

Q Explain the nature and importance of Criminology and discuss the scope of Criminology in Pakistan.

Answer

1) Introduction :

Criminology is the study of aetiology, ~~case~~ correction and prevention of crime. It is multidisciplinary in nature, integrating Sociology, Psychology, Law, biology and etc. The subject carries great importance regarding its ability to analyze crime, identifying the reasons for criminality by incorporating theoretical framework, and helping in reducing crime applicable to Pakistan and all around the globe.

2) Analyzing the term criminology:

Criminology has been derived from the Latin word 'Crimen' which means accusation, and the Greek word 'logia' which means the study of. Therefore, the study of accusation or crime. It is the scientific study of causation, correction and prevention of crime.

"Criminology is the book of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the process of making law, breaking law, and reacting to the breaking of law"

- Edwin Sutherland

3) Nature of criminology:

It is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on scientific inquiry, theoretical foundation and is ever evolving.

(a) Scientific inquiry

It utilises empirical research methods such as surveys, experiments, case studies and statistical analysis to understand crime patterns, causes and responses, It ~~takes~~^{gives} precedence to evidence based knowledge rather than mere speculations.

(b) Utilizes numerous theoretical frameworks

It is built upon diverse theoretical foundations such as classical school which focuses on free will, deterrence through punishment which should be proportional to the crime committed.

Positivist school which analyzes biological, psychological and social determinants of criminal behaviour, suggesting factors beyond individual control.

i.e. Lombroso's theory of atavism.

Sociological theories which explain crime through the lens of societal pressure, learned behaviour, weakened social bonds.

(c) Dynamic and evolving

Criminology is ever evolving, adjusting itself constantly to the progressing world. Crime trends and societal responses change.

It adapts, studying emerging phenomenon like cyber crime, organized crime and even terrorism.

4) The importance of criminology

Criminology carries a lot of importance in multiple domains.

(a) Informing crime prevention

It helps in crime prevention by understanding the root cause such as poverty, lack of education, social disorganization and weak institution. which is essential for developing effective prevention strategies. Mere deterrence strategies won't suffice now, research based strategies have to be implemented.

"Prevention strategies based on sound research are crucial for sustainable reductions in crime".

- United Nations office on Drug Control (UNODC)

(b) Understanding crime patterns and trends

"Crime is inevitable in any society"

- Emile Durkheim

Crime is a phenomenon that would never cease to exist completely. But can be controlled by analyzing crime statistics, which helps to identify hotspots, vulnerable populations and emerging threats. This allows to target that particular location, saving time and resource.

It is not only limited to street crime but also utilizes demographics for understanding white-collar crimes. It makes policy adjustments keeping all the data in mind.

(C) Spreads awareness of the origin of crime to prevent it :

"Every child's mind is a blank sheet of paper, whatever he learns is printed on his mind"

- The law of imitation by Gabriel Tarde

This statement signifies how crime can be a learned behaviour, resulting from what a child learns during his ~~int~~ initial years of life. This is also supported by the Theory of differential association which argues crime is a learned from peers. - So, if the parents are taught about it they can better protect their children, keeping them away from the path of criminality

(d) Enhancing public safety and boosting economy

The ultimate goal is a safer society - By understanding and addressing crime, Criminology contributes to social stability, economic development, and citizen well-being.

"High crime rates significantly hinder economic growth and investment"

- World bank

(e) Reducing Victimization

Victimology, a sub-field, studies the impact of crime on victims and develop support services and policies which aid the victims, and prevents secondary victimization by the system.

5) Scope of criminology in Pakistan

Pakistan is facing a convergence of challenges due to which an increasing crime rate is envisioned within the country. Therefore, criminology is important in Pakistan society for understanding the root cause of those crimes and dealing with them.

(a) Understanding the underlying causes of crime

Causes of crime have been explained by various perspectives. Some say it is a rational choice based upon cost-benefit analysis; while others argue it is an inbuilt tendency. Environment and social pressure is also a major contributor.

Especially in Pakistan the major factor for motivating an individual to commit crime are poverty and unemployment as.

39.4% of the people of Pakistan are living below the poverty line.

- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 2023

(b) Strengthening law and order

Criminology helps in improving the strategies of policing and judicial process in Pakistan.

Furthermore forensics and modern techniques are introduced due to criminology to adapt to the evolving world. A significant example was launching of Eagle Squad in Punjab, which is based on artificial intelligence and reduces street crime by tracking criminals.

(C) Eliminating gender-based violence

According to power and control wheel theory perpetrators practice violence to control their partners. 34% of women in Pakistan

are victims of domestic violence as per

Human rights watch 2023. Our society is deeply rooted in patriarchal norms.

including acid attacks, domestic violence, rape and forced marriages

2,297 cases of violence against women reported in Punjab alone

- Human rights commission of Pakistan (HRPC)

(D) Countering terrorism

With the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan, criminological approach to address terrorist threats are crucial in Pakistan.

In criminology, radical behaviour are studied along with ways to reform them in rehabilitation centers.

Exp:-

In 2022, National Counter Terrorism authority (NACTA) introduced rehabilitation programs for youngsters with radical behaviour in KPK that helped in reducing radicalization by 30%.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, criminology is the science of crime, criminals and the punishment.

This discipline has evolved with time,

its main focus is practical application,

it has made contributions to the criminal

justice system and helped with forensic

and investigation. Developing countries like

Pakistan adopt criminology approach to

eradicate crimes, counter terrorism and

eliminating gender based violence. Criminology

encompasses everything from law making to

violation of law. It is essential to make

progress and establishing a lasting peace.