Crime and Society: An Introduction to Criminology

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Hansi Bansal, Ashish Badiye, Raju Tandan, and Neeti Kapoor

Abstract

Over centuries, criminality has been an integral part of societal structure and culture. Criminology is an amalgamation of different disciplines seeking to identify the causes of crime and criminal behavior. The primary focus of criminologists lies on the identification of the patterns, behavior, and sociological aspects of crime. Due to cultural, social, and political changes, society can deem certain behaviours criminal or decriminalize them. This directly impacts the crime rate and the allocation of resources within law enforcement agencies. Criminology is critically engaged in finding solutions to issues related to crime and justice. The cause of a crime is one of the significant areas of criminology, and criminologists identify various factors to explicate why a person commits a crime. This chapter discusses the various fields of criminology, factors responsible for crime and criminal behavior, theories of crime, and the criminal justice system. It also highlights the concepts of juvenile delinquency, punishment, victimology, and their impact on crime. The authors endeavored to present a holistic perspective on the multifaceted dimensions of Crime and Society in a single chapter, notwithstanding the complexity of the subject matter.

Keywords

Crime · Criminology · Punishment · Criminal Behavior · Criminal Justice System

H. Bansal \cdot A. Badiye \cdot N. Kapoor (\boxtimes)

Department of Forensic Science, Government Institute of Forensic Science, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

e-mail: hansibansal@ifscnagpur.in; ashishbadiye@ifscnagpur.in; neetikapoor@ifscnagpur.in

R Tandan

B.T. Institute of Excellence (affiliated to Dr. Harisingh Gour (Central) University), Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India

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1.1 Introduction

Crime is one of the most severe problems in society. It has existed in the world since the origin of humankind. Earlier, crimes might not have been earnest and organized, but their propensity and intensity have become grave in the present world. Crime is not limited to one class of society; it is prevalent in every stratum. It is usually not the result of a single factor; instead, multiple reasons or factors are responsible for the unlawful act. The outlook toward crime cannot remain constant when our society itself is dynamic. Thus, a crime is neither steady nor uniform. It varies from time to time, place to place, person to person, and society to society. Every nation plays its part in trying to curb its crimes and punish the criminals. As an academic discipline, criminology assumes pivotal roles in identifying the causes of crime, developing strategies to reduce it, and implementing preventive measures. It works for the protection of society. In 1885, Raffaele Garofalo first coined the term "criminology." It is broadly defined as the scientific study of crime to explore the reasons as to why people are engaged in criminal activities and the causes of such criminal behavior (Allen 1954).

Different authors and criminologists have given their versions of criminology, including the classification of crimes, offenders, and victims, and their interpretations vary accordingly. According to Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey, "Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the processes of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting toward the breaking of laws." (Sutherland and Cressey 1960) This definition holds the concept that social factors are the root causes of crimes. However, other criminologists have a contradictory view, wherein they believe that individual traits and characteristics are responsible for criminal behavior. A logical and philosophical examination of crime is based on lucidity and deductive reasoning (Sutherland et al. 1992).

Criminology encompasses the study of different aspects of crime and law enforcement, the social setup of crime, the psychology of crime and the criminal, restriction on crime and its prevention, investigation of crime and detection, and punishment. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines criminology as "the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon of criminals and penal treatment." (Veeraraghavan 2019).

Criminology is similarly linked to the study of deviant behavior. However, crime and deviance should not be misjudged as synonyms. Deviant behavior is the action that contravenes the ideas, norms, and beliefs of a society. Criminology is named a subgroup of sociology that deals with the study of social behavior. It explores the origin, extent, and nature of crimes in a society, whereas criminologists identify a crime's nature, extent, and cause (Canter and Youngs 2016; Hood and Sparks 1970; Vito and Maahs 2015).

1.2 The Amalgamation of Criminology and Other Fields

Criminology incorporates broader knowledge about crime and criminals. Criminologists work to determine and understand the cause of crime and to know why some people are more inclined toward delinquent behavior. This field encompasses varied disciplines, working on techniques developed in social and natural sciences. The subdivision of criminology includes criminalistics, the study of crime detection, which is associated with the scope of forensic science. Other subdivisions of criminology include penology, the study of correctional systems and institutions, and biocriminology, the study of the biological factors affecting criminal behavior. The discipline of criminology utilizes the study of various other fields like biology, anthropology, statistics, psychology, statistics, psychiatry, cyber, etc. (Veeraraghavan 2019; Canter and Youngs 2016; Hood and Sparks 1970; Barlow and Kauzlarich 1984)

1.2.1 Criminology and Biology

Cesare Lombroso has carried out pioneering work in attributing crime and criminal behavior to biological factors. Two well-known fields of study influenced by Lombroso's biological explanation of crime are neuroscience and genetics. This clearly states the fact that a multidisciplinary approach can be used to study crime and criminal behavior. Data on crime are obtained from various sources, with behavioral genetics being one of them, and it demonstrates that biological factors are responsible for crime (Veeraraghavan 2019; Barlow and Kauzlarich 1984; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.2 Criminology and Anthropology

Anthropological criminology is a part of offender profiling based on the connection between a crime and the offender's personality, including physical features. Lombroso theorized the concept of born criminals. According to him, born criminals are anatomically identifiable based on characteristics like a sloping forehead, unusual size of ears, asymmetry of the face, excessive length of the arms, asymmetry of the arms, and other physical stigmata (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.3 Criminology and Psychology

In combination with psychology, criminology studies the intentions, thoughts, behavior, and feelings of criminals and certain mental disorders that cause an individual to commit a crime. This combination of the two disciplines also incorporates scientific methods, techniques, tools, and measurement scales, which help in deducing the profile of offenders (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.4 Criminology and Psychiatry

Criminology, along with psychiatry, studies the deviant behavior of individuals and their mental illness. Psychiatrists believe that criminal behavior can be understood by probing the personality of humans and the unconscious factors responsible for deviant and nondeviant behaviors (Veeraraghavan 2019).

1.2.5 Criminology and Criminalistics

Criminology and criminalistics collaborate closely withun the domain of law enforcement. Criminalistics deals with the collection of evidence, its analysis, its interpretation, and identification of the suspect. Criminology deals with assessing the nature of the crime, its cause, and strategies for crime prevention. Criminology also studies the mode of punishment and correction methods for the betterment of society. A mutual relationship exists between the two fields concerning why a crime is committed (criminology) and how it was committed (criminalistics) (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.6 Criminology and Victimology

Victimology is a subdiscipline of criminology, which deals with the study of victims of crimes. It examines the psychological effects of crimes on victims, the association between the victims and the criminal, and the interaction between the victims and the criminal justice system (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.7 Criminology and Penology

Penology is a subdiscipline of criminology, which deals with the social processes applied to prevent a crime via fear of punishment and suppression of criminal intent. It is the science of the origin and development of punishment, its significance, and its efficacy. Penology also deals with the treatment of convicted criminals and their rehabilitation (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.2.8 Criminology and Cyber Criminology

Cyber criminology is a field that encompasses the knowledge of criminology, victimology, social science, computer science, etc. It deals with the study of crimes that occur in cyberspace and their impact on the victims. This field is distinct from cyber forensics and explores the impact of cybercrimes from a social science perspective (Anon n.d.-a).

1.3 Crime and Its Definition

A crime is an illegal act committed, which is punishable by the authorities. Different criminologists have defined and interpreted crime in different ways. Legally, a crime is defined as an act or behavior committed in violation of the legal code. There are many perspectives from which we may understand the meaning of crime. Thinkers like Garofalo and Radcliff Brown have defined crime as a violation of customs, giving rise to penal action.

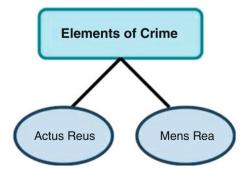
In order to convict a person of a crime, the two essential elements are "Actus reus" and "Mens rea" (Fig. 1.1). "Actus reus" refers to the "guilty act," i.e., the physical act involved in committing a crime as per criminal law. "Mens rea" means the "guilty mind," i.e., having a wrong intention to commit a crime or act against the law. These two elements must co-occur to constitute a crime.

According to Paul Tappan, crime can be defined as "an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law committed without defence or justification and sanctioned by the state for punishment as a felony or a misdemeanour." (Anon n.d.-b) This definition highlights six different elements of a crime as follows:

- The crime or the act should have been committed, or the act must be an omission from a legal duty.
- The crime should be voluntary, where the person is well aware of his/her actions.
- The act should be intentional irrespective of whether it was general or specific.
- The act should be a violation of criminal law so that the state has the right to punish accordingly.
- The act should be committed without any justification. An act committed in self-defense or insanity will not constitute a crime.
- The act should be warranted as a felony or misdemeanor by the law (Anon n.d.-b).

According to Jerome Hall, crime can be defined as "legally forbidden and intentional action which has a harmful impact on social interests, which has criminal intent and which has legally prescribed punishment for it." (Hall 1960) He described the seven characteristics of crime:

Fig. 1.1 Elements of crime



• The action must be harmful in terms of the interest of society.

