

Criminology

(2018)

Q: Define Criminology. Discuss the scope of Criminology in Pakistan?

Definition of Criminology:

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, its causes, consequences, prevention and the functioning of the criminal justice system. It involves analyzing the social, psychological, economic and environmental factors contributing to criminal behavior, as well as evaluating legal responses to crime, rehabilitation and effectiveness of various prevention strategies.

Criminologists use interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from sociology, psychology, law, anthropology, and economics to understand crime and its impact on society.

"The Criminal is not alone in committing the crime; Society itself becomes an accomplice"
(Emile Durkheim)

II. Scope of Criminology in Pakistan :

1. Understanding Crime Patterns and Trends :

Criminology in Pakistan helps in understanding the patterns and trends in crimes, such as

- i- Terrorism
- ii- Honor killing
- iii- Cyber crimes
- iv- Drug trafficking
- v- Street crimes

The study helps to identify hotspots, predict potential crimes wave, and devise strategies for prevention.

2. Policy Development and Legal Reforms :

Criminology provides evidence-based insights into crime prevention and legal reforms. In Pakistan, criminological studies contribute to formulating policies related to juvenile justice, penal reforms, and victim protection.

"Criminologists play a key role in advising government bodies on amendments in laws, such as Criminal Law"

(Amendment Act 2021)

3. Enhancing Law Enforcement Capabilities :

The scope of criminology extends to improving law enforcement techniques and operations in Pakistan.

It aids in training police forces and developing modern policing strategies such as community policing, intelligence-led policing, and forensic investigation.

Criminology supports the integration of technology like biometric databases and surveillance systems.

"Effective law enforcement is about being smart on crime, not just tough on crime"
(Kamala Harris)

4. Addressing Terrorism and Extremism :

Pakistan's experience with terrorism and extremism, criminology plays a critical role in understanding the root causes of radicalization, recruitment, processes, and the psychological profiles of terrorists.

5. Victimology and Rehabilitation:

Criminology in Pakistan also focuses on victimology which involves understanding the impact of crime on victims and devising methods for their rehabilitation. It includes support services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, along with recommendations for compensation and psychological assistance.

"According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), over 1.3 million people globally fall victim to homicide each year"

6. Combating Cybercrime:

With the rise of internet usage and digital transactions, cybercrime has become a significant concern in Pakistan. Criminology helps in understanding cybercrime patterns, identifying perpetrators and developing cyber security policies.

It aids in the enforcement of laws such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act.

(PECA 2016)

7. Improving Criminal Justice System :

Criminology supports the development of an effective, efficient and fair criminal justice system in Pakistan. It focuses on the gaps and inefficiencies in the current system, such as

- Delays in the judicial process
- Overcrowded prisons
- Inadequate legal aid
- Ensure justice for reforms.

8. Social Impacts and Public Awareness :

Criminology contributes to raising public awareness about crime and its consequences. It fosters a better understanding of crime prevention measures among the general populace, encouraging them to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Initiatives, such as community outreach programs, workshops, and seminars are influenced by criminological studies.

