

Criminology -

(Part - II)

(QNO.2)

Relationship between white collar crime and corporate crime :-

White collar crime and corporate crime are often considered as overlapping but they are distinct in scope and focus. Both involve non-violent crime in nature and done by individuals of high status in society.

White collar crime is a term introduced by Edwin Sutherland in 1939. It involves crime done by individuals of high social status in society which have no direct impact but impacts largely mostly of economic behaviour such as embezzlement, fraud, bribery,

and corruption.

while **Corporate Crime** includes the crime done by individual or corporation of high social status and high value related from personal to corporate interest such as cause of environmental, land pollution, fraud, bribery etc. Case

Study :- Volkswagen emission scandal is one of the prime example of corporate crime.

Reasons for perceiving white collar crime as less harmful than street:-

Some of the reasons for perceiving white collar crime is less harmful than street crimes are as below:-

1- Abstract or Complex Harm:-

Since, the harm done by the white collar crime is complex and its effects are not immediate but long-lasting. That is the main reason. On the other side, street crime effect is immediate. That's why, street crime is perceived as more harmful.

2. NO Physical violence:-

Street crime involves direct physical violence while corporate crime involves no physical violence but fraud and corruption in terms of money. This is another of considering street crime is more heinous but white collar crime as less.

3- Perceived Victimlessness:-

The victim of white collar crime involves the large group of a community such as taxpayers which is not usually considered or ignored deliberately while victim of street crime is direct - That's why white collar crime is usually perceived as victimless.

4. Role of media in encouraging white collar crime:-

In films and dramas, generally white collar crime does is portrayed as hero or helper of marginalized community. Case Study:- Pablo Escobar is portrayed as hero in the movie. While, street

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Crime does is considered as heinous in media. This is another reason of considering white collar crime as less heinous.

5- Biasness of Societal Norms:-

Generally, it is perceived that corruption is the greuce of economy. There is many saying which shows it is must to do white collar crimes to run the system. While, society considess it is very harmful in case of street crime.

6- Legal Penalties are very less:-

Generally, legal penalties involves only returning of some

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proportion of money in case of corruption which is most common white collar crimes and if imprisonment, it involves very less days of imprisonment. While in street crime, the penalty can even death. This, encourages and perceive as less harmful in comparison to street crimes.

Re-Evaluation of Perceiving of white collar crime as less harmful:-

In fact, white collar crime is considered as much more harmful than the street crimes such as:-

1- Economic collapse:-

An out of control corruption and other white collar crimes

can lead to the collapse of economy and can lead the country to bankruptcy. Case Study:- Sri Lanka

Bankruptcy is an example of corporate and white collar crime.

2- Public Safety and Trust Erosion:-

White collar crimes such as harmful industrial products, fraud and others are harmful for public safety as well erode the trust of the public institutions and corporate.

Conclusion:-

White collar crime and corporate crime are correlated to each other but white collar generally deals with the individual and corporate crime.

deals with the crime of a corporate
to get more benefit. But, in
comparison to street crime, it is
considered as less harmful but
actually much more harmful.