- The harmful act should be legally forbidden.
- The act must bring out harmful outcomes that must be deliberate.
- The act must be deliberately motivated.
- The action must be the blend of criminal intention and conduct.
- There must be a formal relation between legally prohibited harm and conduct.
- The act must be discouraged by a given punishment prescribed by the law (Hall 1960).

According to psychological theory, crime can be explained as "behaviour due to defective or abnormal mental processes." This abnormality may be caused by a diseased mind, adjustment to inner conflicts, emulating incorrect role models, or inappropriate learning (Mischel 1969). According to a sociological concept, crime can be viewed as "deviant behaviour violating the existing norms and rules which prescribes the standards of how humans should behave normally." According to the Waverly encyclopedia, crime is defined as "an act forbidden by law and for performing which the perpetrator is liable to punishment." Halsbury defined crime as "an unlawful act or default, which is an offence against the public and which renders the perpetrator of the act or default liable to legal punishment" (Anon n.d.-c).

According to Hegger, the following seven characteristics should be included in action to be defined as a crime.

- The act should be actually committed; only intention is not adequate.
- The harm should be legally prohibited. Antisocial behavior does not come under crime unless it is not proscribed by the law.
- The conduct must bring about harmful consequence.
- The action should be the result of criminal intent.
- There must be a combination of Mens rea and conduct.
- The act caused must be the natural consequence of the intentional act.
- The action must have a legally prescribed punishment.

According to Russel, "criminal offences are the creation of criminal policies adopted by the stronger section of people from time to time and try to suppress the conduct which they feel may endanger their position." According to Sir William Blackstone, a crime is "an act committed or omitted in the violation of a law forbidding or commanding it." He has also observed crime as a violation of public rights and duties (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

In ancient days, punishment was a deterrent and was usually in the form of an exile or corporal punishment. However, in modern society, the concept of crime is quite different. Individuals often dissent from traditional beliefs, customs, and superstitions in the modern era. The progress of civilization and culture has enormously affected the various aspects of society. As a result of this effect, various legal concepts have come into existence.

1.4 Classification of Crime

Crime is any conduct that violates the law. Crimes are of different categories depending on the cause, people involved, motive, etc.. Some crimes are committed by an individual alone, whereas others involve a group of people. Some are committed within the geographical boundaries of a country, whereas international crimes occur worldwide. Crime is not a homogeneous type of behavior in any society. Therefore, an effort has been made to classify crime. Different criminologists have classified crime on a diversified basis.

Based on cruelty and seriousness, Sutherland classified crime as either a misdemeanor or a felony. The distinguishing factor between these two classifications lies in the punishment imposed on the offender. A misdemeanor is a less severe offence for which the criminal is imprisoned for a short period or a fine may be imposed for the act, whereas a felony is a severe offence for which the criminal is sentenced to long-term imprisonment or even death (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

Lemert classified crime as either situational or systematic. Situational crimes are committed by people due to the pressure or demand of the situation, whereas systematic crimes are planned before committing them and are systematic. An example of situational crime may be when a person leaves the keys in the vehicle and the criminal is presented with an opportunity to steal them. Loan sharking, burglary, etc., are a few examples of systematic crimes (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

Willem A. Bonger (a Dutch criminologist) classified crime into four types based on the motive behind the crime. They are economic crimes, sexual crimes, political crimes, and miscellaneous crimes (Bemmelen 1955).

- Economic crimes are those illegal acts committed by an individual or a group of individuals with a motive of financial gain. The sole purpose of such criminals is to gain an economic advantage. Money laundering, tax evasions, illicit capital heavens, etc., are a few examples of economic crimes.
- Sexual crimes are acts committed that generally involve illegal or coerced sexual conduct against another individual. Indecent exposure, sexual assault, rape, etc., are a few examples of sex crimes.
- Political crimes are crimes committed to cause damage/harm to the state, the state's government, or the political system of a state. Sedition, espionage, treason, etc., are a few examples of political crimes.
- Miscellaneous crimes are crimes with revenge as the chief motive. However, a
 crime can have more than one motive, i.e., a person may have both political and
 economic motives (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

Clinard and Quinney classified crime into six types. They are:

Violent personal crimes: These involve using violence, and the offender usually
does not hold an earlier criminal record (Fajnzylber et al. 2002). Examples
include rape, assault, etc.

• Occasional property crimes: These are a violation of individual property rules. An example is shoplifting.

- Occupational crimes: An individual commits this type of crime during their occupation or job. The criminals accept the rules and regulations of society, except for honesty. Examples include misleading advertisements, black marketing, etc.
- Political crimes: Criminals of these types of crimes have a political and economic motive. Some examples are spying, treason, etc.
- Public order crimes: The regular conduct of society and its norms are disturbed by such crimes, causing harm. Examples include alcoholism, vandalism, breaking traffic rules, etc.
- Conventional crimes: Criminals offend the norms of individual property, and the
 money earned through these crimes is not their sole income. These types of
 crimes are committed on a part-time basis. Some examples are robbery, theft,
 dacoity, etc. (Ahuja 2000).

Crime can also be classified into four different groups, based on "against whom" it is committed:

- Against a person: A crime against a person includes those committed against a
 person's will and involves bodily harm or a threat to cause bodily harm.
 Kidnapping, domestic violence, stalking, battery, etc., are crimes against a
 person.
- Against property: Property crimes are usually committed with force or threat of force with the motive to obtain money, property, or others. Dacoity, robbery, larceny, etc., are some of the examples of property crimes.
- Against public decency: These types of crimes are committed with an intention to
 disturb the peace, cause public nuisance, and threaten the sense of public morality. Drunkenness, vandalism, bigamy, obscenity, etc., are a few examples of
 crimes against public decency.
- Against public justice: These types of crimes involve disorderly or disrespectful conduct, questioning the authority of the legal system. Contempt of court and perjury are a few examples of crimes against public justice (Ahuja 2000).

Individuals commit various other crimes. Some of them are mentioned in Fig. 1.2.

1.5 Crime and Criminal Behavior

Criminology is a diverse discipline that is characterized by different perspectives of theories laid down by different criminologists. Criminal behavior, also known as offending, can be generally defined as "any overt or covert law-breaking conduct in a given country or state, punishable upon conviction" (Morizot and Kazemian 2015).

According to the sociological process theories of crime, criminal behavior is learned while interacting with people during communication. The techniques of

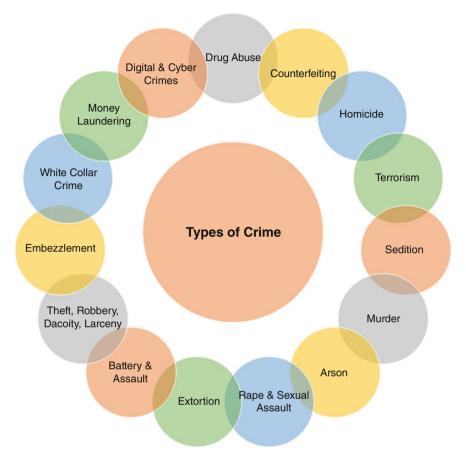


Fig. 1.2 Types of crimes

committing a crime, the specific direction of attitudes, motives, and rationalization are learned during this learning process. Different approaches have been studied to understand the concept and causes of crime and criminal behavior (Brown et al. 2010; Reid 2015; White et al. 2017).

Different theories to study criminal behavior and crime causation are explained as follows:

1. Preclassical theory: This is also known as the demonological theory and is based on religious beliefs and superstitions. In ancient times, people believed that evil spirits and some supernatural powers were responsible for a person's criminal tendency and that these instigated the person to commit crimes. According to this theory, people commit crimes not due to their free will but under the influence of some sinful spirit. The foundation of this theory is based on some unreal or mythical facts. The demonological theory is the oldest theory

that believes that a person commits a crime after capitulating to or for the blandishment of a wicked spirit. In the seventeenth century, religious values predominated over social thinking. A priest or a monarch, who acted as the leader or supporter of religious values, treated people who were perceived to be under the control of some evil spirit. In order to provide relief to such human beings, they usually performed worships and advised those affected to make certain types of sacrifices (animal or human), which were again the impact of certain superstitious beliefs. Such practices included ordering them to walk on fire and to offer some prayers in water and sometimes even terminating the life of the person whom they believed were committing a crime under the control of some evil spirits (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

If someone was able to convince the public that a person is a threat to society and is under the influence of some wicked spirit, then the person and their family were banished from the village and were mistreated, beaten, and even killed. Still, in the twenty-first century, the belief of the demonological theory is almost extinct from the judiciary but is still present in certain sects of society.

