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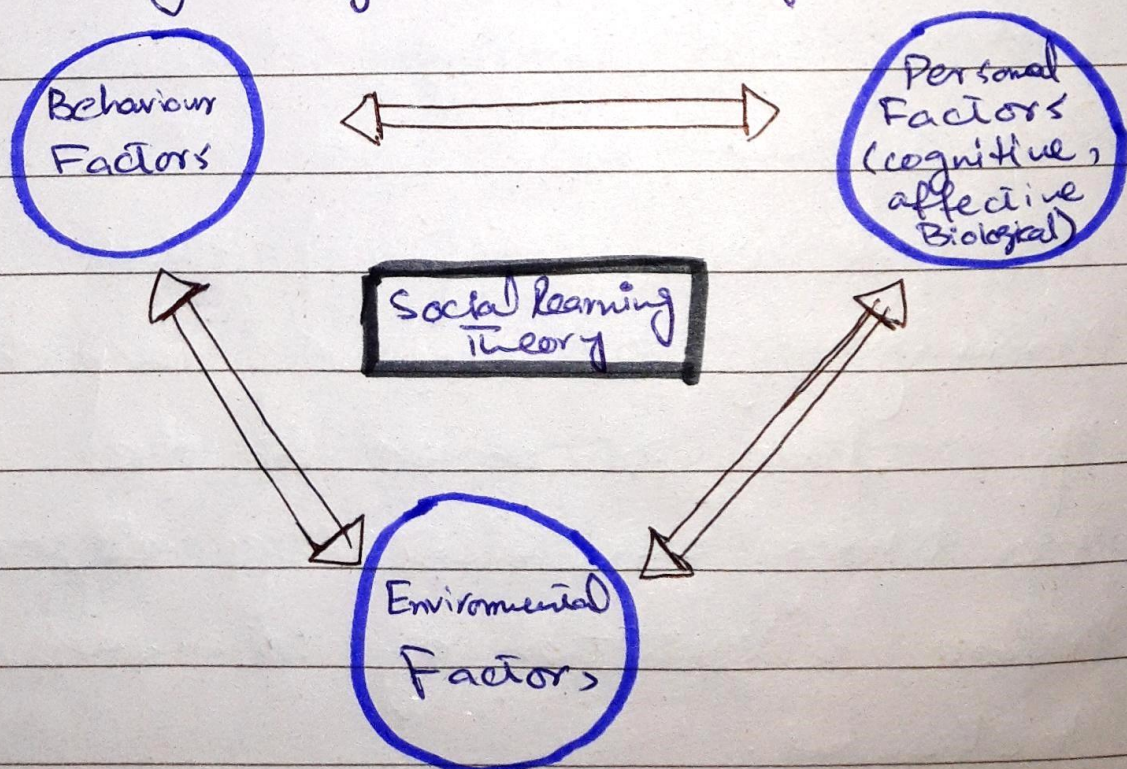
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Subject: Criminology

### QNO 3:- Social learning theory and acquisition of crime:-

#### Social learning theory:-

Albert Bandura's social learning theory (SLT) suggests that social behaviour is learned by observation and imitation of the behaviours of others. Learning is about interacting with the environment and making change in knowledge or behaviour.



## SLT of crime:

The social learning theory of crime states that criminal activity is a learned behaviour.

This theory argues that people are more likely to engage in criminal activity if they are surrounded by others involved in criminal behaviors. The argument is that people tend to mimic behaviours, so when a person is surrounded by those who commit crimes, that person will imitate that behaviour and become engaged in criminal activities.

### → Behaviours learned through modeling:-

Bandura proposed that learning of behaviour is composed of four processes or the conditions that must be met before acquisition of criminal behaviour.

**1. Attention**

One must first pay attention to the model and his behaviour

**2. Retention**

One must be able to remember the observed behaviour

**SLT  
Modeling  
Process****3. Reproduction**

One must be able to replicate the behavior demonstrated

**4. Motivation**

One must be ~~be~~ motivated to demonstrate what he have learned.

