

Crime Prevention: Need of the Hour

Anu Kumari

Research Scholar [B.A.LL.B, LL.M] Haryana, B.P.S. Mahila Vishwavidyalya, India

Abstract: God create a gorgeous nature and make all different things within beauty. But one thing that made by God is more precious, more uncountable and more chary that is human being. Human being is the most intelligent being on the earth. It is the most beautiful gift of the God, and the present of God to the human being that's its intelligence. But some time, may be more time human being misuse their bequest. They use their intelligence in rather dissipate and abuse acts. The result of human abuses we can see at present, the society is jam-packed of crime; any single place is not safe nowadays. In present days there are a lot of thoughtful issues are like our politics criminalization, corruption, rape, kidnapping, alcoholism, properties disputes etc. many more countless. Crime is crime it can't be explain in one or two lines because its scope is extensive and its extensiveness makes it serious and deep. In wide sense crime can be defined as the violation of rules and regulations which are enforced by the law.

Keywords: Crime Prevention, Criminal Networks, Structural Theory, Object of Criminal Law, Environmental design, Community Based Programs, Gang Programs, Active System.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Necessity creates the law, it supersedes rules; and whatever is reasonable in such cases is like legal”
(Sir William Scott & Lord Stowell)

The word crime is derived from the **Latin** root *cernō*, meaning "I decide I give judgment". Originally the Latin word *crimen* meant "charge" or "cry of distress." In Greek expression “**Krimos**” which means social order and it is applied “to those acts that go against social order and are worthy to serious condemnation”. Crime wave is first attested in 1893 in American English.

Members of every society are expected to act in accordance with its established norms and laws. It should, however, be noted that the crime is a relative term and what is regarded as crime by a particular society may not be so to another¹. **Acc. to R.K. Choudhury**, “crime has its origin in the conflict of the self-seeking habits of the individual with the common customs of any social groups that ensure its survival in the struggle for existence.”² To discourage crime and to punish the criminals Indians from a very early time gave special powers to the ruler of the state or a particular ruling group. But it is impossible to check such tendencies absolutely and for various reasons, social, political, economics, or psychological, people challenge the norm of society. Day by day crimes take most serious place in the society and a fearful image in the mind of the people. It is out of control and particular machineries to take try to over the crime.

How one can prevent crime from occurring? One, by establishing positive structures within a welfare state which bridges the gap between what is available and what is essential. In this context, it is important to understand that besides jealousy, bad temper, laziness, cupidity, vice, disease, and maladjustment being motivating factors of crime, crime by itself has become lucrative business. As the gap between individual and organized crime increases, with the former spontaneous type remaining much the same and the latter becoming more technical, better planned, and increasingly more mobile as years go by, it has become imperative that states cooperate with each other so that persons, citizens or otherwise, committing crimes in their country are brought to book despite escaping from the country where the crime has been

¹ Sukla Das, *Crime and Punishment in Ancient India* p.13 (1st ed. 1977) .

² Choudhury R.K., *Studies in Ancient Indian Law and Justice* p.30 (1st ed. 1953).

committed. Interpol is this crucial link between international criminals and individual states' urge to bring them to justice. It ensures that international cooperation is made possible despite differing political ideologies and criminal justice systems of member states. To that extent it remains an important element in the calculus of preventing international crime.

Crime prevention is the requirement of the hour why I am saying this? Because at present crime spread in society like a fire in the forest. Many more examples are here at present like Nirbhya rape case, Arushi murder case, many corruption cases, many more acid attack cases, juvenile cases and most dangerous white collar crimes and latest Seena murder mystery. Preventive measures of crime may be many like punishment after the commission of crime, many more Acts passed by the state as preventive measure, observation homes etc. but a super way of prevention is to prevent before the commission of crime. Is there any process in India like this? By this I mean does India do work on the crime prevention?

The answer is absolutely not yes but we can lessen the counting of crime. How? The researcher tries to search those methods that we can use as preventive measure before the causation of crime. And they will help in lessening the data of crime by way of prevention before the commission of crime and for also after commission.