- 2. Classical theory of criminology: This is one of the widely accepted theories that takes a utilitarian approach to criminality. Classicists assume that all men are free, rational, and equal and none have a priority of rank or status and no initial handicaps or advantages. Bentham and Beccaria proposed the main concepts of this theory. According to Beccaria's free will theory, people are free to make their own choices. The main postulates proposed in classical school theory are as follows:
 - (a) Man's behavior is purposive and rational and is based on the pleasure—pain principle, i.e., he chooses pleasure and avoids pain.
 - (b) The punishment meted out for a crime should be such that it outweighs the benefits obtained from the commission of the crime.
 - (c) The punishment imposed should not be highly deterrent and should be in proportion to the crime committed. Corporal punishment should be preferred in place of torture, and a fair trial should be ensured.
 - (d) The court does not have the right to interpret the laws according to their ideas of justice. Only innocence or guilt should be proved, and punishment should be prescribed accordingly (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000; Morizot and Kazemian 2015; Brown et al. 2010).
- 3. Neoclassical theory: The classical theory was revised after criticism, and neoclassicist criminologists made changes. The neoclassical theory introduced the idea of maximum and minimum sentences. It described the concept of equal justice as unreal and suggested the importance of age, mental condition, and situations while prescribing punishment to criminals. Mentally diseased individuals and children below 7 years of age were exempted from the law. Neoclassical schools started dealing with the causation of crime, which was not included in classical theory (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).
- 4. **Social disorganization theory**: This theory is also known as the Chicago School theory. It was proposed by Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay. The main principle of this theory is that location (place) is responsible for

- deviant behavior and crime. According to this theory, a person's residential location is vital for predicting criminality compared to their characteristics. Criminality is directly related to the differences in ecological characteristics. Criminal tendencies are seen more in societies where social disequilibrium or disorganization is responsible for social issues (Morizot and Kazemian 2015).
- 5. **Differential association theory**: This theory was proposed by Sutherland in 1939 and was elaborated in 1947. According to this theory, criminal behavior is acquired through social interactions with others. This means that people tend to become delinquent or engage in unlawful activities when they associate with individuals who have pro-criminal attitudes, values, and behaviors, while lacking exposure to conventional norms and values. Differential association is possible because society is composed of various groups with varied cultures. According to this theory, cultural conflict is the underlying cause of differential association. These associations may vary in intensity, priority, duration, and frequency, i.e., the probability that a person will participate in criminal behavior is roughly determined by the frequency and consistency of his/her associations with patterns of criminal behavior (Brown et al. 2010).
- 6. Biological theory: Cesare Lombroso proposed the concept of heredity as a responsible factor for criminal behavior. He postulated that biological factors were more responsible for criminal behavior in comparison to environmental factors. He mentioned the concept of born criminals, i.e., individuals who suffer from physical, intellectual, and moral degeneration since birth. These born criminals could be identified by the typical facial features like asymmetry of the face, head, etc. (Siegel 2016).
 - William Sheldon proposed another biological explanation for criminal behavior. He studied the photographs of individuals and categorized them into three somatotypes, viz., endomorphs, ectomorphs, and mesomorphs. Endomorphs are heavily built persons with outgoing and sociable personalities, mesomorphs are muscular and broad with aggressive personalities, and ectomorphs are lean and skinny with introverted personalities (Brown et al. 2010; Siegel 2016).
- 7. Anomie strain theory: In 1893, Emile Durkheim proposed the concept of anomie, which means a lack of usual ethical and social standards. Merton proposed that criminality and deviant behavior occurred due to the gap between cultural goals and social ways to achieve them. He stated that if the cultural goals of a society are status, wealth, etc., then the social means to achieve them are employment, education, etc. When a gap occurs between achieving these goals and the means to achieve them, frustration develops among the individuals and a strain is generated. As a result, people adopt illegal means to achieve their goals, which lead to crime causation. The main features of this theory are that specific stressors are caused due to the negative changes occurring in society, which increases the probability of crime. Thus, a crime is committed as a means to relieve those strains of society (Morizot and Kazemian 2015; Brown et al. 2010; Siegel 2016).
- 8. **Psychodynamic theory**: Sigmund Freud proposed this theory of criminality. According to this theory, the psyche has three components: "id, ego, and

superego." "Id" is the primitive part of the mental component of a person present since birth. It represents the unconscious drives of the body for different necessities of life. "Ego" is developed in the early life of a person. It satisfies the demands of the id and tries to keep it within the norms of society. "Superego" develops as an individual and integrates the moral standards of the society and the community. The central concept of this theory is that criminals develop a weaker ego due to negative happenings in their childhood. As a result, in their adulthood, they resort to criminal behaviors to satisfy their ego (Siegel 2016; Anckarsäter et al. 2009).

- 9. **Behavioral theory**: This is another psychological theory that explains the causes of criminal behavior. Behavior is learned through life's actions. Albert Bandura proposed that no individual is born with the ability to act violently. Violence and aggression are learned in the course of an individual's life from different sources, like family interactions, mass media, and environmental factors. Individuals residing in crime-prone areas are more likely to develop criminal tendencies and aggressive behavior. To an extent, the media is also responsible for criminal behavior and violence (Siegel 2016).
- 10. Labeling theory: Howard Becker proposed this theory in 1963. This theory deals with the reason why some people are labeled criminals or deviants by society. According to this theory, the social audience and not the person is vital for studying deviance. Deviance is not a quality of the act that a person commits but the consequence of the application by others of rules and sanctions to an offender (Becker 1963; Walklate 2007; Anon n.d.-d). It is the reaction of others that labels an individual in a specific manner. It is the society that brands some people as criminals and some as not. If a young individual from the lower strata of society steals a car, then he/she is labeled a "thief;" meanwhile, if someone from the upper strata of society does the same, he/she is described as a "mischievous pleasure-seeker" (Siegel 2016; Becker 1963).
- 11. **Self-concept and containment theory**: Walter Reckless introduced the concept of containment theory in 1967, addressing the question of why individuals choose either law-abiding or law-violating behavior when presented with alternatives. According to Reckless, the main factor influencing this choice is an individual's self-concept. He proposed that there are two critical aspects of control: inner and outer control. The balance between these control systems determines whether an individual will opt for a deviant path of crime or a conformist route. Reckless emphasized the significance of self-concept as the defining factor in making behavioral choices. Strong inner containment, including a positive self-concept, ego strength, a mature superego, high frustration tolerance, and a sense of responsibility, acts as a buffer against deviant behavior. It is also important to understand the external pushes, such as unemployment, discrimination, and poverty, as well as the external pulls, including negative peer pressure, that can influence individuals towards criminality. Moreover, internal pushes such as anger, anxiety, negative thoughts, and a rebellious attitude can directly impact a person's propensity to commit unlawful acts or break societal norms. By addressing these external and internal factors, and by

maintaining a balance between inner and outer containment, Reckless believed it was possible to prevent individuals from choosing a deviant path and encourage adherence to societal norms (Siegel 2016).

Criminology is the scientific study of the causes of criminal behavior. Criminal behavior has been explained by various theories proposed by different criminologists all over the world. The construction of social norms, which vary from society to society, depicts deviance as a social phenomenon. These theories are based on the assumptions and explanations proposed by criminologists. In the past, according to specific theories, criminal behavior was attributed to factors such as demons, skull traits, the inherent nature of individuals, and body types. These beliefs were discarded through scientific research. The explanations based on rational choice and biological perspectives were quite popular as the possible reasons for committing a crime. With the change of society and the norms, the possible explanations for criminal behavior also change. So, it is difficult to come to a universal conclusion about the cause of deviance and crime. No single theory is sufficient enough to explain all the probable causes of crime (Walklate 2007; Anon n.d.-d).

1.6 Factors in Crime

Several factors are responsible for the causation of crime. Understanding these causes helps in taking measures to reduce deviant behavior and criminal tendencies (Dutta and Husain 2009). Some of the factors responsible for crimes are as follows:

1.6.1 Peer Influence

Peer groups can indeed have a significant influence on the causation of crime, particularly among young individuals. When children and teenagers feel unable to meet the expectations set by their parents or are constantly compared to others, it can lead to feelings of frustration, inadequacy, and a desire for acceptance. In some cases, this can result in engaging in criminal behavior as a means to gain recognition or prove themselves. The pressure to conform to peer standards, especially in terms of material possessions like expensive clothing, can be a significant factor that pushes individuals towards criminal activities. Those who cannot afford such luxuries may feel compelled to resort to illegal means, such as theft or fraud, in order to meet the expectations and fit in with their peer group. Additionally, peer pressure can lead to the initiation of harmful behaviors such as drinking or smoking, which may then contribute to criminal acts. The desire to be accepted and included among their peers can lead young individuals to engage in activities that are illegal or violate societal norms. While peer influence is an important factor to consider in understanding the causation of crime, it is crucial to recognize that it is not the sole determinant. Other factors, such as individual characteristics, family dynamics,

socio-economic conditions, and community influences, also play significant roles. A comprehensive understanding of crime causation requires examining the complex interactions among these various factors (Reid 2015; White et al. 2017).

1.6.2 Biological Factors

According to different criminologists, the biological characteristics of criminal behavior are said to be genetic and inherited. Criminologist Goring proposed that criminal behavior is inherited, much like physical, moral, and mental traits, based on statistical techniques. This perspective suggests a biological basis for criminal tendencies (Brown et al. 2010; Siegel 2016). Contrary to the biological determinism perspective, many criminologists emphasize the significance of environmental influences on criminal behavior. They argue that factors such as upbringing, socialization, economic conditions, peer associations, and community dynamics play crucial roles in shaping an individual's propensity towards criminal acts. These environmental factors can contribute to the development of criminal behavior by influencing social learning, attitudes, and opportunities for criminal involvement.