So, according to SLT, aggressive behaviours are learned through reinforcement and imitation of the aggressive models. The aggressive tendencies or the criminal behaviours, especially in children, are reinforced by seeing others rewarded for or benefited from their aggressive or criminal behaviour.

## Main Components of SLT

SLT is composed of four main components that explain the acquisition of the criminal behaviour that involves more than simple imitation.

1) **Differential associations.**

2) **Definitions.**

Differential association and definitions are the process through which an individual acquires criminal behaviour.

⇒ **Differential associations** are expanded to be inclusive of both direct interaction with others who engage in criminal acts and more indirect associations that expose individuals to various norms.

For example, friends of friends, who may not directly interact with an individual, still exert

Indirect influence through reinforcing behaviours and definitions of a directly tied friend.

⇒ Definitions are similarly described as attitudes or the meaning attributed to behaviours that can be both general and specific. General definitions reflect broad moral, religious or other conventional values related to favourability of committing a crime. Specific definitions contextualizes or provide additional details surrounding one's view of act of crime.

For example, a general definition of crime may reflect an individual's belief that they should never hurt someone else, but the use of substances is acceptable because it does not harm anyone else.

### 3) Differential reinforcement:

Differential reinforcements are the driver of whether individuals engage in crime. It refers to the idea that an individual's past, present and anticipated future rewards and punishments for actions explain criminal behaviour. If an individual experiences or anticipates that certain behaviours will result in positive benefits or occur without consequences, this will increase the likelihood that the behaviour will occur.

This process is comprised of four types of reinforcements.

i) Positive reinforcement: Reinforcements that reward behaviour, such as money, status and good feelings that will increase the likelihood that an action is taken.

ii) Positive punishment. The presentation of a negative or aversive consequences, such as getting arrested, injured or caught, after a behaviour is exhibited to decrease the likelihood it will happen again.

iii) Negative reinforcement: The reinforcements that help a person avoid the negative consequences of a behaviour, such as avoiding getting caught, arrested or facing disappointment from others, that will increase the likelihood that action is taken.

iv) Negative punishment: The removal of positive reinforcement or stimulus like privileges after an undesired behaviour occurs to decrease the likelihood a person will engage in the behaviour again.

## 4) Imitation:

Imitation is the process through which an individual exhibit criminal behaviour.

Imitation is the mimicking of a behaviour after observing others participates in the behaviour. Within intimate personal groups, individuals will observe criminal acts or substance use that are often used to facilitate the initiation of criminal behaviour. Once the behaviour has been engaged in, imitation plays less role in maintenance or desistance from the behaviour. Motivation of the criminal behaviour will allow the continued exhibition of criminal behaviour.



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## Q No 5:- Relationship between rehabilitation and recidivism

Over the years, correctional systems have been focusing on sensible alternatives for reducing criminal activities by allowing inmates to have a chance for change. As a result, the establishment of **criminal rehabilitation** has received support because it allows criminals to separate themselves from the environmental factors that made them offenders. Additionally, offenders are assisted in growing and changing while avoiding crime contributing factors and making them reformed individuals and better for society when released from prison or correctional facilities. However, over the last decades, countries have registered a

significant number of former prisoners being rearrested for similar offences, questioning if rehabilitation programs are effective. Remarkably, rehabilitation can transform prisoners into good society members, while a combination of other factors and elements within criminal justice system can make former offenders engage in further criminal behaviours.

## Recidivism:

Recidivism refers to a person's relapse into criminal behaviour, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime.

The increased rate of recidivism is caused by lifestyle,

economic, sociological and personal factors. The enormous increase of people relapsing into criminality challenge the rehabilitation programs feasibility and practicality, as well as the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

### Recidivism & Criminal Justice System:

Rehabilitation can minimize recidivism rates by focusing on the punishment phase of the criminal justice system. However, recidivism can be encouraged in all phases of criminal justice system, such as apprehending and adjudicating an offender. Crucially, the criminal justice system comprises distinct steps which can affect the offender, leading

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to recidivism. The phases of criminal justice system include, arrest, initial appearance, hearings, arraignment, pleas, jury selection and trial. Undeniably, criminal justice system process can have mental and cognitive impacts on the offender which have been considered to increase recidivism, especially when wrongly convicted.

