

Dimensions of Psychological Aspects of Criminal Behavior

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Abstract

It is a acknowledged fact that both crime and criminal are looked upon with a sense of great hatred by all sections of the society. According to Terence Morris, a famous Jurist - "Crime is what society says is crime by establishing that an act is a violation of criminal law. Without law there can be no crime at all, although there may be moral indignation which results in law being enacted".The word "Crime" has created so much impact on the people of society that each and every person has many questions in their mind. The nature of quarries range from where this Crime has its origin? , who is responsible for the criminal behavior of a person in society?, Whether the Criminals are made or born?, mainly what are psychological factors which are responsible for criminal behavior. In this research paper through various theories of Criminal Behaviour and Criminal Psychology an attempt has been made to answer all these questions.

Key words: Criminal, Behavior, Dimensions, Crime.

Introduction

There can be various dimensions to tha aspect of human beings involved in a Criminal behavior. Criminal Behavior is any behavior or act that is done in violation of the criminal law of a society functioning as State. The term Criminal Behaviour is a conduct of an offender that leads to and includes the commission of an unlawful act. To give a Universal definition of crime is a task which has so far not been satisfactory accomplished by any writer.

Different writers have different views regarding the definition of crime- According to "Black Stone" - Crime is a violation of public rights and duties due to the whole community considered as a community in its social aggregate capacity. According to "Stephen" - a crime is a violation of a right considered in reference to the evil decency of such violation as regard the community at large. According to "Austin"

- a wrong which is pursued at the discretion of the injured party and his representatives is a civil injury, a wrong which is pursued by the sovereign or his subordinate is a crime. Thus Crime is an act punishable by law as forbidden by statute or injurious to the public welfare. Any kind of anti social behaviour which is punishable by law or norms stated by the community can be called as criminal behaviour.

Theories of Criminal Behavior

Today Crime has become one of the most serious threats to development and security world wide. Lot of people in the world are exposed to various types of crime. Psychologists, Criminologists and various Research Scholars have put forward various hypothesis and theories explaining the reasons of criminal behavior among human beings. Some of them are of the view that the effect of family and children who becomes future criminals are greater but other believes that environmental factors influence person's behavior in society. Many Philosophers have played a significant role in describing what a Criminal Behavior is.

The classical biological theory of criminality states that people are born criminals who certainly cannot be freed from committing crime in a society. These are people suffering from mental or physical disability. Lombroso, a famous Criminologist has explained and studied various abnormalities of the living in mates and come to the conclusion that bodily features predictive of criminal behaviour are long arms large teeth ears lacking earlobes lots of body hairs etc.

Sigmund Freud was the proponent of Instinctive theory. This primarily concentrates on the concept of instinctual drive which is related to gratification. Super ego with signifies moral and ethical codes and ego that mediates between the id and super ego. This theory says criminal behaviour as a conflict between the id, ego and super ego.

Raffaele Garofalo, Roscoe Pound, Dr. Walter Reckless are some eminent jurists who propounded the Sociological Theory. This includes both social as well as environmental factors which are majorly responsible for the crime. Poverty is one of the major reason that pushes the offender to commit crime. The sociological theory of crime asserts that there are persons who do not conform to established norms and traditions prescribed by law, these persons do not adjust themselves within the framework of normal standard of society and are more or less in different to societal norms. This phenomena is more conspicuous in times of political upheavals. Instances are not wanting when eminent Statesmen such as Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru Lal Bahadur Shastri etc. for force to violate British laws in the battle for Indian Independence this presents a classic example that how sometimes social circumstances force person to indulge in criminal activities.

This is one of the most significant theory of Crime. All other theories of Crime more or less depends upon this theory because all factors whether it is a social factors, biological factors, economic factors,

environmental factors, political factors etc influence the mentality or Psychology of person which results his engagement in criminal activities.

This theory define the mentality of a person common psychological factors of crime include abnormal by functional or inappropriate mental disorders of an individual Lombroso and Sutherland are the main propounders of this theory. This theory believes that there are various psychological factors which influence person's behavior and compel him to engage in criminal activities.

Aspect of Born Criminal

This is a very controversial issue, Various researches has done on it some say Criminals are born but some says Criminals are made. To begin with I would like to quote "Cesare Lombroso", an Italian Criminologist and the founder of Italian School of positivist criminology who was of the opinion that Criminality was inherited and that a born criminal could easily be identified by physical defects. Now if looked at from broader perspective this view cannot clearly be appreciated today.