1.6.3 Economic Factors

The lack of access to basic needs and desires due to poverty and unemployment can indeed drive individuals to resort to illegal means to satisfy those needs. In many cases, the combination of these factors can lead to a heightened risk of engaging in criminal activities (Brown et al. 2010). Poverty and unemployment can create an environment of desperation and hopelessness where individuals might see criminal behavior as a way to secure their survival or improve their circumstances. The inability to provide for themselves and their families can push people towards crime as they seek to meet their basic needs. In areas with high population density and limited job opportunities, unemployment can exacerbate the situation. A growing population combined with insufficient employment opportunities can lead to increased competition for resources, which might, in turn, drive some individuals to criminal acts.

1.6.4 Lack of Education

While education does not guarantee that educated individuals will not commit crimes, it is observed that individuals with lower levels of education and weaker moral values may be more prone to resorting to illegal means for financial gain. Proper education, particularly in ethics and moral values, is crucial in enabling individuals to differentiate between good and evil. By instilling a strong sense of ethics and moral principles, education empowers individuals to make informed and ethical decisions, contributing to a lawful and harmonious society. While education

alone cannot eliminate crime, integrating teachings of ethics and moral values into education equips individuals with the knowledge and tools to make ethical choices and understand the consequences of their actions. This helps in fostering empathy, compassion, and a greater sense of responsibility towards society (Brown et al. 2010).

1.6.5 An Ineffective Legal System

An inefficient legal system can contribute to an increase in crime and have negative consequences on deterrence, justice, and public trust. When a legal system is inefficient and judicial procedures are overly drawn out, potential offenders may perceive punishment as uncertain, thereby reducing the deterrent effect. Delays in justice can erode the effectiveness of punishment and fail to provide timely consequences for criminal behavior. Inconsistently or unfairly enforced rules, particularly those influenced by racial or social status, can create a sense of unfairness and resentment, undermining public trust in the legal system. Inadequate resources allocated to law enforcement, courts, and correctional facilities can result in backlogs, diminished investigative efforts, and overcrowded jails. These factors can impede the timely administration of justice and limit the capacity to effectively address crime. Furthermore, a poorly functioning legal system characterized by corruption and a lack of accountability can create an environment conducive to criminal activity. To prevent crime, ensure justice, and maintain societal order, it is essential to have an efficient and effective legal system that provides swift and fair outcomes, upholds the rule of law, and maintains public confidence. Adequate resources, proper training, streamlined procedures, and accountability mechanisms are crucial elements in achieving an efficient legal system. As a result of protracted court cases and the release of offenders, culprits often roam freely, and the wealthy find it easier to secure bail. After evading accountability in the past, offenders persist in engaging in unlawful behaviors, perpetuating criminal activities, and instilling a sense of terror within society (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000; Brown et al. 2010).

1.6.6 Cultural Factors

Cultural factors indeed play a significant role in shaping criminal behavior. Individuals who are raised in environments characterized by hopelessness, anxiety, and insecurity may develop a sense of mistrust towards themselves and others. The lack of self-confidence and unreal expectations about life can contribute to feelings of frustration and anger. When these negative emotions are not effectively managed or channeled, they can potentially manifest as deviant behavior. Cultural factors encompass a wide range of influences, including societal norms, values, beliefs, and the overall social environment. Cultural contexts that perpetuate a sense of despair, limited opportunities, and social inequalities can contribute to a higher prevalence of criminal behavior. In such environments, individuals may perceive

crime as a means to address their frustrations or gain a sense of control or power.It is important to recognize that cultural factors interact with various other influences, such as economic conditions, educational opportunities, family dynamics, and peer associations. The complex interplay of these factors shapes an individual's perceptions, attitudes, and behavioral choices (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.6.7 Effect of the Media

The media undoubtedly wields a powerful influence on crime, although its impact is complex and hotly debated. Sensationalized reporting and a fixation on violent crimes can create a false impression of crime rates, inciting public fear and anxiety. Portrayals of criminal behavior in movies, TV shows, and video games may even inspire susceptible individuals to emulate such behavior. Additionally, high-profile crimes can serve as a blueprint for further criminal activity. However, it is crucial to recognize the multitude of other factors that can contribute to crime, such as personal tendencies, societal contexts, and economic circumstances. To fully comprehend the intricate relationship between media and crime, one must account for numerous variables and settings. Indeed, research has revealed a significant correlation between violence in the media and violent behavior among children, with those who watch more violent movies being more likely to engage in criminal behavior in adulthood. Violent content in video games, movies, and television programs can be potent triggers for deviant, illegal, and violent actions (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

1.6.8 Parental Factors

Parenting practices play a crucial role in shaping a child's development and can significantly influence their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. When children do not receive adequate attention and guidance from their parents, they may become more susceptible to various negative influences, including criminal behavior (Brown et al. 2010). Lack of parental monitoring can lead to children being exposed to risky situations and unhealthy peer associations, increasing the possibility of engaging in deviant activities. Parents who are unable to provide proper attention and emotional support may contribute to feelings of neglect, which can impact a child's emotional well-being and decision-making. Furthermore, children from separated or divorced parents might face additional challenges. Disrupted family dynamics can contribute to emotional distress and instability, which can, in turn, influence behavioral choices. The absence of a stable and nurturing family environment may increase the likelihood of children seeking validation and belonging through negative peer groups or delinquent behaviors.

1.6.9 Mental Disorders

People suffering from mental disorders may commit a crime without even realizing it to be illegal. Mental disorders like delusion, psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, etc., are related to different forms of crimes and criminal behaviors (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000; Anckarsäter et al. 2009). For instance, a person experiencing a psychotic episode might act on delusions or hallucinations that compel them to behave in ways that could be harmful to themselves or others. In some cases, these behaviors could lead to criminal acts, such as property damage or physical harm. It's important to recognize that the relationship between mental disorders and criminal behavior is complex and multifaceted. While some individuals with mental disorders might inadvertently engage in criminal activity due to their condition, it's also crucial to understand that the majority of people with mental illnesses are not prone to violence or criminal behavior.

1.6.10 Neurological Factors

Criminologists have studied the connection between injuries in some regions of the brain and criminality. Darby suggested that if a brain injury occurs in those areas of the brain responsible for decision-making and moral ethics, then those people have a higher probability of criminal tendencies or are more prone to committing a crime (Darby 2018). Neurotransmitters also play an essential role in determining criminal behavior to a certain extent (Siegel 2016).

1.7 Victimology

When a crime occurs, the main focus is usually on the criminal who has committed the crime and the modus operandi. Benjamin Mendelson coined the term "victimology" in 1947. In victimology, the main essence is the victim of the crime. Victimology can be defined as "the scientific study of the extent, nature, and causes of criminal victimization, its consequences for the persons involved and the reactions hereto by society, in particular, the police and the criminal justice system as well as voluntary workers and professional helpers" (Fattah 2000). Victimology is also a concept of importance that helps analyze the cause of crime and other vital facts and correlates of crime (Allen 1954; Albanese 2014).

Drapkin and Viano (1974) defined victimology as "the branch of criminology, which primarily studies the victims of crime and everything connected with the victim." Antilla (1975) defined victimology as "the logical, psychological, sociological, and criminological study of the victims which focuses the victim-offender relationship and the role played by the victim in the occurrence of the crime." (Porwal 2018).

Shinder (1982) defined victimology as "the relationship between the offender and the victim in crime causation." It deals with the process of victimization, becoming a

victim, and the victim—offender problem and the sequence. The term "victim" was introduced in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973 by the CrPC (Amendment) Act 2008 by introducing Section 2 (wa), which defines a victim as a "person, who has suffered any loss or injury caused by reason of the act or omission for which the accused person has been charged, and the expression "victim" includes his or her guardian or legal heir." (Anon n.d.-f).

1.7.1 Victim Precipitation Vs. Victim Facilitation Vs. Victim Provocation

These different concepts help understand the extent of a victim's role in a crime.

Victim precipitation: Marvin Wolfgang coined this term. This concept views the extent to which a victim is responsible for his or her victimization. This concept is based on two components, i.e., the victim is the first to act in the commission of a crime and the victim encourages the offender to commit the crime. However, this concept does not apply to all types of crimes, and it might hold for crimes such as assault, rape, etc. This concept explains how the victim's interaction may provoke the offender to commit a crime (Albanese 2014; Doerner 2017; Karmen 2015).

Victim facilitation: This concept states how a victim intentionally or unintentionally facilitates the offender to commit a crime, i.e., the victim's actions make it easier for the offender to commit a crime. For example, if a person leaves behind his/her car keys, this will facilitate the offender to steal the car (Albanese 2014; Doerner 2017; Karmen 2015).

Victim provocation: This concept says that the victim instigates or provokes the offender to commit a crime and due to the provocation by the victim, the offender commits the crime. This suggests that if the victim had not incited the offender, then the crime would not have occurred. The offender alone cannot be held responsible for the crime (Albanese 2014; Doerner 2017; Karmen 2015).

1.7.2 Types of Victims

Victims have been classified into different types on different bases by various criminologists. A few of them are explained below.