Let us see the example of South India that makes us proud by having a crime free village in these modern times with no criminal case pending. This is a major achievement in view of the huge volume of pending criminal cases which has assumed the proportions of a major docket crisis in the country. As per a study quoted in the book, '**Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch**' by Arindam Chaudhri it has been estimated that at the pace at which our court cases are resolved, it will take another 324 years only to dispose of the backlog. Keeping this serious national crisis in view that Southern village has achieved wonders by attaining the zero level criminal litigation benchmark. He wrote also "To finish this problem of criminalization and moral bankruptcy from its roots we need to see to it that the judicial machinery starts working efficiently and, ideally speaking we don't have too much time for that. We should try to solve it in next five years itself".³

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH WORK

In present paper the researcher is going to discuss the problem of crime and to examine the evolution of crime, and to examine the crime prevention and steps towards prevention of crime.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted for the present study is doctrinal in nature. Sources of information are essentially secondary. Methods of analysis are critical. The researcher trying to find out the problems those come in the path of crime prevention but just giving look is not enough we have to find out the solution for them. Researcher to see the problem and will try to find the solution, with different ideas and studies in this research.

A Sociological Look at Crime:

Arrest data show a clear pattern of arrests in terms of race, gender, and class. For instance, as mentioned above, young, urban, poor, and racial minorities generally commit personal and property crimes more so than other demographic groups. To sociologists, the question posed by this data is whether this reflects actual differences in committing crimes among different groups or whether this reflects differential treatment by the criminal justice system. Studies show that the answer here is "both." Certain groups are in fact more likely to commit crimes than others because crime is linked to patterns of inequality. However, the process of prosecution in the criminal justice system is also significantly related to patterns of race, class, and gender inequality.⁴

Criminals Networks:

1. Criminals travel on a day to day basis through a sequence of activities. During these activities they may take decisions. When this sequence is repeated daily the decisions made become invariable. This invariability creates an abstract guiding template. When decisions to commit crime are made this is called a "crime template."

³ Ravi Sodhi, *Legal Balm Every Day Law for Everybody* p.17-18 (2010)

⁴ <http://sociology.about.com/od/Deviance/a/Types-Of-Crimes.html>

2. Usually criminals do not function individually; they are always involved in some type of network such as family or friends.
3. If criminals make decisions separate from their network, these decisions and crime templates can be combined.
4. Criminals or their networks commit crimes when there is a “triggering event.” Triggering event is the process by which and individual locates a potential target or victim that fits within the crime template.
5. There is a limited range within every individual’s daily activities. Typically the range depends upon different nodes of activity such as work, school, home, entertainment or social gathering areas and along the ordinary pathways between these nodes.

Objectives of the Criminal Law:

The purpose of criminal law is to maintain peace in society by way of preventing crime. And prevention of crimes is best assured by deterring offenders and people with a proclivity to commit crimes by way of the threat of or imposition of punishment. This is being done by the declaration of some acts as offences under the law. In declaring an act as offence and in prescribing a punishment for it, law makers shall however, have to take precautions. Generally, the criminal justice approach emphasizes the offender in the community, while the welfare/treatment approach targets an individual casualty. Consequently (the Justice Lobby argues), social worker may fail to develop appropriate procedures and safeguard to prevent its recurrence, sometimes intervening inappropriately.⁵ **Wolfenden** thought that the function of the law was to ‘preserve public order and decency, to protect the citizen from that which is offensive or injurious and to provide sufficient safeguards against exploitation and the corruption of others, particularly those who are especially vulnerable’⁶.