According to Jurist "Sellin" and "Vold" No person is born Criminal. It results from social interaction and social learning from culture, race, gender, ethnicity or any other relationships. Conflicts result from competition for power among various groups of culture.

No one is born criminal everyone is born normal, but despite of this some people argue that criminals are born not made they might argue that they have relatives who are already criminals and that people can genetically inherit a criminal nature but I agree with English Theorist "Tift" who says that there is no much evidence to support this view. All those people who support this view believes in the concept of "Criminal genes biologically". But there is no reputable research which provides link between genes and criminal activity. Contrary to this we see in our daily life that how negative social and environmental factors impact on human Psychology and make him to indulge in criminal activities.

Criminals are not born, they are made because of the following reasons :-

The environmental factor where one is brought up, the education imparted to him, the social atmosphere provided to him plays a major role. Physical disability cannot be alone held responsible for criminal behaviour of an individual. Most of the people around us indulge in criminal activities because of the influence or some specific events that took place in the past. The upbringing of a person is yet another factor responsible as it primarily shapes the personality of an individual.

Any kind of abuse, be it substances abuse or sexual abuse also leads to a person being indulged in anti social activities. Friends or family might for someone to act in a certain way or a person might commit crime because of peer pressure or socio - economic conditions prevailing around him. Some persons are born with mental health issues such as Lunacy, unsoundness of Mind, depression, lack of self confidence, kleptomania But these conditions not alone indulge a person in criminal activities. If someone is born unsound mind, we can't say that he is born Criminal.

These mental health issues is also supported by negative social and environmental conditions which have negative impact on human mind for committing crime. Therefore we believe that Criminals are neither born nor made. It depends upon various multiple factors which influence the psychology of person. It depend upon their family, home, society where he lives, environment, school, genetic make up. But there is no one rule for each Criminal.

Psychological aspects of Crime

Psychological Theories of Crime says that criminal behaviour is a result of individual difference in thinking processes there are many different psychological theories but they all believe that it is the persons thoughts and feelings that dictate there actions, As such problems in thinking can lead to criminal behaviour Criminals has such difference in thinking process, As per the recent report of a Crime Investigation Bureau (2019)most of the criminals believe that they have done no wrong that whatever they have done is a right. There are four basic ideas which are treated as Psychological Theories of Crime.

(1) Failure in Psychological Development

Some people run into trouble because they didn't develop or grow the way that others normally do. They has an underdeveloped conscience whereas a normal person hears little voice inside to understand what is right and wrong. This is the thing which happens when someone has an issue with psychological development.

(2) Learned Behaviors of Aggression and Violence

If someone is surrounded by violence and aggression they are more likely to become violent and aggressive themselves because they have learnt that these behaviours are okay, If some person comes from a very abusive household and his violent parents taught him that it is normal to work out your frustrations by being violent against others. So he can adopt such negative attitude towards other which results in Criminal Behavior.

(3) Inherent Personality Traits

There are some characteristics that criminals trend to share with each other and some psychological believe that there are certain personality traits that predisposes someone towards criminal behaviour. Some children's as a baby like to seek out or enjoy dangerous activities but some childrens like to play with their toys and with their friends or just to read books etc, But some like dangerous activities like play with fire or any dangerous weapon etc. So it is normally presumed that those children's will definitely engage in future in crime because from their childhood they have some different behavior than normal person.

(4) Relationship of Criminality to Mental Illness

Some people with psychological disorders end up committing crimes while this isn't the case for all people with mental illness, there are higher than normal percentages of criminals with mental illness. Some children have been disorganized with personality disorder which means that they feel less empathy than other people. Some criminals have such a mental illness that after commission of crime they do not have any guilt in their mind. According to their psychology they have done nothing wrong. All of these Psychological Aspects lead to a person to engage himself in criminal activities.

Psychology of Criminal Behavior: some other dimensions

In today's society one will find that there are many different factors that go into the development of Criminal Mind and it is impossible to single out one particular cause of a criminal behaviour. Criminal behaviour often stems from both biological and environmental factors. In many cases criminals share similar physical traits which the general population do not usually have. However biological reasons alone cannot be the cause of criminal behaviour.

Therefore one must look to other sources as to how Criminal Mind is developed. So, following are some psychological factors which are responsible for Criminal behavior :-

(1) Mental Illness

The popular belief is that people with mental illnesses are more prone to commit acts of violence and aggression. A large body of data suggests that people with mental illness are more likely to be a victim of Crime in society.

