

CRIMINOLOGY

PART II

SECTION 1

Explain the nature and importance of Criminology in detail. - 2016.

Answer

i) Introduction

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Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon.

It includes within its scope the process of making of laws-breaking of laws and the reaction towards breaking of laws.

— Edwin Sutherland.

Criminology is a scientific understanding to why crimes occur and ways to prevent it.

It is an inter-disciplinary subject. It has branches in subjects like Sociology, Anthropology,

penology and others. The underlying phenomenon is to prevent crimes by understanding the root causes and punitive punishments to deter the rest.

2) Nature of Criminology:

Criminology has its roots in different disciplines. The most common ones are mentioned below.

a. Sociology

It is believed Criminology is the sub-branch of sociology. The individual's social conditions and his or her interactions with the surrounding gives an image of criminology. As DeJorde mentioned,

"Criminology is a science which by making use of other knowledge and research papers (Sociology, psychology and science dealing with human behavior and community) empirically studies the criminal phenomenon."

The above statement by professors reflects the relationship of criminology with other disciplines with the objective to comprehend criminal behavior.

b) Psychology and Criminology:

This branch is focused on scientifically unraveling the mindsets of criminal. The diversity in nature of a criminal and of a person who is normal and does not harm. Gottfredson and Hirschi mentioned,

A criminal is self-centered, indifferent to the feelings and sufferings of others and lack of self control. These aspects are studied in criminology.

Sub-Divisions of Criminology:-

Further, the scope of criminology touches the following.

Penology	It is the punishment and the study of crime and legislature.
Biocriminology	The DNA and genome of a criminal is studied. The relationship is devised.
Gender/Feminist	The understanding of gender and crime is widened.
Criminal Society.	The role of crime and the relationship and factors promoting crime.

Criminology is the reformative tool in the criminal law and the criminal justice system.

3) Importance of Criminology:-

Criminology is very essential provided it is implemented and made part of the correction and justice system.

a. Useful in Elimination of Crime:

Criminology came into existence for this very purpose. Directly or indirectly, it is the underlying agenda to prevent crimes. This has been proven through studies. Report of United Nations (UNODC - 2023), countries investing in criminology based policies like Japan and Nordic states have maintained crime rates below global average.

b. Reforms of Criminals:

Criminology does not only deal with identification of crime, but also treatment.

The definition of Larry J. Siegel in Criminology: The Core, "The purpose of Criminology is to help us understand crime and criminals and thereby contribute to crime reduction and social justice. This reflects on the reforms of criminals."

through rehabilitation centres. Criminology assist in restructuring.

c. Helps in understanding the behavior of criminals:

Criminology gives the perspective to comprehend the characteristics and different behavior of criminals. It points out criminals and non-criminals are different. It is the intricacies that need to be noticed.

Edwin Sutherland mentions in his work, 'Principles of Criminology (1939)'. This classical work sheds light on the behavioral differences.

d. Addresses the social problems:

Criminology and crime collectively point towards the existing problems in the society that promote crime. Criminology persuades the people to focus on those problems and eventually remove from the root cause.

This would eventually lead to prevention of crime. E.g. Venezuela is the country with highest crime rates and Iceland is the safest country. The further move in digging showed Venezuela is crippled with crisis and Iceland is a stable and united country.

e) Improving the Criminal Justice System:

Criminology is the backbone to improve the Criminal Justice System. It gives statistical and empirical understanding. It gives procedures and highlights the diminishes and inequality. To quote Alexander Hamilton,

"The first duty of society is justice."

f) Protection of Society:

Criminology basically became a discipline to protect society. To promote cohesion and unity in the society. It is to prevent crimes and this would further lead to a happy and satisfied society. Criminals also exhibit the force for the people to come together for the agenda of good will.

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Conclusion:

Criminology came from the Latin word crimen and logy. The nature and scope came fused to eliminate crime, address social justices and give punishment and also to reform and correct the criminal.