Benjamin Mendelsohn, also known as the father of victimology, classified victims based on the extent of their victimization. They are classified as:

- A completely innocent victim: A victim who has no role in his/her victimization (e.g., rape of small children and infants)
- A victim with minor guilt: A victim who is victimized due to his/her ignorance and falls prey to the offender (e.g., pregnant women who go to quacks for abortion)

- A voluntary victim: A victim who holds equal responsibility as that of an offender (e.g., consensual act of adultery)
- A victim more guilty than the offender: A victim who provokes or instigates the offender to commit a crime (e.g., a person instigating the opponent to kill him/her may be in an emotional state of mind.)
- The most guilty victim: A victim who is duped as a result of a crime (e.g., a rapist gets killed by his victim in the act of self-defense)
- A simulating victim: A pretending victim who gives evidence in courts to obtain a sentence against an accused person (e.g., hysterical, paranoids, or senile persons) (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000; Albanese 2014; Anon n.d.-e; Anon n.d.-f)

Walter Reckless classified victims into two types: reporting victims and non-reporting victims.

- Reporting victims: Reporting victims are the ones who report the crime without bothering about the consequences of reporting their victimization and are interested in getting the offender punished, and justice prevails.
- Non-reporting victims: Non-reporting victims are the ones who are unwilling to report the crime because of intimidation by the criminals or fear of the social consequences of reporting it (Anon n.d.-g).

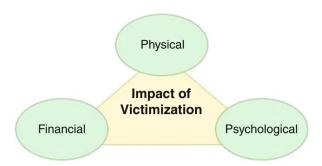
Wolfgang described five categories of victimization. They are:

- Primary victimization: This type involves an individual or personalized victim.
- Secondary victimization: In this type, the victim is an impersonal target of the offender (e.g., a thief in a departmental store, a person traveling on a train without a ticket, etc.).
- Tertiary victimization: This type of victimization affects the public or the administration of the society.
- Mutual victimization: In this case, the victims are themselves offenders in a mutually consensual act (e.g., adultery, gambling).
- No victimization: This type of victimization is where the crime is of negligible significance, and there is no immediately recognizable victim (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000).

Von Hentig categorized victims into four types. They are as follows:

- Victims whose injury may be the price of more significant pain, e.g., in the case of abortion
- Victims who bring about detrimental results partly by their concurrent effort, e.g., prostitutes
- Victims who provoke or instigate the criminal to commit a crime, e.g., by challenging the criminal to kill him/her in an emotional state of mind
- Victims who desire to injure the offender (Veeraraghavan 2019; Ahuja 2000; Anon n.d.-h)

Fig. 1.3 Impact of victimization



1.7.3 Impact of Victimization

Every crime leaves a significant impact on the victim, which can be grouped into three categories (Fig. 1.3).

Physical impact: Victims are likely to experience numerous reactions after a crime. These reactions may include the physical injuries inflicted upon the them, increased heart rate, feeling frozen, shakiness, dryness of mouth, etc. These reactions may reoccur even after a while with the victim's memory of the crime's event (Skogan 1987; Finkelhor and Kendall-Tackett 1997).

Financial impact: This deals with the monetary loss incurred by the victim either due to robbery, burglary, or forced entry. The financial losses can be due to damage caused to the property by causing fire or other expenses. In many cases, the stolen money and prized possessions are never recovered. This may leave the victims distressed with feelings of anger, frustration, and guilt (Skogan 1987; Finkelhor and Kendall-Tackett 1997).

Psychological impact: This refers to the fear and anger that develop in the victim's mind. Victims may also develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This may further manifest through the intake of alcohol and drugs, avoiding social meetings, etc. Other than the impacts mentioned earlier, post-victimization may have severe effects on the family and children of the victim and may hamper their future. It may also take several years to overcome the shock of the crime and return to normal (Skogan 1987; Finkelhor and Kendall-Tackett 1997).

1.7.4 Compensation to the Victim

The government has incorporated various compensation schemes and laws to provide aid to the victims post-crime. Compensation is provided to the victim by order of the court through set procedures. This compensation is for both material and non-material things. Laws governing compensation to the victims of a crime are mentioned in Sections 357, 357(1), 357 (2), 357 (3), 357A, 358, 359, and 250 of

CrPC 1973. Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution protect the rights of the victim.

Victim compensation, victim rehabilitation, and restorative justice are a few of the introduced measures, along with the laws and acts to help the victims. The government has put in place measures to rehabilitate victims, which cover their physical, mental, and psychological well-being. The victim is an inextricable part of a crime, and it is impossible to study crime entirely without understanding the importance of the victim (Anon n.d.-g; Anon n.d.-i).

1.8 Punishment

Since the origin of human civilization, crime and punishment have never ceased to exist. According to contemporary criminology, crime and punishment are interrelated terminologies. The severity of punishment depends upon the gravity of the crime that has occurred. The primary purpose of imposing punishment is crime prevention; it allows the offender to improve himself/herself and teach society to stay away from crimes (Garland 1991; Hirst 1984; Meyer 1968; Zaibert 2016).

Punishment can be stated as the immediate effect of a criminal act. It can be defined as "the imposition of an undesirable or unpleasant outcome upon a group or individual, meted out by an authority in contexts ranging from child discipline to criminal law as a response and deterrent to a particular action or behaviour that is deemed undesirable or unacceptable" (Anon n.d.-j).

1.8.1 Theories of Punishment

Different criminologists have proposed different theories for punishment. They are explained as follows:

Deterrent theory: According to this theory (Ellis, 2003), punishment for a crime should be severe enough such that it discourages the offender from repeating the crime in the future. This also sets an example for others so that they are discouraged from committing the same crime due to the severity of the punishment. This theory is considered to be inhuman without any moral foundation (Meyer 1968; Anon n.d.-j).

Retributive theory: According to this theory, punishment is decided based on the severity of the crime. Based on the principle of "an eye for an eye," retribution theory states that the criminal should be aware of the pain inflicted on the victim by him/her. It aims to avenge the victim's pain, harm, and injury by punishing the criminal, which is considered the most ancient form of justification for a crime. This theory is considered to be barbaric by many criminologists, sociologists, and penologists (Meyer 1968; Anon n.d.-j).

Preventive theory: The primary purpose of this theory is to prevent crime in the future. It believes in not taking revenge for the crime but instead keeping the

antisocial elements away from society by imposing life imprisonment, death, incarceration, etc. The main objective of punishment is prevention, and the punishment also sets an example for other individuals of society to prevent them from indulging in criminal activities. Critics of this theory argue that it focuses solely on preventing other members of society from committing crimes, without providing opportunities for offenders to reform and improve their behavior (Meyer 1968; Anon n.d.-j).

Reformative theory: This is considered to be the most humane form of punishment. This theory aims to reform the criminal so that he/she abstains from committing crimes in the future. This theory believes that no criminal is a born criminal and that they are also to be treated as humans. Criminals should be reformed by educating them so that they refrain from indulging in criminal activities (Meyer 1968; Anon n.d.-j).

1.8.2 Forms of Punishment

Different forms of punishment are discussed below (Fig. 1.4):

 Capital punishment: Also referred to as a death sentence, capital punishment is considered the most severe form of punishment for a serious offence like murder. This punishment is meted out for an extremely heinous crime with the objective that such grievous crimes will not be tolerated in society (Zaibert 2016).

Fig. 1.4 Different forms of punishment



- 2. Probation: According to Feeley and Simons (1992), "probation is a form of low-cost surveillance for low-risk offenders." Any breach of the probation rules may result in him/her returning to prison. According to a few, probation is a form of punishment where individuals rehabilitate themselves and will mend their ways and lead an everyday life, whereas others believe that it is a "soft option" for criminals and that this punishment will have no effect on their thoughts of recommitting a crime.
- 3. Imprisonment: In this form of punishment, the individual is sent to prison/jail after being convicted by the court. The duration of imprisonment varies depending upon the severity of the crime. The two forms are simple and rigorous imprisonment.
- 4. Fines: This form of punishment is imposed when the crime is less severe. The court feels no threat to society from the criminal and spares him/her by imposing a fine. The court may impose a fine along with/without probation or imprisonment.
- 5. Restitution: This is replenishment of the loss or harm inflicted by the criminal on the victim. A fine is imposed, which is paid directly to the victim to compensate for the loss. If the criminal cannot pay the fine, then the court may order confiscation of his/her property in the form of restitution.
- 6. Community service: In this form of punishment, the court directs the criminal to work for society. The court may convict a criminal to work for the local community, like cleaning a wasteland, decorating public places and buildings, etc. The hours of work may vary depending upon the severity of the crime.

1.9 The Criminal Justice System in India

Every society, place, or country needs a set of norms, rules, and regulations to deal with the antisocial elements of society. A system is required to deal with people who cause harm to other individuals or the society as a whole, provide justice to the victims who have survived, and look after the survivors so that they do not face the same consequences again.

The criminal justice system is an instrument of social control. It is "the study and understanding of the deviations and the related sanctions necessary to ensure discipline among the diverse population in society and preventing the individuals and the society from being harmed by those who violate the existing norms, rules, and regulations." According to the Oxford English dictionary, the criminal justice system is defined as "the system of Law Enforcement, which is directly involved in apprehending, prosecuting, defending, sentencing, and punishing those who are suspected or convicted of criminal offences."