As per various Criminologists it has been suggested that a person with mental illness involves a lot in Criminal activities because they do not know the consequences of any act whatever they are doing. Depression is one of the classic examples of mental illness. Senior research fellow Professor Cerna Faisal said these types of persons are dangerous for themselves; they indulge in self-harm activities.

The mental illness signifies psychotic disorder or personality disorder. A psychotic disorder incapacitates a person to correctly evaluate his perception and makes erroneous inferences about reality of things. The symptoms of such disorder are incoherent speech, delusion, hallucinations, withdrawal from active activities, disturbed mood, jealousy etc. Such persons are inclined to commit serious violent crimes for no valid reason.

"Gillin" suggests that physical abnormalities in criminals drive them to commit crime. Prof. Smith also supports this contention and holds that there are certain abnormal personalities in whom the endocrine glands are functioning abnormally and this malfunctioning of the endocrine gland causes them to commit certain types of crime. Thus, sexual incapacities of a person may result in his failure to mature socially and out of sheer disgust and frustration he may resort to criminality.

Contrary to this excessivel sex Desire may cause one to indulge into prostitution and commit crimes such as rape kidnapping or drug addiction and similar other offence.

Again physical over development of young girls become a cause of sexual attraction for males which leads them to sex delinquencies. Commenting on this point Prof. Gillian rightly observes that over size of both the sex tends to make the child conspicuous among his playmates and set a stage for abnormal conduct.

(2) Adverse Childhood Experiences

There are various things which are not under our control, Our childhood experiences is also one of them. We cannot choose how we are raised as children's. Some of us enjoy pleasant even idyllic, childhoods while others are less fortunate.

Childrens which have faced particularly a bad situations are at an increased risk of Criminal behaviour in both their juvenile and adult years. It has been observed during research that convicted criminals are likely to have experienced four times as many adverse childhood events.

With Revolutionary changes in social economic conditions in India the family patterns have radically changed as per the opinion of jurist "Taft" - the modern wife is no longer can find to her domestic duties as a result of which the internal discipline of the family is wholly shattered. Due to divided loyalties of the parents, the child's personality is overshadowed by frustration, hatred, jealousy, revengefulness, indifference and dejection and in a fit of bewilderment he throw himself into association with other deliquent. The want of care and affection, non-fulfilment of the basic needs of children and their sad experience in the family lead to their attachment from the family and they easily lend themselves into the criminal world.

(3) Negative Impact of the Environment

As a matter of fact we know that in today's world we easily get influenced by our surroundings. It wan't be wrong to state here that our surroundings have a direct impact on our mind, be it is our social circle, our family, our neighborhood etc.

Our surrounding defines us especially if it is negative in the sense that they doesn't taught the difference between right and wrong and get indulged in criminal activities since childhood. In context to India it can be understood in terms of poverty which directly or indirectly force an individual to indulge in criminal activities.

Gabriel de Tarde, an American Criminologist subscribed to the view that criminal behaviour is a result of learning process and environment is a main factor which influence such behavior. the process

of learning terminal behaviour operates through interaction of the criminal with other persons and his association in the environment. Negative environment has a negative effect on the mind of a person.

The Rapid growth of industrialisation and urbanization in recent years has led to expansion of means of communication, travel facilities and propagation of views through press and platform consequently human interaction has gone beyond intimate associations with increase chances of mobility, the negative environmental impact on the mind of the person acts as a helping hand in increasing criminal behaviour. Commenting on the impact of crime reports appearing in newspapers on criminality Barnes and Teeters, an American Criminologist observes that it encourages crime and delinquency in two ways. Firstly those with unstable mind and psychopaths are easily attracted towards such crime and Secondly, with the frequent reporting of crime news people begin to lose faith in law and law enforcement agencies.

(4) Substance Abuse

One of the major factor is substance abuse, when a person is intoxicate he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the act being committed. As per National Crime Bureau - records of most of the heinous crimes have been committed in the state of intoxication were found.

The Youth of the Country is actively involved in illegal drugs and intoxicants like alcohol, cocaine, etc It is important to acknowledge here that these intoxicants have a negative impact on our psychological and physiological aspect which further effects the self control and decision of an individual.

Alcoholism and drug addiction has been prevalent in most societies over the ages because of their allegedly pleasurable and relaxing effects or as a means of relieving physical tensions, fatigue and as a stimulan to withstand adverties However with the unprecedent expansion of pharmaceutical Industry, the use abuse and misuse of alcohol and drugs has increased as per the report of JK, Mason : Forensic Medicine for Lawyers (1983) p. 251 leaps and bounds covering almost all sections of the society.

