

Q1) Differentiate between Crime and Deviance. Discuss the history, nature and significance of Criminology.

Introduction:-

Crime and deviance are central concepts in sociology and criminology. Both refer to rule breaking behaviour, but their meaning, scope and social responses differ. Understanding these terms is crucial for analysing how societies maintain order, control and justice.

Crime and Deviance:-

Aspect	Crime	Deviance
Definition	Crime refers to any act that violates the written laws of a society and is punishable by the state.	Deviance refers to behaviour that violates social norms or expectations, whether or not it is against the law.
Legal Status	It is a legal concept defined by criminal law.	It is a social concept defined by social norms and values.
Reaction of Society	Formal sanctions like arrest, trial, or imprisonment.	Informal sanctions like criticism, gossips or exclusion.
Examples	Theft, murder, fraud, drug trafficking etc.	Dressing unusually, excessive tattoos, violating traditions.

Universality	Crimes are relatively universal in legal system.	Deviance varies across cultures and time.
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Example:-

Drinking alcohol may be legal (not a crime) but considered deviant in conservative and muslim societies. Similarly, tax evasion is a crime even if it doesn't appear morally deviant to some.

History and Development of Criminology:-

Criminology as a discipline evolved over time from philosophical speculation to scientific study.

1- Classical School (18th Century):

- It was founded by Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham.
- Viewed crime as a result of free will and rational choice.
- Advocated for proportionate punishment and rule of law.
- Example: "Let the punishment fit the crime".

2- Positivist School (19th Century):

- It was developed by Cesare Lombroso, Enrico Ferri and Raffaele Garofalo.
- Argued that crime is caused by biological, psychological, or social factors, not just free will.

- Lombroso introduced the concept of the "born criminal", linking physical traits with criminality.

3- Sociological School (20th Century):

- Emphasised social environment and group influences.
- Key theorists: Emile Durkheim, Robert Merton, Edwin Sutherland.
- Durkheim viewed crime as a normal social phenomenon necessary for defining moral boundaries.
- Sutherland introduced Differential Association Theory, explaining crime through learned behaviour.

4- Modern / Contemporary Criminology:

- Combines multiple approaches like biological, psychological, sociological and economic.
- Focuses on victimology, cybercrime, white-collar crime, terrorism and rehabilitation.
- Uses advanced research methods and statistics for policy development.

Nature of Criminology:-

Criminology is an interdisciplinary science that studies crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system. Its nature can be summarised as follows:

1- Scientific:

It uses empirical research, data analysis, and observation to understand causes and control of crime.

2- Interdisciplinary:

Draws from sociology, psychology, law, anthropology and economics.

3- Dynamic:

Adapts with changing societies, e.g., rise of cybercrimes, organised crime, and terrorism.

4- Applied Science:

Helps in policy-making, law enforcement training, and judicial reforms.

5- Humanistic:

Seeks not only punishment but also rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

Significance of Criminology:-

1- Understanding Causes of Crime:

Criminology identifies biological, psychological, and social factors behind criminal behaviour.

2- Policy and Law Reform:

Research findings shape effective laws and fair justice systems (e.g., juvenile justice, rehabilitation programs).

3- Prevention and Control:

Helps design preventive strategies such as community policing and crime mapping.

4- Correction and Rehabilitation:

Emphasises reform rather than revenge like turning criminals into law-abiding citizens.

5- ~~Social Awareness~~ and Global Relevance:

Addresses new crimes like cyber fraud, human trafficking, money laundering and terrorism - critical for states like Pakistan.

6- Social Awareness:

Reduces moral panic and stereotypes about offenders; promotes understanding and human rights.

Conclusion:-

Crime and deviance, though related, differ in their nature as one is legal, the other is social. Criminology, evolving from moral philosophy to a scientific discipline, plays a vital role in ensuring justice, public safety, and social harmony. In modern societies, its focus must remain not only on punishing criminals but also on addressing root causes through education, opportunity and fair governance.

Q2) Explain at least three major perspectives on crime, with relevant examples from Pakistan.

Introduction:-

Crime is a social phenomenon that exists in every society. Sociologists and criminologists have explained it through various perspectives that reflect different assumptions about human nature, society, and justice. Broadly, these perspectives are divided into structural-functional, conflict and symbolic interactionist approaches. Each offers a distinct understanding of why people commit crimes and how societies respond to them.

1- Structural-Functional Perspective:-

This perspective, developed by Emile Durkheim, views crime as a normal and necessary part of social life. It argues that crime plays a role in maintaining social order by defining moral boundaries and promoting social change.

Key Ideas:

- **Durkheim Views:** Crime exists in all societies; it reinforces collective values by showing what behaviour is unacceptable.
- **Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory (1938):** Crime occurs when individuals cannot achieve culturally approved

goals (like wealth and success) through legitimate means. This creates strain, leading to deviance or crime.

Application to Pakistan:

- **Economic Inequality:** Widespread poverty and unemployment push people towards theft, smuggling, or corruption.
- **Youth Frustrations:** According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, over 35% of youth (2023) are unemployed, creating a gap between aspirations and opportunities, leading to crimes like mobile snatching and drug trafficking.
- **Social Changes:** Some crimes reflect emerging values (e.g., cybercrime increasing with digitalisation).

Examples:

- The rise in white-collar crime (embezzlement, fake bank accounts) shows how individuals use alternative means to achieve societal goals of wealth and status.

Summary:

→ Crime, from the functionalist view, is a by-product of structural inequalities and the pressure to conform to success norms.