The criminal justice system is an essential tool to curb the antisocial behavior of a society. Some crimes are violent, whereas others are nonviolent crimes, and some crimes involve substance abuse and addiction. It is essential to keep in mind the role of the criminal and the cause for abnormal behavior, irrespective of the crime that is committed. A comprehensive approach is required to analyze the crime, the criminal, the situation behind the crime, and the criminal's behavior.

The criminal justice system acts as a law enforcement arm of a country, helps maintain social control, and mitigates crime. Its primary functions are to deal with criminal laws and trials in court, impose punishment, and work for the rehabilitation of both victims and criminals (Anon n.d.-k).

1.9.1 Objectives of the Criminal Justice System

The main objectives of the criminal justice system are as follows:

- To curb the occurrence of crime in society
- · To punish the criminals for their antisocial activities
- To provide rehabilitation to the criminals for their improvement
- · To maintain law and order in society
- To provide compensation to the victims for the loss suffered by them
- To dissuade the offenders from committing a crime in the future

1.9.2 The Structure of the Criminal Justice System

The judiciary is a branch of government that interprets the laws, sorts out disputes, and helps in administering justice to all the citizens of a country. The Indian judiciary is accountable to the Constitution of India. India has a single integrated judicial system. The structure of the Indian judiciary is pyramidal with the Supreme Court on the top, followed by the high courts. Subordinate to the high courts are the district courts and other lower courts.

India's criminal justice system consists of the Supreme Court at the helm (comprising 1 chief justice and 25 other judges). The Supreme Court is the highest court of the land located at New Delhi. Other judicial bodies at the union level take the form of tribunals whose members may be from the judiciary or the civil service. The Supreme Court of India is a court of records and hears appeals from any judgments of a high court. It has the power to issue prerogative writs like Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Quo Warranto, and Certiorari to enforce fundamental rights (Sandhu and Choudhuri 1987). It has jurisdiction over all courts in India.

Following the Supreme Court are the high courts. These are located as one in number in each state and union territory. A high courts is also a court of records that hears appeals made by the district courts and has the power to grant writs. The judgments of the high courts are used as records by the lower courts in many deciding cases.

Below the high courts, there are session courts, where the judge handles civil cases in his/her capacity as a district judge. Following this are the district courts. These courts are presided over by a judge and are the principal courts of civil jurisdiction (Anon n.d.-k) (Figs. 1.5 and 1.6).

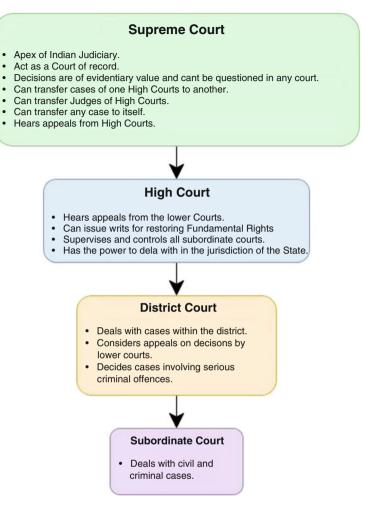
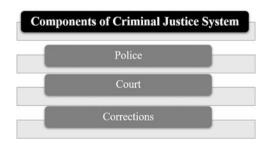


Fig. 1.5 Different courts in India

Fig. 1.6 Components of the criminal justice system



1.9.3 Components of the Criminal Justice System

The major components of the criminal justice system are:

- Police
- Courts
- · Corrections

1.9.3.1 Police

According to the Oxford dictionary, the term "police" means a system of regulation to preserve order and to enforce the law of the internal government of a state. This is an agency of the government responsible for maintaining law and order in a society. The police investigate crime scenes, collect evidence to be tested in laboratories, and present the evidence in court after analysis. They have to enforce criminal law to maintain law and order in a society and help prevent crime from further occurrence.

Article 246 of the Indian Constitution and Section 3 of the Indian Police Act, 1861, states that the police force is a state subject and is not dealt with at the central government level. It is the responsibility of the state government to draft guidelines, rules, and regulations for the police of the respective state, and these regulations are found in the state police manuals (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Report, 2005). However, the central government must intervene in some special situations or play some unique role concerning the functions of the police. Article 355 specifies that "It is the duty of the Centre to protect the states against internal disturbances and to ensure that the governance of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution" (Anon n.d.-1).

Organizational structure: The organizational structure of police is similar in almost all the states of the country. The rules and regulations are mentioned in the police manuals of the state police forces. Each state/union territory has its separate police force. Despite the diversity, there are a lot of similarities/commonness due to a few reasons. They are as follows:

- The working and administration of the police force are governed by the Police Act of 1861, which applies to most parts of the country.
- The majority of the criminal laws laid down in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Indian Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure are chiefly applied to all the states of the country.
- The bulk of the senior state police officers is recruited, trained, and administered by central government, i.e., the Indian Police Service.

The state government has overall control over the police of the state. The director general of police is the head of the police force of a state. The state is further categorized into zones, ranges, and districts. A group of districts forms a range that is headed by the deputy inspector general of police. Furthermore, a superintendent of police is the head of the district force. In a few states, some zones comprise two or more ranges. The inspector general of police heads zones. The districts are

further subdivided into subdivisions, circles, and police stations (Anon n.d.-k). The general organizational structure of the police force is described in the form of a flowchart, as depicted in Fig. 1.7.

1.9.3.1.1 The Roles and Functions of the Police

The police have an essential role to play in preserving the law and order of a society. The roles of the police are varied in nature. The police force plays a ubiquitous role as one of the most prominent organizations in society. In times of need, danger, and crisis, they are the ones who provide all types of necessary help. Pertaining to the duties of police officers, Section 23 of the Police Act, 1861, states that

It shall be the duty of every police- officer promptly to obey and execute all orders and warrants lawfully issued to him by any competent authority; to collect and communicate intelligence affecting the public peace; to prevent the commission of offences and public nuisances; to detect and bring offenders to justice and to apprehend all persons whom he is legally authorized to apprehend, and for whose apprehension sufficient ground exists; and it shall be lawful for every police- officer, for any of the purposes mentioned in this section, without a warrant, to enter and inspect any drinking- shop, gaming- house or other place of resort of loose and disorderly characters (Anon n.d.-m).

1.9.3.2 Courts

Another vital component of the criminal justice system is the courts. The primary objectives of the courts are to discover the truth and impart justice. The hierarchy of the courts in India has been discussed in the earlier section. Here, we will deal with the different types of courts in India based on the nature of their jurisdiction.

According to the judiciary system of India, the courts have been broadly classified into three categories as per the hierarchy. They are the Supreme Court (the apex court), followed by the high courts and district courts. The hierarchical structure of the courts in India can be summarized as follows (Fig. 1.8):

Civil and criminal courts: Civil courts deal with disputes related to property, breach of contracts, illegal acts in money transactions, etc. The victim files a lawsuit against the offender in these courts, and judges administer justice by observing the nature of the act. The judge asks the offender to pay for the damages caused or compensate for the loss incurred by the victim. In criminal courts, justice is administered through district courts, followed by the high courts and the Supreme Court. The functioning of these courts is based on the laws laid down in the Indian Penal Code (1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (1974) (Anon n.d.n).

Appellate and trial courts: An appellate court is any court that has the power to hear an appeal from the lower courts. For instance, the Supreme Court is an appellate court that hears the appeals from the high court and so on. The power to review the judgment of the lower courts varies according to the jurisdiction. Some appellate courts have limited powers for the review of the decision. In trial courts, both parties present their evidence and witnesses. Moreover, the judge then



Fig. 1.7 Organizational structure of police (Adapted from CHRI, 2005) (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative n.d.)

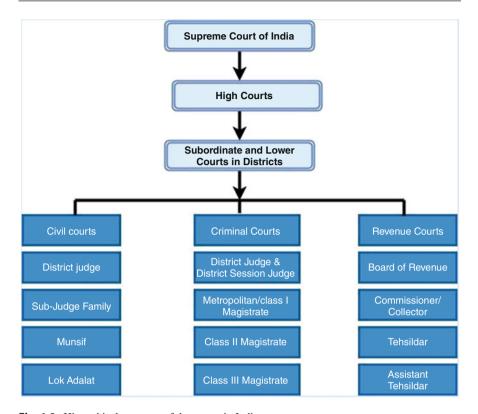


Fig. 1.8 Hierarchical structure of the courts in India

decides the outcome after hearing the case from both sides. The appellate court may overrule the decisions made in the trial court (Anon n.d.-n).

Juvenile courts: These are courts that deal with underage defendants charged with crimes, accused of some misconduct, who have been neglected or have been abused sexually, physically, and emotionally. The trials of children below 18 years of age are carried out by a particular judicial area handled by juvenile courts, now named the Juvenile Justice Boards. The purpose of these courts is social, legal rehabilitation and reformation of the individuals. Under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, juvenile courts and special homes have the provisions to deal with the cases of delinquent children. Later on, after the amendment of the law as per the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, the power to deal with such cases was handed over to the Juvenile Justice Boards. The functions of both remain the same, except that the Juvenile Justice Boards have more reformative and comprehensive powers. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, has been passed by the Parliament of India, which replaced the Indian juvenile delinquency law, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. According to the new law, juveniles

between the age of 16 and 18 years involved in heinous crimes are treated as adults (Anon n.d.-n).

