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4. Topic - A Study of the Combination of Factors in Crime Causation: Need for Adopting a New Approach in Combating Crime

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FINDINGS

The concept of crime is basically a social concept as crime is primarily concerned with the social order. In society, everybody owes certain duties to others and simultaneously has certain rights and privileges which he anticipates that others would guarantee for him. However, out of these social animals, not everyone is social. There are many who do not respect the rights of others and hence, disturb the social order. This requires the state to intervene to patch up the disturbances by restoring normalcy in society and maintaining social order. State performs this function through the instrumentality of law. The actions in violation of law are known as wrongful acts or crimes. Those committing crimes are given the punishment prescribed by the law of crime. Punishing criminals has been a typical way of the state to deal with crime. However, despite the punishment crime has managed to keep itself alive. It may be because of not providing appropriate punishment; or punishment is not the correct approach to check crime. In order to provide a solution to a problem it is expedient to identify the root causes of the problem. Similarly, in order to make the anti-crime approaches more efficient, it is necessary to understand what causes crime.

There have been many different angles to study the potential cause of crime. For long, crime causation has been explained and understood in terms of social factors. However, recently,

criminologists have also started to see bio-physical factors as the crime causing factors. The latter approach puts focus on the personality of the offender. It contends that criminals are different from non-criminals in certain personality traits which compel them to commit crime in certain situations. The subjective approach studies biological, physiological and psychological factors which are referred to as internal factors in this research work. The social factors approach insists on an individual's environment's role in crime causation with its socio-economic, ecological and cultural factors. These factors are categorized as external factors in this research.

The evidence linking biological factors and crime causation has grown with advancement in understanding the biological basis of human behaviour. The rationale behind the involvement of biology in crime causation is in the principle that structure determines function, whereby individuals exhibit distinct behaviours due to inherent structural variations. Nevertheless, the biological aspect has not been paid much attention in order to understand crime. The biological factors include genetics, bio-physical factors, psycho-physiological factors, functional and structural deficits in prefrontal deficits, birth complications, minor physical anomalies, nutrition, hormones, neurotransmitters etc.

Psychology is the discipline which focuses on the examination and analysis of many individual attributes, including but not limited to personality traits, cognitive processes such as perception and thinking, intellectual capabilities, imaginative faculties, memory functions, and creative abilities. The aim of this discipline is to explain, predict and control human behaviour. There are various theories in psychology which explain criminal behaviour. As crime is a behaviour it becomes essential to understand the psychological factors as well to describe such behaviour, to find the reason of crime and to devise interventions.

The external factors category of crime causation factors includes much explored and much discussed factors like sociological, economic, ecological, mobility, culture conflicts, family background, neighbourhood, drug abuse, mass media etc.

It is conceivable that all or any or several of the above discussed factors may dominate the actions of offenders and be of significance in shaping their lives. However, none of these factors can explain the crime causation single handedly. It is the interaction of these factors to each other in certain combinations that leads a person to crime.

To conclude, increase in crime rate and criminal behaviour is an outcome of the combination of a variety of factors. When different factors combine a situation conducive to crime is created. Therefore, to understand and explain criminal behaviour many criminologists have preferred a multiple factors approach. According to this approach no solitary factor can generate crime, but it takes a number of factors which interact with each other to generate crime. It can be seen that when internal factors combine with external ones, it compels more people to criminality. In sum, the interacting role of biological and social factors in causing crime is supported by a large body of evidence. Although more work remains in clarifying these findings, the bio-social perspective on crime is supported by the discovery of bio-social interactions utilizing a wide range of measures.