

Define the scope of criminology and its significance in Pakistani society?

Introduction

Criminology is the body of science regarding the understanding of crime under sociological lenses. It has broader scope, that deals with law making, means it includes analysis of crime, state and society behaviour and crime prevention measures. Moreover, it also includes the study of criminal justice system. For every society to maintain peace, it is significantly important. In Pakistan it is concern with security issues, highlight loopholes in criminal justice system and provide framework for Police reforms. Additionally, it helps to understand social factors behind crime in Pakistan and provide rehabilitation and correction measures, that makes criminology significantly important in Pakistani society.

1) Debunking the term "Criminology":

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, its causes and the reaction to it. It examines the process of making law, breaking law and society's response. It derives factors from disciplines like sociology, psychology, and economics to understand criminal behaviour and its impact on society.

2) Scope of criminology:

The scope of criminology is divided into four major categories

Analysis of crime

Criminal justice system — SCOPE —> Prevention measures

State and Social behaviour

2.1) Analysis of crime:

The analysis of crime refers to the what crime is, how it is defined by the law and society. Why it occurs, and how it affects the social order and individuals life. For example, smoking hashish is crime in Pakistan because it is defined by the law. For every criminal activity there is **actus reus** (action) and **mens rea** (intention) for occurrence. Moreover, the intensity of crime decides its punishment and prevention measures.

2.2) Role of state and societal behaviour:

Criminology's scope extends beyond the study of criminals and causation. It also examines the role of the state and pattern of social behaviour. According to criminology, social dynamics play a vital role in crime. People are not born criminals, but according to **Edwin Sutherland**, people learn it from social interaction. Moreover, **Robert K Merton**

highlights the social inequalities like poverty and unemployment as a cause behind crime.

3.3) Crime prevention measures:

Crime prevention is a central component of the scope of criminology. It includes the strategies, policies and interventions designed to reduce the occurrence of crime. According to **Social disorganization theory**, crime is a product of inequalities persist in society and by overcoming on them prevention of crime is possible. Second, crime is a learned process according to **Edwin Sutherland**, he argues that by targeting risky individuals and groups, the rise of crime can be prevented. Third is **rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in society**. Through this scope of criminology also targets the composition of society.

3.4) Criminal justice system:

The scope of criminology argues that it is the state, that decides which act is criminal and which is not, it also sets punishment mechanisms through judicial system. It argue that justice system must be swift and fair, because delays and discretionary biases ruin the social order. Therefore, justice system must be designed in a manner to ensure transparency, credibility and evidence based to maintain order in the society.

4) Significance of criminology in Pakistan:

Criminology has gained significant importance in Pakistani society due to complex pattern of crime like security, criminal justice system, Police framework and understanding social causes behind crime. It also includes the concerning situation of rehabilitation. All the factors are discussed below.

4.1) Criminology and security issues in Pakistan:

Unlike other societies, security issues in Pakistan are not merely law and order but they are deeply connected with classical concept of **deviance, social conflict** and **state capacity**. Terrorism and extremism in Pakistani society are often connected with deviance where group's social norms and ideology influence them to take arms like **TTP**. Moreover, the society is also radicalized due to absence of **secularism co-existence**, that results into communal conflicts as witnessed in **Parachinar**. These factors enhanced the significance of criminology to understand the causes behind security issues.

4.2) Criminal justice system of Pakistan and criminology:

Criminology plays crucial roles in highlighting loopholes in Pakistan's criminal justice system, and provides solutions. It highlights the blockings, according to **International**

Journal of criminology, political intervention and behaviour of investigating agencies are threats for judicial system, that are resulting in chaos in Pakistani society.

4.3) Police framework in Pakistan:

Criminology consider police as a ~~restorative~~ and ~~binding~~ agent to maintain order in society. Unfortunately, the department is considered as a burden over relief in Pakistani society. Criminology offers solution for Police framework. Social disorganization theory argue that weak institutions and communal breakdown effect each other and pressure on police often results in corruption. Therefore, Pakistan needs scientific policing like intelligence based, modern techniques and communal policing concept to bridge gap between society and institution.

4.4) Concerning situation of rehabilitation and reintegration:

Globally the concept of prisons is converting in rehabilitation centers to reintegrate offender as responsible citizens of in society. However according to labelling theory, social rejection often creates self acceptance in offender to remain criminal and rehabilitation like better environment, skill development and psychological training is the only way to reintegrate. Unfortunately, most prisons in

Pakistan focuses on punishment and the environment often create repeating criminals.

Criminology significantly helps to understand the concerning situation of rehabilitation and effects on Pakistani society.

Conclusion:

The scope of criminology is wide and broadly covers the aspects like criminal justice system, analyze crime, social behaviour and preventative measures through the lens of social science. Its significance in Pakistani society grows because of unconventional security issues, concerning situation of rehabilitation, police framework and judicial system's blockings.