Family courts: The need for the setup of family courts in India was first proposed by late Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh. The purpose of establishing these family courts was to deal with cases related to family matters like marriage, divorce, custody of a child, alimony, etc., in an environment away from the regular courts to ensure a congenial setup. Some other cases dealt with in these family courts are the protection of women from domestic violence, misuse of Section 498A IPC, Section 125 CrPC, etc. These courts are equipped with psychologists and counselors because other than the legal issues, there are also psychological and humanitarian dimensions related to these matters (Anon n.d.-o).

1.9.3.3 Corrections

Another vital component of the criminal justice system is correctional measures. It is the moral duty of society to provide offenders with a chance to reform themselves. This correctional practice is a developing science based on maintaining a balance between punishment and rehabilitation. Society demands that criminals be punished for their unlawful acts; however, they should be given a chance to reform themselves and learn corrective behavior. The standard corrective measures include probation, parole, prison, restitution, community services, and fines.

Probation: Probation allows the offender to stay in the community rather than a prison under the supervision of a probation officer. It is a sanction granted to first-or second-time offenders with less severe crimes. The offender is asked to follow certain conditions imposed by the court (Ghosh 2008). The offender stays under the threat of being incarcerated if he/she is found to break the rules of the court or the probation officer. Some of the restrictions imposed by the court are that he/she will not be allowed to leave the place of his/her jurisdiction, will be asked to attend some educational or reformative program, will be asked to refrain from the use of a firearm, should be allowed to live at a directed place, etc. The court has the right to revoke or modify the probation (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).

Parole: Parole's provisions in India are regulated by the mandates made under the Prisons Act, 1894, and the Prisoner Act, 1900. It is defined as a prisoner's release on a temporary or permanent basis based on his/her good behavior. Although the parole rules are the same throughout the country, there are few alterations concerning each state. Parole can be further categorized into two types: custody parole and regular parole. In custody parole, the prisoner is allowed out of prison for a limited duration of a few hours escorted by the police. This is granted in case of the death of a family member, severe sickness, etc. Regular parole is granted for 1 month, but it may be extended maximum to a year under certain circumstances. Offenders convicted of rape and murder or similar charges are devoid of parole (Ghosh 2008).

Prison: Prison and its administration are governed by the Prisons Act, 1894, and the prison manuals of every state government. The state government has to draft the rules and regulations of a prison and modify them as per the need. The central

government assists in maintaining and repairing prisons, medical facilities, vocational facilities, facilities for women offenders, etc.

Restitution: Restitution is a form of compensation given by the offender for the loss incurred by the victim. This loss can be in terms of money or may be some injury. It is the act of making up for the damage or harm caused to the victim. The judge may order the convict to make amends for the crime by paying for the losses incurred by the victim.

Community services: It is a punishment given to offenders that also serves to benefit the community. This punishment provides the offenders with an opportunity to see the injuries inflicted by his/her offence, which may help understand the limits of social tolerance of the offence. Community services include participation in substance abuse programs, counseling, painting, cleaning, etc.

Fines: It is a penalty of money paid by the offender to the victim to compensate for the crime, as decided by a court of law. It is an amount decided by a court of law or any other authority to settle a crime, especially minor crimes. Fines paid for the violation of traffic rules, loitering, etc., are some of the examples.

Correctional institutions: A correctional institution is a place designated by law to keep the persons held in custody under the process of law or lawful arrest. They may be institutional and noninstitutional.

Institutional corrections include jails, women jails, special jails, open jails, and Borstal schools. Jails are categorized as central jails, district jails, and sub-jails. Central jails have a larger capacity, and prisoners with imprisonment of more than 2 years are confined here. In states where there are no central jails, district jails serve as the main prisons. Sub-jails are further smaller institutions at the subdivisional level in states.

Women jails are prisons exclusively meant for female prisoners at the subdivisional, district, and central levels. Special jails are high-security prisons meant to confine particular types of criminals such as habitual offenders and those convicted of offences such as terrorism, violent crimes, and violations of prison discipline. Open jails are minimum-security prisons for offenders who are convicted and display good behavior by following the norms and discipline of the prison. Borstal schools are youth detention centers meant for the imprisonment of juveniles. These particular schools are made to ensure the young offenders' welfare, care, and rehabilitation in a proper environment, equipped with vocational training and education under the guidance of trained teachers.

Noninstitutional corrections refer to the correction of offenders without sending them behind bars. House arrest is a form of punishment, especially for nonviolent offenders who serve their sentences at their homes under close surveillance. It is also referred to as home confinement or home detention, where the mobility of the offender is restricted.

1.9.4 Steps of the Criminal Justice Process

Before the announcement of punishment by the judge in a court, there are several steps involved in criminal justice. These steps are (Fig. 1.9) as follows:

- Investigation: After a crime is reported, the police must investigate the scene of
 the crime. During this process, the investigator tries to collect evidence and other
 information from the crime scene, which will help identify the suspect and
 support an arrest.
- Arrest: When someone is suspected of committing a crime, they may be taken into custody as part of a legal process. This involves physically restraining them to ensure they appear in court or do not flee the area. It's a necessary measure to ensure public safety and justice. When the police apprehend a suspect based on probable cause and evidence found at the crime scene, it is known as an arrest. The arrested individual is then taken into custody and brought before a court of law. In order for an arrest to be made, there must be a reasonable connection between the suspect and the crime, known as probable cause.
- Prosecution: This is done by the district attorney (prosecution lawyer). During
 this step, the prosecution considers different factors like the robustness of the
 evidence and the offence's seriousness.
- Indictment: This refers to the accusation that a person has committed the crime. According to the CrPC, an indictment is an essential step. The prosecutor presents the information charging the criminal, and a preliminary inquiry is held to decide whether the evidence presented is enough for a trial. The criminal defendant and his/her attorney are allowed in such types of hearings.
- Arraignment: An arraignment is a formal court proceeding where the defendant is
 brought before a judge and informed of the charges against them. During the
 arraignment, the charges are read out to the accused person in a language they
 understand, and they are asked to enter their plea, which can be guilty, not guilty,

Fig. 1.9 Steps involved in the process of criminal justice administration



or, in some cases, no contest (also known as nolo contendere) claiming a lack of knowledge or denial of the charges. The accused person is also informed of their rights and the consequences of each plea option. The purpose of the arraignment is to ensure that the defendant is aware of the charges and to establish their plea before the trial proceedings commence.

- Pretrial detention and bail: Detention restricts the suspect in custody before the
 trial begins. When the crime committed is not very serious, the suspect can be
 released under certain conditions before the trial on bail. Bail is the amount paid
 by the defendant to be released, which ensures that he/she would turn up for the
 trial.
- Plea bargaining: This occurs between the prosecutor and the defendant's attorney.
 Here, the defendant pleads guilty to have a reduction of charge or sentence or asks to drop all the charges altogether.
- Trial: In this step, the prosecutor and the defendant's attorney present their
 evidence with a motive to prove or disprove guilt before a judge. Suppose the
 evidence suggests that the defendant has committed the crime beyond any
 reasonable doubt. He/she is pronounced guilty. If the charges turn out to be
 false based on evidence, then the person is acquitted of the charges and is
 released.
- Sentencing: The judge announces the sentence depending upon whether the suspect is found to be guilty or not guilty. The sentence may include imprisonment, fines, parole, correctional institution, or a combination of fines and imprisonment.
- Appeals: These are filed by the attorneys to an appellate court to review the sentence imposed by a lower court. An appeal is a request made (to a higher court) by the attorneys to reverse the decisions taken by the lower court. If these appeals are reversed, then they are sent back to trial courts for a reversal.
- Punishment/rehabilitation: Once a person is found guilty, punishment is imposed
 on him/her. It is administered by local, state, or correctional authorities. A person
 may be released before completing the full term based on moral grounds and sent
 to rehabilitation centers. The purpose of imposing punishment is to reform the
 criminals and set an example for society.

1.9.5 Administration of Criminal Justice

The process of the administration of justice is divided into three stages, and they are investigation, inquiry, and trial. In India, justice in criminal cases is administered under two main statutes, namely, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code. These statutes provide the procedure to be followed during the different stages. Before getting into the details of the stages of criminal justice, let us understand a few basic terminologies.

• Cognizable offence: According to Section 2(c) of the CrPC, "Cognizable Offence means an offence in which, a police officer may, in accordance with the First

Schedule or under any other law for the time being in force, arrest without warrant." (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).