The criminal law in India is in flux. In several respects we find that provisions in the penal code are not capable of preventing forms of crimes. For ex. we found that bribery and corruption of public servants could not adequately contained by provisions of the penal code. We have now The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 with several provisions different in content and consequences from provisions in the penal code and the Cr. P.C. likewise; to prevent adulteration of food we now have Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The provisions the penal codes for the protection of the environment or the prevention of pollutions of water have been found to be inadequate and at present we have separate statute for these⁷. **Acc. to N. walker** Is it possible to discuss the proper content of the criminal law in general term? If content of criminal codes are examined with a sociological eye, no fewer than fourteen different objectives can be discerned:

1. The protection of human persons (and to some extent animals also) against intentional violence, cruelty, or unwelcome sexual approaches;
2. The protection of people against some forms of unintended harm (for ex. From traffic, poisons, infections, radiations);
3. The protection of easily persuadable classes of people (that is, the young or the weak minded) against the abuse of their persons or property (for ex. By sexual intercourse or hire-purchases);
4. The prevention of acts which, even if the participants are adult and willing, are regard as ‘unnatural’ (for ex. Incest, sodomy, bestiality, drug ‘trip’);
5. The prevention of acts which, though not included under any of the previous headings are performed so publicly as to shock other people (for ex. Public nakedness, obscene language, or heterosexual copulation between consenting adults);
6. The discouragement of behavior which might provoke disorder (such as insulting words as a public meeting);
7. The protection of property against theft, fraud or damage;
8. The prevention of inconvenience (for ex. Obstruction of road by vehicle);
9. The collection of revenue (for ex. Keeping a motor car or television set without a license);

⁵ Mike Brogden and Preeti Nijhar, *Crime, Abuse and the Elderly* p.17(1st ed. 2003).

⁶ Mike Molan, Denis Lanser and Duncan Bloy, *Principles of Criminal Law* p. 7(4th ed. 2000).

⁷ K.N. Chandrasekharan Pillai, *General Principles of Criminal Law* p.4 (1st reprint ed.2007).

10. The defence of the state (for ex. Espionage or – in some countries – political criticism);
11. The enforcement of compulsory benevolence (for ex. The offence of failing to send one's children to school);
12. The protection of social institutions, such as marriage or religious worship (for ex. By prohibiting bigamy or blasphemy);
13. The prevention of unreasonable discrimination (for ex. Against ethnic groups, religions, the female sex);
14. The enforcement of the processes regarded as essential to these other purposes (for ex. Offences connected with arrest, assisting offenders to escape conviction and testimony at trials)⁸.

Role of Criminological Theories:

Criminological theories are both theories of the making and enforcing of criminal law and theories of breaking the law. The former attempts explain the content of the laws and the behavior of the criminal justice system; the latter tries to explain the commission, occurrence, and patterns of criminal and deviant behavior. Such theories best fit assumptions of probabilistic or soft determinism rather than strict determinism. **Structural or macro** theories focus on differences in group and societal rates of crime, while micro theories address individual differences and social processes. The aim of criminological theories is to gain an understanding of crime and criminal justice. Theories are useful for addressing the issues of which policies are more or less likely to work, but they are not philosophical statements about what ought to be done. A theory may be evaluated, either on its own or by comparison by other theories, on the criteria of clarity and consistency, scope and parsimony, testability, practical usefulness and empirical validity. Of these, the focus here will be on a theory's empirical validity and on its usefulness for guiding policy and practice.⁹

4. METHODS FOR PREVENTION

In the present world there are many different types of crimes and day by day enhance the techniques of doing crime. We do have several methods to control and prevent crime. Our biggest goal is to reduce crime to a minimum. All crime prevention methods have different ups and downs, as researcher go through some of the prevention methods and will be giving the positives and negatives of the methods. **The first** method is called community-based crime prevention programs. Community-based crime prevention means that where local government agencies and community residents help one another to take care of their communities. The local government agencies help the communities addresses the issues that have to do with disorder, crime, and delinquency, the community members identify and plan solutions to the problems that they are facing in their communities. **The second method** used is called Crime Prevention through Environmental Design¹⁰ also know as (CPTED) for short. (CPTED) directly modify the environment to better take advantage of existing environmental sets or change the features and condition of certain places like stores, rundown buildings, parking garages and others structures along the same lines. **The third method** is called gang programs. Gang programs are meant to keep young kids to adults to stay out of gangs. Gang programs and strategies change in what they focus on.