It has been generally added that criminality in human being is to be attributed to their mental deprivity. Persons with imbalanced emotional and Physical health normally indulge in criminality or aggressive conduct. Investigations made by Sociologists and Criminologists on alcohol crime relationship reveal that there is a close resemblance between the structure of alcoholics and criminals.

(5) Societal Influence

There have been instances when the negative outlook of our society towards a particular individuals has contributed adversely in building up a criminal behavior. We as society often fail to accept certain people in the context that we do discriminate them on the basis of caste, creed, color, sex, region, religion etc which builds up a negative emotion of revenge in a person. The outlook of the Indian

society to accept the like and disregard the different has been in practice since centuries, despite of the fact that we live in twenty first century and customs which ultimately lead to the feeling of discrimination.

As per sociological theory of Crime, Criminals are a product of society Impact of sociological factors is so great on the person that they either shun criminality or embrace it, Depending on their environment and immediate social conditions. Prof. Sutherland made an intensive study of criminals and offer two major explanations for criminal behaviour in society. Firstly the processes operating at the time of the occurrence of crime which he called the dynamic explanation and Secondly the process operating in the early life history of the criminal which he terms as historic origin.

The cause of criminal behaviour lies in the immediate favourable situation which the criminal finds conducive for the criminal act in society. For example offence of embezzlement or misappropriation of the public funds can only be committed by persons who handle large sums of money, Likewise the offence of theft often committed in lonely houses which the criminals find locked or unmanned for a number of days. And sex offences are common in dwellings where the number of family members are limited and opportunities for privacy and loneliness are easily available. This is known as social situations which is available for person in society to commit crime. Society influences a lot of persons' life. A whole life of person is influenced by society where he lives.

(6) Aggressive Behavior

Aggressive behaviour of an individual in society is another important factor of criminal behaviour. Many types of behaviours can be categorised as aggressive behaviour - saying lie, stealing and vandalism are often used as visible indicators of aggression. One of the main distinction made by the Scholars trying to define aggression is delineating indirect aggression and direct aggression. Indirect aggression is usually verbal and covert and includes actions such as gossiping and ostracism. Direct aggression in contrast is typically physical and overt and includes behaviour such as hitting, kicking, punching and biting etc. In general, as per the research of various research Scholars, Females are more likely than males to use indirect aggression and Males are more likely than females to use direct aggression. Both forms of aggressions have important ramifications. It is Direct aggression that is most applicable to the criminal behaviour.

(7) Lack of Self Control

A person who does not have self control over himself is also prone to criminal behavior. In most of the cases we see that an angry person who does not have any control over his actions can involve easily in any fight or other criminal activities without thinking about its consequences. On this basis the self Control theory was propounded by Criminologist Gottfredson and Hirschi in 1990.

Conclusion

Crime has existed in all societies and we see that all efforts to legislate, enforce, punish or otherwise correct criminal behavior have not succeeded in eliminating crime because there are psychological aspects which are responsible for criminal behavior of a person. Internal environment impacts a lot in human behavior. If looked from a broader perspective psychology is the basic factor which shapes the criminal behavior of a person which varies from person to person based on the environment, He is being provided with the family concerned of the offender, the schooling of the individual, the childhood traumas. The person has been through also largely impact the psychology of a criminal, the past experiences remains with an individual through lifetime which impacts the psychology of a criminals. The past experiences remains with an individual throughout lifetime as part of brain especially concerned with storing not so pleasant memories of a person in commission of a crime. There are various factors that are not taken into consideration which includes the state of intoxication be it by drinking, drug abuse etc.

As a result of the present study indicated the important role of interactional effect it is imperative to understand how factors like individual characteristics, social support, social economic status influence each other in contributing towards criminal behaviour. So, as a society it is our responsibility to establish good environment around us by which each and every living being will learn good things and moral ethics. It is also the duty of the government to see that no one has to struggle hard for their basic needs. To ensure all round development of human beings is one of the most important function of Government and to provide better education to the children', Education not in terms of quantity but in terms of quality that is quality education which is moral education.

It is evidently proven from the present work that the cause of crime is to be found in the problems of human nature and Human Relationship that have plagued us since the origin of human history. Correcting these problems will effectively remove the source of crime and bring about a peaceful world in which all people could realise their potentials as a individuals and develop satisfying, harmonious relationships with others.

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