

I. White-Collar Crimes:

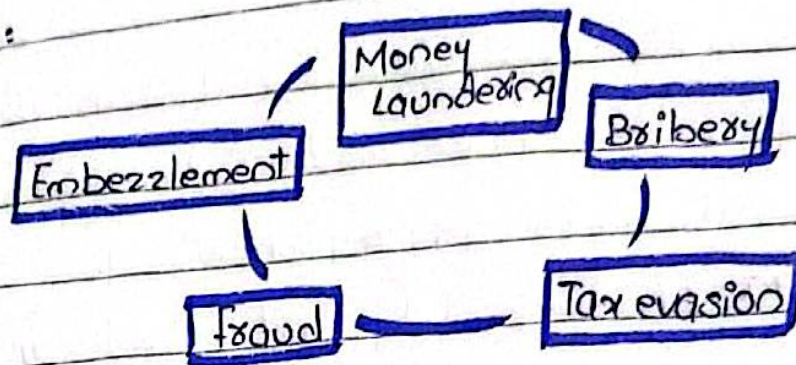
According to Walter Reckless,

"The white-collar crime is a differential response or inner readiness to break over the lines of compliance."

In 1939, Edwin Sutherland coined the term white-collar crime to describe criminal activities of the rich and powerful. It is also known as crimes in suits. According to Sutherland, white-collar criminals involved in the exploitation of finances by not regarding to the law. Such actions are often handled by civil court, as injured parties are more concerned to recover their losses than punishing the offenders. In this way, white-collar crimes do not become the subject of criminological studies. Yet, the cost of white-collar crime is probably several times greater than all the crimes customarily regarded as the crime problem.

White-collar crimes require high education, and they are distinct from blue-collar crimes—manual or industrial in nature.

Some examples of white collar crimes are:



a. Case Studies of White-Collar Crimes in Pakistan:

In Pakistan, white-collar crimes in every department where transaction of money is handled. For example, in National Highway Authority (NHA), public officials accept bribes for favours such as licenses, contracts, or regulatory approvals.

Moreover, FBR (tax files) are belied by the increasing number of 'junk files'. Nearly two out of every five persons filing their returns this year (2025) declared 'nil taxable income'.

b. Causes of White-Collar Crimes

Many offenders feel free to engage in business crime because they feel free to can easily rationalize it, later on.

* Greed:

According to Rational Choice Theory, people do what they think as beneficial. Greed for more money or power is an obvious fact in society that drives negative emotions in a person.

* Corporate Culture View:

According to corporate culture view, some business organizations promote white-collar crimes in the same way that lower-class culture encourages juvenile gangs and street crimes. Employees follow harmful practices because "this is how things are done here".

* Self-Control View:

White-Collar criminals have low self-control

and are inclined to follow momentary impulses without considering the long-term costs of such behavior - according to Hirschi and Gottfredson.

* Societal Pressure:

Societal pressure like family, fellows, peers, and others is the theme of Strain theory. People of lower-class or middle-class working as an employee of reputable organizations tend to earn more by hook or by crook.

c. Impacts of White-Collar Crimes

The impacts of white-collar crimes are deep but narrow as well.

* Moral and Ethical Decline:

White-collar crimes encourages cynicism about ethical standards. It weakens professional integrity of a person and

at a large level, it is a decline of a society.

* Psychological Impact:

victims of white-collar crimes may suffer significant psychological stress. losing one's life savings due to investment fraud can lead to depression, anxiety, and a loss of confidence.

* Loss of Trust:

Trust is a cornerstone of any functioning society. white-collar crimes erode trust in institutions, businesses, and government bodies. Public loses faith in the integrity of institutions when one person of authority exploits his role.

* Reputational Damage:

victims of white-collar crimes are often blamed as 'being careless'. In this way, the reputation of a person/victim is damaged and he loses his credibility among peers.

II. Corporate Crimes

Corporate Crimes are also known as organizational crimes. It is another component of white-collar crime involves situations in which powerful institutions or their representatives wilfully violate the laws! The target of their crimes can be the general public, the environment, or even company workers.

⇒ The uniqueness of these crimes is that the perpetrators is a legal fiction - a corporation not an individual.

a. Criminality of any Organization:

The authority in any organization has two types:

Actual Authority

when a corporation knowingly gives authority to an employee.

Apparent Authority

when a third party like customer is satisfied with the reasonable authority of the agent.

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b. Costs of Corporate Crime:

Corporate crime is more financially costly than conventional street crimes. Sometimes, cost association with such crimes is immeasurable.

Cost to Customer

Cost to Environment

Cost to Employees

c. Case Studies in Pakistan:

- ✓ In Pakistan, Sugar Mafia crisis 2019-2020 demonstrates how corporate power influence market and policy through artificial inflation of sugar prices, hoarding, and cartelization of sugar mills.
- ✓ Moreover, Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) Drug Scandal - 2012 caused death of 200 people by distributing contaminated heart medicines. It is a classic case of corporate crime causing direct harm, often overlooked compared to street crimes.

d. Impacts of Corporate Crimes

Corporate crimes causes devastating impacts on the society, country, and at global level, as compared to any other crime.

* Environmental Destruction:

Environmental destruction is the cost any country bears through corporate crimes.

They destroy ecology such as deforestation, to make more (illegal) societies and ultimately it is the matter of money/power.

* Social Inequality:

The educated and literate members of the society are involved in corporate crimes. When they commit fraud despite being a good income holder in a society, it affects marginalized community. Social inequality is already a problem in Pakistan and such crimes add fuel to fire of poverty and illiteracy.

* Political and Regulatory Corruption:

Because corporate crimes are organizational crimes - consists of professionals. In this regard, bribery, tax evasion, frauds could be normal if these crimes stay intact.

* Global Impact:

Corporate crimes are committed by large companies that work outside the borders of the country as well. In this way, one scandal can raise question against country.

III. Conclusion:

White-collar and Corporate crimes are two types of crimes. They are committed by professional and educated class of the society. In Pakistan, these are common and deeply delved into the system. No department is free from crime and they poses serious threat to integrity of the institutes and morality (decline) of society.