2- Conflict Perspective:

Rooted in Karl Marx's theory of Class Struggle, the conflict perspective sees crime as a result of inequality, power imbalance and exploitation. Laws and justice systems are tools used by the powerful to protect their own interests while punishing the poor and powerless.

Key Ideas:

- Crime results from economic and social inequality.
- The legal system often serves elite or ruling-class interests.
- Poor individuals are criminalised, while elite crimes are ignored or hidden.

Application to Pakistan:

- **Class Inequality:** The rich often escape punishment due to influence and corruption, while poor offenders face harsh treatment.
- **Selective Justice:** White-collar crimes (like money laundering or tax evasion) by elites receive lenient treatment, whereas petty theft by the poor leads to imprisonment.
- **State and Power:** Political figures accused in scandals (Panama Papers, sugar and wheat crises) rarely face long-term consequences.

Example:

- The NAB (National Accountability Bureau) cases show selective accountability, proving that justice in Pakistan often reflects power relations.
- Feudal and tribal systems perpetuate bonded labour and honour killings, showing how inequality fuels criminal acts and injustice.

Summary:

→ Crime, in this view, is a product of social injustice, not individual failure. Eliminating inequality is key to reducing crime.

3- Symbolic Interactionist Perspective:-

This micro-level approach, developed by sociologists like Edwin Sutherland and Howard Becker, focuses on social interactions, labelling and learning. It argues that people become criminals through socialisation and interaction with deviant peers.

Key Theories:

- Differential Association Theory (Sutherland): Criminal behaviour is learned through close association with others who hold criminal values.
- Labelling Theory (Becker): Being labelled as "criminal" or "deviant" can lead individuals to internalise that label and continue criminal acts, a process called secondary deviance.

Application to Pakistan:

- Peer Influence and Urban Gangs: Many street crimes in Karachi and Lahore involve youth drawn into gangs due to peer pressure and lack of education.
- Radicalisation: Extremist organisations recruit through social influence and ideological socialisation.
- Police labeling: Once labelled as a "criminal", individuals in Pakistan often face lifelong discrimination, making reintegration difficult.

Example:

- The rise of drug addiction and street crime in urban slums (Lyari, Korangi) reflects how deviant subcultures teach and reinforce criminal norms.

Summary:

→ Crime is socially learned and reinforced through daily interactions, not inherited or purely economic.

Critical Analysis:-

- All three perspectives explain parts of the picture:
 - 1- Functionalism highlights structural pressure.
 - 2- Conflict Theory exposes power-based inequalities.
 - 3- Interactionism explains individual-level processes.

- In Pakistan, a combined approach works best since crime is influenced by poverty, weak institutions, unequal justice, and social learning.
- Policies must thus address education, job creation, justice reform, and rehabilitation together.

Conclusion:-

Crime cannot be understood through a single lens. While functionalists view it as a social necessity, conflict theorists see it as an outcome of inequality, and interactionists explain it through learned behaviour. In Pakistan, where corruption, poverty, and weak governance intersect, these perspectives together reveal the complex causes of criminality. Effective crime control requires not just policing but also social justice, education, and opportunity.

Q2) Write brief note on "White-Collar Crime"?

Definition and Origin:-

The concept of white-collar crime was first introduced by Edwin H. Sutherland (1939), who defined it as:

"A crime committed by a person of respectability and high social state in the course of his occupation."

These crimes are non-violent, financially motivated, and committed by people in positions of trust and authority, such as government officials, bankers, business executives, or professionals.

Unlike traditional crimes (like theft or murder), white-collar crimes are invisible, often involving fraud, deceit, manipulation, or violation of trust.

Nature and Characteristics:-

- 1- Non-violent in nature - they involve financial or administrative misconduct rather than physical harm.
- 2- Complex and Hidden - Carried out through documents, technology, or corporate system.
- 3- Committed by elites - people from the upper or middle class.
- 4- Large-scale impact - affects national economy and public confidence.

Examples from Pakistan:-

1- Corruption and Bribery:

- Public officials accepting illegal payments for favours.
- Example: Sugar and wheat subsidy scandals (2020-2021); Panama Papers leaks (2016) revealed large-scale money laundering by politicians.

2- Money Laundering:

- Illegal transfer of funds abroad; e.g., fake accounts and offshore companies exposed by FIA and NAB.

3- Tax Evasion:

- Businesses and elites hiding income to avoid taxation.
- Pakistan loses an estimated Rs. 1700 billion annually in Tax evasion (FBR report, 2022).

4- Corporate Frauds and Bank Scams:

- Fake loan approvals, embezzlement, and stock manipulation.

Impact on Society:-

- Economic Loss: Billions lost every year through corruption.
- Inequality: Rich criminals often go unpunished while poor offenders face severe penalties.

- Institutional Weakness: Undermines role of law and state credibility.
- Moral Decline: Promotes a culture of dishonesty and materialism.

Legal Framework in Pakistan:

- National Accountability Ordinance (1999) → established NAB.
- Anti-Money Laundering Act (2010) → regulates illegal financial transactions
- FIA Act (1974) → investigates corporate, immigration, and cyber fraud.
- SECP (Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan) Ordinance, 1997 → monitors corporate and stock market crimes.

Critical Analysis:-

Despite laws, implementation remains weak. Political influence, plea bargains, and slow judicial processes protect elites. Pakistan's Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 rank (133/180) shows deep-rooted white-collar crime.

Therefore, strong institutions, transparency, and digitalisation of government transactions are necessary to curb such crimes.