Understanding Crime Patterns
and Trends

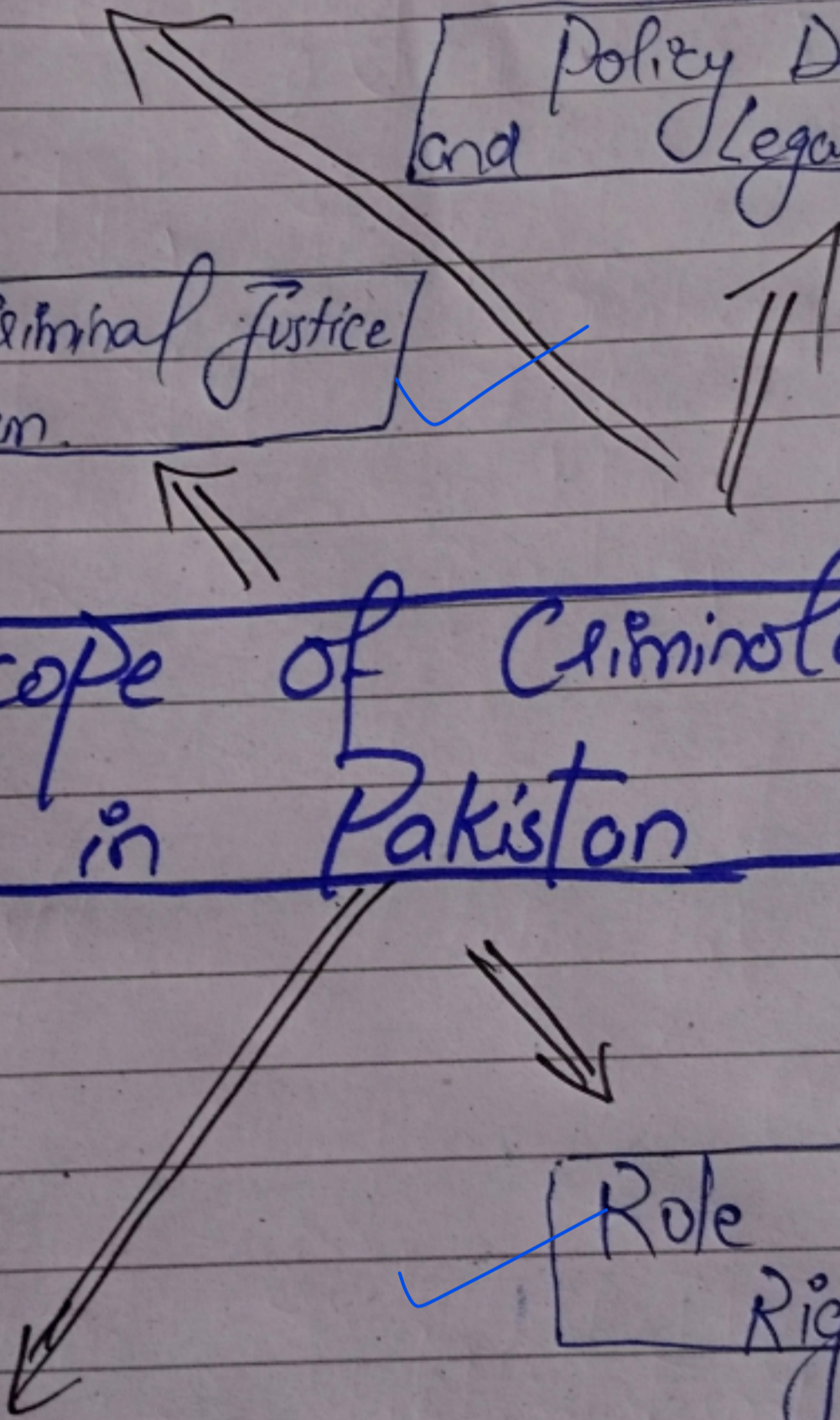
Policy Development
and Legal Reforms

Improving Criminal Justice
System

Scope of Criminology
in Pakistan

Role in Human
Rights Advocacy

Enhancing Law Enforcement
Capabilities



9. Academic Research and Education:

In Pakistan, Criminology has become an important field of academic research and education. Universities and research institutions are increasingly offering courses and degrees in criminology which contributes to the development of a new generation of criminologists, police officers and legal experts, enhancing the capacity to tackle crime effectively.

In Pakistan, 20 universities now offer degree in criminology and criminal justice system, reflecting a growing academic interest and the importance of research in understanding and combating crime.

10. Role in Human Rights Advocacy:

Criminology helps in advocating for human rights, particularly concerning the treatment of prisoners, the use of torture, and extrajudicial killings. It promotes fair treatment and ethical standards in dealing with criminals and suspects which aligns with Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law.

Conclusion :

The Scope of criminology in Pakistan is vast and encompasses various aspects of crime prevention, law enforcement, policy development and victim rehabilitation. It is integral to creating a safer society by understanding the multifaceted nature of crime, enhancing the criminal justice system, and promoting effective crime control strategies.

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THE END

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