- Non-cognizable offence: Section 2(l) defines "non-cognizable offence means an
 offence in which a police officer has no authority to arrest without warrant."
 (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- First information report (FIR): A report pertaining to the occurrence of a cognizable offence received at the police station is called the first information report, popularly known as FIR. Since it is the first information about the cognizable offence, it is called the first information report (Anon n.d.-p). The police registers the report in an FIR register and begins the crime investigation on receipt of this information. A criminal case begins from filing a first information report (FIR), and it is the first stage in criminal proceedings.
- Bailable offence: In bailable offences, the accused can claim bail as a matter of right. The police are supposed to release such an accused on bail if he/she is prepared to pay the bail amount at any time while he/she is in the custody of a police officer (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- Non-bailable offence: In non-bailable offences, the accused is not entitled to bail as a matter of right, the police invariably do not grant bail in such cases, and only the court grants bail. The list of billable and non-billable offences is provided in the first schedule of the CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- Inquiry: Section 2 (g) defines "inquiry" as every inquiry, other than a trial, conducted under this code by a magistrate or a court. The primary aim of an inquiry is to determine the truth of the reported crime, i.e., to check whether the facts reported are true or false. It can be either judicial or nonjudicial (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- Investigation: According to Sec 2(h), "Investigation includes all the proceedings under this Code for the collection of evidence conducted by a police officer or by any person (other than a Magistrate) whom a Magistrate authorizes in this behalf" (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- Summons: This is a written document issued by the court that asks someone to be
 present in court. The person who is summoned can be the accused, a witness, or
 an expert.
- Warrant: Section 70 of the Criminal Procedure Code mentions the aspects of a
 warrant: "Every warrant of arrest that is issued by a Court under this section has to
 be in writing and signed by the presiding officer of the respective court. The
 warrant should also bear the seal of the same court that issued the warrant."
 (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- Preventive arrest: The police have the authority to make an arrest when it is deemed necessary to prevent a cognizable offence. This is the most common situation in which the police affect a preventive arrest. The police can also make preventive arrests under special laws such as the National Security Act, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, etc., against dreaded criminals. It is also done under Section 151 of the CrPC, which states "(1) A Police Officer knowing of a design to commit any cognizable offence may arrest, without orders from a magistrate

and without a warrant, the person so designing, if it appears to such officer that the commission of the offence cannot be otherwise prevented" (Anon n.d.-q).

1.9.6 Stages of Criminal Justice

The three stages of criminal justice are described as follows:

- 1. Investigation: This is the preliminary stage of the criminal justice process. It begins after a crime is reported and the first information report is recorded. Section 154 of the CrPC. provides that "any information received in the police station in respect of a cognizable offence shall be reduced into writing, got signed by the informant and entered in the concerned register." Section 156(1) "requires the concerned officer to investigate the facts and circumstances of such a case without any order from the Magistrate in this behalf" (Criminal Procedure Code 1973).
- 2. Inquiry: The second stage is the inquiry stage, which is dealt with in Sections 177–189 of the CrPC and consists of a magistrate. This inquiry is made either on receiving a report by the police or upon a complaint made by another person (Anon n.d.-q).
- 3. Trial: This is the last stage in the process of criminal justice. It is the judicial adjudication of the innocence or guilt of an individual. Framing of charges or giving notice: Once the judge is satisfied that enough documents and evidence are available for a case, a trial may be ordered. If sufficient grounds of proceedings are not found after hearing the plea of the accused, then the judge may discharge the accused after recording the reasons for it. However, if the accused pleads guilty, then he/she will be convicted. Moreover, if he/she pleads not guilty, then the trial will begin (Anon n.d.-q).

Following are the steps in a trial:

- Recording prosecution evidence: Once the charges are framed, the court asks the
 prosecution to present their side of evidence and witnesses. The witness takes an
 oath and testifies; this process is known as an examination in chief. The accused's
 lawyer cross-examines these witnesses.
- Statement of accused: The court has the power to examine the accused at any stage of inquiry or trial to obtain information regarding the case. With this, the accused gets a reasonable chance to explain the incriminating facts and situations of the case.
- Defense evidence: At this point, if no further evidence is found to be present stating that the accused has committed the crime, then the judge will order the acquittal of the accused. However, if the accused is not acquitted due to lack of evidence, then evidence is to be presented to support the defense.

• Final arguments: This is the final stage of the trial. After examining the witnesses for the defense, the prosecution is asked to sum up the case, and the accused is entitled to reply to it.

• Judgment: After the prosecution and the defense statements are complete; the judge makes his/her judgment.

Thus, the abovementioned steps sum up the whole process of the administration of criminal justice. There are many inherent lacunae in the process, which obstruct the speedy trial of cases and cause a delay in delivering justice.

1.10 Juvenile Delinquency

The deviant behavior of juveniles has increased to a great extent, thus hampering the stability of society. The criminality of a juvenile is born out of factors in his/her surroundings, lack of proper education, or may be even lack of discipline. It is considered that it is easy to repair the youth of a country rather than mend the adults. The countrymen have to bring these deviant youth on track (Anon n.d.-r; Anon n.d.-s).

Juvenile delinquency refers to crimes committed by minors. When a person deviates from the norms and regulations of a society, his/her behavior is termed as "delinquent behavior." When the actions committed by a juvenile are against the norms and are harmful to society, he/she is termed as a "juvenile delinquent." According to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (India), Clause 15 states that "In case of the heinous offence alleged to have been committed by a child who has completed or is above the age of 16 years, the Board shall conduct a preliminary assessment with regard to his mental and physical capacity to commit such offence, ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he has committed the offence." (Anon n.d.-t) Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, a juvenile is defined under Section 2 (35) as "a child below the age of eighteen years."

Various theories have been proposed to explain the causes of juveniles indulging in crime. These theories of juvenile delinquency explain various factors that are responsible for their criminal behavior (Shaw and McKay 1942).

They are explained as follows:

- 1. Biological theory: As proposed by Lombroso, an individual is a born criminal if he/she is born with some inherited characters, which predispose him/her to indulge in criminal activities. However, modifications have been made in the concepts of biological theory. A combination of genetics and social environment holds the responsibility of deviant behavior. Children who have inherited genes and face stress in their surroundings are highly likely to commit a crime (Anon n. d.-s; Anon n.d.-t).
- 2. Social disorganization theory: Criminal behavior manifests in the developing brain when their growth is hindered due to a reduction in their scope of

advancement in society. The reasons may be poverty, a large number of school dropouts, and corruption. When their dreams are not fulfilled by legitimate means, they resort to illegal modes and commit crimes (Anon n.d.-s; Anon n. d.-t).

- 3. Cultural deviance theory: When children live in a surrounding of gangs and cults, they tend to join and get affected by their presence. They might experience isolation and frustration that impede them from achieving their goals and resort to criminal behavior (Anon n.d.-s; Anon n.d.-t).
- 4. Psychological theories: Criminal behavior is explained in terms of id, ego, and superego from the perspective of psychodynamic theory. This explains that if id is dominant and ego and superego tend to be weak, then there is a higher risk of criminal tendencies (Anon n.d.-s; Anon n.d.-t).

1.10.1 The Juvenile Justice System in India

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is a significant law in India that focuses on the care, protection and rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with the law. The Act recognizes that due to their young age and susceptibility, children require specific attention and support when dealing with the justice system. Its primary aim is to uphold the rights and welfare of these children and ensure that they receive suitable care and rehabilitation.

Juveniles are not kept along with adult offenders, and they are reintegrated into society after finishing their sentence. The nature of punishments for a juvenile offender is proportionate to the seriousness of the offence committed by the juvenile. This may range from issuing warnings, releasing them on probation, or sending them to juvenile homes or special homes for a fixed duration. Juveniles should be protected and cared for, and all the necessary opportunities should be provided to them so that they may return to society as productive individuals. In India, the juvenile justice system is a benevolent institution that focuses on correcting the offenders and allowing them to assimilate into society with dignity (Anon n.d.-t).

1.10.2 Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

It is crucial to prevent juveniles from committing crimes. If they are not prevented at an early stage, then they may soon turn into habitual offenders. Criminologists have suggested different methods for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. These may be classified as individual and environmental programs that deal with juvenile delinquency prevention through proper education, counseling sessions, or psychotherapy. Environmental programs may involve measures to improve the socioeconomic conditions of a society, which might be a factor for juvenile delinquency (Shaw and McKay 1942).

The government has also taken measures for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and protection of the youth from engaging in criminal activities. Prevention

services provided by the government include imparting education, family counseling, sheltering of youth, providing education regarding substance abuse, and its treatment. The government plays a keen role in protecting the rights of these juveniles and adopts reformative methods to develop moral values in these children so that they can once again become a constructive part of the society and help in its upliftment (Anon n.d.-s; Anon n.d.-t; Shaw and McKay 1942).

1.11 Conclusion

Criminology has not only become a subject of interest for students but has also become the central topic of public interest because of the increasing rate of crime, the advanced techniques of crime, the varying attitudes of the liberal judges to crimes and criminals, and the changing laws over the period. Over time, the interest is shifting from the causes and theories of crime to enactment of laws, interpretation of laws, and law enforcement agencies. Thus, along with criminologists, police and judiciary also have a vital role in providing justice.

Whenever a crime is committed, the main focus is the criminal or perpetrator, and less attention is given to the harm caused to the victim or the person who has suffered because of the crime. Over the years, with some significant developments, "victimology" has become an area of interest for criminologists. There has been a transformation of attitudes and approaches toward the victims of a crime, and justice and compensation are provided to them.

As a whole, criminologists have an essential role to play in society. They study the different causes of criminal behavior while working with law enforcement agencies and researching which approaches are better for rehabilitation. Thus, their sole purpose is to make a society less susceptible to crime and criminal acts.

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