### Rehabilitation:-

Rehabilitation incorporates strategies, programs and measures applied during incarceration to prepare offender for release. Rehabilitation programs are crucial for decreasing the recidivism rate and also reintegrate offenders back into the community.

## Effective rehabilitation and recidivism.

There are two insights for examining the effectiveness of rehabilitation with regards to recidivism. First, the treatment should primarily deal with factors strongly associated with recidivism, such as peer association, antisocial control or low self esteem. Second, rehabilitation that focuses on reducing recidivism should have standard features such as risks, need, responsibility model.

### Restorative Justice:-

Restorative Justice is a effective method to use with retributive justice to promote an effective functional justice system that produces positive outcomes among the victims of

criminal and the general population. Restorative justice instills the perception that criminal sanction can be used to promote justice by managing collective violence; thus, restorative justice can play a significant role in addressing the issue of recidivism.

### Rehabilitation Principles:-

There are Four fundamental rehabilitation Principles that contribute to reduce the criminal recidivism.

- i) Risk Principle
- ii) Need Principle
- iii) Responsiveness Principle
- iv) Professional Discretion

### Risk Principle:

The risk principle focuses on assisting offenders more likely to reoffend, based on

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the notion of aiding those in greater need. It suggests that less likely reoffenders require less intervention, efficiently allocating resources.

Common risk factors linked to recidivism include family background, risky personality traits, and psychological profiles.

Example: - High-risk individuals under intensified supervision had a lower reoffending rate (34%) compared to standard supervision (58%).

Conversely, low-risk probationers reoffended more under intensified supervision (17%) than under standard monitoring (10%). This suggests that increase supervision benefits high-risk individual, but may be counterproductive for low-risk ones.

## Need Principle:

In correctional therapy, the focus on criminogenic needs, or the factors that lead to criminal behaviour, is crucial. It involves identifying and addressing specific issues that might have influenced someone to commit crime.

- **Transforming antisocial thought patterns.** If an offender's reoffending is due to antisocial thinking, then the focus should be on modifying negative attitudes and feelings that lead to antisocial behaviours and increasing self-esteem.

- **Addressing job retention issues.** If difficulties in maintaining employment contributes to recidivism, the emphasis should be on job finding skills as well as developing skill for job retention.



## Responsivity Principles

Responsivity principle entails selecting the best ways and styles for the delivery of risk concept and need principle.

This involves two major components

① Determining the effectiveness of specific methods tailored for offenders, which are different from the ones used for people with psychotic disorder.

② Assessing if there are unique responsivity factors that apply to different groups of offenders.

The effective correctional monitoring and counseling involves,

- ① Authority (firm but fair attitude)
- ② Anti-criminal modelling and reinforcement.
- ③ Concrete Problem Solving (developing skills and reducing barriers)

- ④ Advocacy and Brokerage
- ⑤ Relationship Factors

## Professional Discretion

Professionals evaluate the risk, need and responsibility factor for each individual case and its unique circumstances. They make judgements that are in line with ethical, humanitarian, legal and effectiveness standards based on assessments.

## Conclusion:

Effective management of rehabilitation mitigates the acts of recidivism.

Practical interventions in the program offering institutions reduce the risk of recidivism by significant percentage, and helps facilitate peaceful co-existence once offenders

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re-enter society. Therefore criminal and corrective institutes should incorporate rehabilitation programs in prison to reduce the law offenders from recidivism.

Moreover, effective rehabilitation program helps implement a goal plan for the inmate that aid in rebuilding their lives and coping with the harsh prison environment. Thus criminal justice system should take rehabilitation initiatives to reduce recidivism

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