

Explain the nature and importance of criminology in detail.

## 1) Introduction

The term criminology was coined by Raffaele in 1885. Criminology is the study of the various aspects of crime. It literally means studying criminals and crimes. It is an interdisciplinary field that draws on various areas of study like psychology, sociology and law. It has the importance in identifying factors contributing to commitment of crime, criminal behaviour, and <sup>and in</sup> the policy making of preventing crimes.

## 2) Definition of Criminology

Criminology can be define in terms of Edwin Sutherland. "Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the processes of making laws, breaking laws, and the response to breaking of the law."

Similarly Donald Tapp defined :  
Criminology in two sense

### a) General sense:-

In general sense, criminology includes is the study of crime and criminals.

### b) Specific sense:-

In specific sense, criminology is aim to study the criminal behaviour, reforming the criminal behaviour, and the conduct of an individual which society condemn.

## Nature of Criminology

Criminology is an interdisciplinary subject. Its primary subjects are crime and criminal behaviour. It identifies the factors behind the commitment of a crime, analyzes the pattern of the criminal behaviour, formulates strategies for effective criminal justice system, and evaluates the effectiveness of the CJS. It generally answers the following questions.

- 1) Why people commit crimes?
- 2) Why crime rate is different in different areas?
- 3) What are the causes of crimes in different age, cultures,

- socialists, and races?
- 4) What should be done to prevent the crime?
  - 5) Why can a specific crime is criminalized in one place, but not in another?
  - 7) Why some crimes are criminalized at one point of time, while not at another point of time?

There is pro-longed debate between the scholars and criminologists about the nature of the crime. Some says According to some quarters, criminology is a science. This view can be explain in the following headings.

## 1) **Criminology is a Scientific Field:-**

Criminology is a scientific field due to the following reasons.

### a) **Theory formulation:**

Most of the theorists use scientific methods to study the criminal behaviours and are known as positivists. According to **George B.** "The most essential point in the positivism is the application of detrimental

and scientific method to study the crime.

## b) Data Analysis and collection

In studying the various aspects of crime, criminologists collect and analyze data on scientific basis like forensic.

## c) Policy formulation and evaluation

Criminologists formulate policies on the basis of the scientific findings, and evaluate these policies through scientific approach.

Thus, from the above discussion, the concept of criminology as a science weighs more

## Importance of Criminology

Criminology plays a crucial role in various fields, some of them are given below.

### a) Aids in understanding the causes of crimes:

As criminology came into existence to study the crime and the causes of crimes, so it has a crucial role in understanding the underlying causes of crimes. It helps in prevention of crimes in society

## 2) Policy Formulation vis <sup>factors</sup> control of crime

Criminology aids in formulating effective policies either through deterrence or rehabilitation theories to control the crimes in society.

## 3) Rehabilitation and Treatment of offenders

Criminology withal focuses on the rehabilitation and treatment of offenders to make offenders able to live a normal life in the society.

## 4. Importance in Juvenile Delinquency

Criminology has separately focused on juvenile delinquency, its prevention, and on its treatment <sup>different</sup> from the adult offenders.

## 6. Planning, operation, and evaluation of criminal justice system

Criminology also focuses on making the strategy for effective planning, operation, and evaluation of criminal justice system. It helps to strengthen CJS to maintain peace and security in the society.

## 7. Study the Socio-economic

## Factors contributing to Criminal Behaviour

Criminology criminologists conduct researches and analyzes to identify the socio-economic factors which are responsible for committing crimes. It may include poverty, unemployment, alienation, or social marginalization.

## Conclusion:-

As crime has evolved with history, so its understanding and prevention becomes imperative to maintain the peace and security both in society and country.

Criminology is a server as interdisciplinary field merging various subjects and aspects related to crime. It plays a crucial role in various fields which can significantly reduces the crime rate.

Time = 46 minutes