The CrPC deals with procedural matters.

- The PPC deals with substantive matter.

Purpose:-

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- The CrPC is designed to ensure a fair and just trial for accused persons.

- The PPC is designed to define and punish offense.

Enforcement:-

- CrPC is enforced by police officers and magistrates.

- The PPC is enforced by law enforcement agencies and courts.

History Of Criminology:-

Medieval Period:-

The history of primitive societies and early medieval period reveals that human thinking in those days was predominated by religious system and all human relations were regulated through myths, superstitious and religious tenets.

prevailing in a particular society. This in the words, meant that little attention was devoted to the motive, environment and psychology of the offender in the causation of crime. Moreover, in absence of any definite principle for the guidance of those who were concerned with the criminal justice administration, punishment were often haphazard, arbitrary & irrational. This situation prevail until the end of seventeenth century.

Modern Period:-

With the change in human thinking and evolution of modern society, certain social reforms took up the cause of criminals and devoted their attention to analysis of crime causation. This finally led to the emergency of criminology as branch of knowledge through development of different schools of criminology.

Importance of Criminology:-

Criminology is a field primarily interested in acts constituted as crimes and the subsequent social responses to these criminal acts. Though sociological theories have played a prominent role in

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in the development of the field of criminology. It is an interdisciplinary field organized around the study of law and crime, incorporating contributions from other disciplines such as psychology, anthropology, political science and law. The value of significance of criminology is theoretical as well as practical. Its theoretical aspect lies in the fact that it investigates and determines the cause of social disintegrations. The practical or applied aspect of this science is that besides determining the factors and causes of social disintegration, it also studies the ways and means of preventing these evils, that is remedial measures.

This multifaceted value and significance of criminology is brought out by following facts.

Theoretical Significance Of Criminology:-

Explaining the theoretical significance of the science of criminology the eminent criminologist Sutherland writes:-

"The knowledge will contribute to the development of other social studies and through other social

studies it will contribute to efficiency in general social control."

The foregoing observation of Sutherland is extremely significant as it brings into relief the theoretical importance and value of the science of criminology. The chief theoretical benefits of criminology are the following:

~ Knowledge of a Crime Data ~

In every social community and group, there are always criminals and incidence of crime. It is not humanly possible to bring about an ideal republic in which every chance of criminal behaviour has been eliminated. However, a systematic scientific and unbiased study of criminology furnishes us with factual, true and realistic data about crimes and criminals. This results in increase in our knowledge. By studying criminology we also learn about the crimes and criminals. We also learn about the causes, and reasons of criminal behaviours.

~ Penal Legislation ~

The science of criminology upon the penal legislation, that is, it helps formulation of rational and

human laws regarding crime and punishment. Criminology attempts both extensive and intensive study of crime under all perspectives and by taking into account every possible view. Thus its analysis and description of crime is specific, scientific, authentic and reliable. This analytical description of crime helps in determination of the exact causes of various categories of crime, and this information in turn, helps to formulate preventive and remedial laws regarding crime.

→ Practical Importance Of Criminology →

Apart from having theoretical value and importance, criminology also has much practical use and importance. In the words of Sutherland, "Criminology is concerned with the immediate application of knowledge to the programs of social control of crime."

Following are some practical uses of criminology:

→ Elimination of Crimes →

The elimination of crime is one of the specific aim of criminology. It helps society in controlling and elimination the crime both directly and indirectly. It is

most obvious that if one knows the cause of malady, its cure become easy. It is a truism in medical practice that correct diagnosis is more than half the cure. The same holds good in regards to the phenomenon of crime. By the knowledge of the causes of the crime, we can under take specific measures to remove them.

~ Reforms Of Criminals ~

Besides controls, prevention and elimination of crime, it is the important task and responsibility of the science of criminology to device and suggest measures for the reforms and rehabilitation of the criminals.

~ Reforms Of evil Sources ~

Every society are under the influence of certain evil forces and their removal is the concern of every well-meaning member of society. The science of criminology helps us a great deal in appreciating and understanding these evil forces and thus, enables us to device ways and means for the effective check of these forces.

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