As long as we keep coming out with different crime prevention methods than we can keep the crime rate low. The crime prevention methods that researcher went over and believe are some of our strongest weapons against the war on crime, they great methods but they all have their programs but from these methods we can improve new ones. We just need to all work together to help our communities stay clean and safe.

The fast way of prevention is judicial response towards crime its active role in prevention by giving judgment to stop such types of crime. Criminals are freely wondering in the streets because they know about the procedure of the court. And also know about the slow process of the system.

⁸ N. Walker "Crime and Criminology" in Janet Dine & James Gobret, *Cases & Material on Criminal Law* p.2-3 (1st ed. 1995).

⁹ Ronald L. Akers, Christine S. Sellers, *Criminological Theories Introduction, Evaluation and Application* p.14-15 (4th ed. 2004).

¹⁰ <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>

5. APPROACHES TOWARDS PREVENTION

Crime prevention is not an innovative idea. In fact, most police forces have been actively engaged in crime prevention activities for a number of years, and their efforts are increasingly being supplemented by volunteer based neighborhood and community initiatives. What is new is the emerging tendency to shift away from an exclusive focus on police based approaches in favor of a broader conception of how to prevent crime. The result is a number of new possibilities for delivering on the promise of crime prevention, and the emergence of a number of new participants in the area of prevention activities. One example of this new development is the direct participation of municipal governments in the organization of crime prevention structures and the delivery of crime prevention services and activities.

When reflecting on society's defenses against crime, criminologists and sociologists usually distinguish between two main systems of control, formal and informal. Formal social control has the purpose of defining, punishing and deterring crime and is exerted principally through the law and the criminal justice system. Informal social control attempts to induce conformity through people's routine supervision of each other's behavior, reinforced by rule making, admonition, and censure. It is well understood that these two principal forms of social control are interdependent¹¹. The law and criminal justice system define and regulate the outer limits of unacceptable conduct, most of which is kept within bounds by the day-to-day exercise of informal controls. Without being backed up by the law and the criminal justice system, however, these informal controls would soon lose their force.

Less well understood, however, is that informal and formal social controls are intertwined with and dependent upon a third important control system: routine precautions taken against crime by individuals and organizations. Every day, we all do such things as lock our doors, secure our valuables, counsel our children, and guard our purses and wallets to reduce the risk of crime. To this end, we also buy houses in safe neighborhoods, invest in burglar alarms and firearms, and avoid dangerous places and people. Similarly, schools, factories, offices, shops, and many other organizations and agencies routinely take a host of precautions to safeguard themselves, their employees and their clients from crime.

6. CONCLUSION

Here I want to wind up my research work with shortlisted suggestions hope these may be helpful in the battle of crime prevention. Now going out from the work with some views:

Three things are required on the part of State to prevent crime are as follows:

1. Active laws;
2. Active and disciplined Police system;
3. Active Judicial System.

We have all three machineries but unfortunately **we have laws** many more but they are only in black and white not in perkiness except some laws, **we have police system** but only in existence not in discipline, **we have also active judicial system** but extremely sluggish in proceedings and most burdened.

According to jurist late **Nani A. Palkhivala** in his book, '**We, the Nation,**' pointed out that: "If I were ask to mention the greatest drawback of the administration of justice in India today, I would say that it is delay. There are inordinate delays in the disposal of cases. We, as a nation, have some fine qualities, but a sense of value of time is not one of them. Perhaps there are historical reasons for our relaxed attitude to time. Ancient India had evolved the concept of eternity and infinity. So what do 30 years wasted in a litigation matter against the backdrop of eternity? We in India believe in the theory of rebirth and therefore many can believe that they will take birth again and again to see the victory of their legal battles."

¹¹ Wilson R., *Crime* San Francisco: Institute for Contemporary Studies Press, p.12 (1975).

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