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## CRIMINAL MIND AND BEHAVIOR

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### ABSTRACT

*Criminal psychology is a branch of psychology that studies psychology of criminals, thoughts and motives of criminals, criminal behavior, human behavior etc. Criminal psychologists try to understand the motivations of criminals and develop a psychological profile to understand or apprehend them. They examine individual criminal behaviors and diagnose any mental health conditions. They frequently step into the courtroom to provide expert testimony. Other duties include counseling individuals who have committed crimes or evaluating their risk of recidivism. The present paper throws a light on the following points-*

1. *Crime – Definition and nature .*
2. *Human nature, personality and character.*
3. *Types of personality.*
4. *Causes of crime.*
5. *Criminal behavior.*
6. *Processes in criminal behavior.*

*Let us discuss the above points in detail in order to understand in brief what is criminal behavior and criminal psychology psychology .*



**KEYWORDS:** *Criminal psychology , branch of psychology , Human nature.*

### 1. Crime – Definition and Nature-

Halusbury defines crime as “ An unlawful act or default which is an offence against the public and which renders the perpetrator of the act or default to legal punishment”

Crime is an act or omission which the law thinks fit to render liable to punishment . an act or omission may be against the interest of society or may be sinful .

Crime may be defined as an act prohibited by the law of a country or state or a failure on the part of an individual to perform an act that is prescribed by the law- In a legal sense , person of 21 years and above convicted by the court of law for violating the provisions of IPC and CPC is labeled a criminal in our country and the illegal act for which he is convicted is known as crime . Any behavior like pickpocketing , gambling, burglary , robbery , theft , dacoit, rape , kidnapping and abduction , attempts of suicide , murder , riots , destroying another’s property , sexual assault, prostitution , cheating , counterfeiting, failure to deposit taxes and revenue etc. are termed criminal behavior.

## 2. Human Nature , Personality and character-

A discussion of the psychology of the criminal involves a knowledge of human nature and of different types of human can not be over – emphasized , consideration of the personality type of each individual offender , an understanding of his crime are the utmost importance .

Human nature is constituted by , and is dependent upon the action and interaction of human instincts . Some instincts are shared by most men, while there are others which , through the influence of environment , heredity and re-shaping by educational influences, are not common to all men. Generally , and on the main points , human nature is the same , through temperamental and acquired traits and characters may differ in different persons.

The biological nature of man needs to be reshaped . A social re-birth becomes necessary , for the development of personality and character . “ Human nature is not something that exists at birth .....it is rather acquired .....which represents the modeling of the plastic , unorganized part of man’s native equipment . The modeling of plastic original nature takes place in social experiments and results in the development of such forms of behavior which may term social habits , attitudes , sometimes , self-control and conscious purposes. We may thus regard human nature and personality as “products of social experience and interaction” Dr. William McDougall regards character as something built up on the native basis of disposition and temperament with the physical and social environment under the guidance of intelligence” . With the growth of sometimes , individuals would be lacking in character and studies would be lacking in character and studies would not be what they ought to be. Emotional life would be a mere chaos, without order ,consistently or continuity and it is from the harmonious balancing the virtues sometimes that happiness arise.

## 3. Types of personality-

The analyzing of an offender’s personality traits is essential to a determination of factors in the causation of his crime, because the innate and the socially acquired constitute something latent and powerful or something latent and powerful or something quite ready to burst out and capable of taking effect under the influence of a sufficient igniting force or something external or environment may activate some undesirable personality trait and thus lead to crime.

Having seen then the importance and value and criminology of a study of personality traits, we turn to the question of understanding the personality types or “psychological types” as Dr. Jung calls them. He adds , “The individual soul is not explained by classification , yet at the sometime, through an understanding of the psychological types, a way is opened to a better understanding of human psychology”.

Hippocrates regarded air, water, fire and earth as the essential elements of the human body and the Greek physician Claudius Galen ( 2<sup>nd</sup> century A,D) gave a description of four fundamental types of temperament VIZ, the sanguine, the Phlegmatic, the Choleric and the melancholic. The sanguine type was caused by the predominance of blood , the phlegmatic type resulted when there was a predominance of phlegm , the choleric temperament was the result of yellow bile and black bile caused the melancholic . The emotional behavior of men is the main concern of the analyst of psychological traits .Whenever a person views another in the light of his own affect or emotion , conflict arises and wrong doing may result. Most crimes are caused by conflict. The conflict that rages fast in the mind of the offender or the psychological maladjustment or disorganization of personality from which many offenders suffer , can be regarded as responsible for much of crime.

Kraepelin describes two principal types of personality . (a) the personality with the constitutional psychopathic state, and (b) the psychopathic personality . The former is based on morbid heredity and the latter shows a trend to decline towards a degenerate level not particularly attributes to inheritance. The first type reveals often sexual preventions , killing ,assaulting, tormenting and thieving. The latter type contains disposition towards habitual criminality and shows cases of pathological lying and swindling. The psychopathic personality is not wholly the result of inheritance.

Jaensch basing his description of personality types through a trait called the “ eidetic image” mentions the C-type reveals a rich emotional temperament and impulsiveness, the T-type shows the

traits of general irritability , activity and tension . The B- type shows the base-down syndrome. The t-Type shows condition of tetany.

According to Dr. Alexis Correl , “Individuals have been separated into intellectual , sensitive and voluntary types . In each category , there are the hesitating , the annoying , the impulsive , the incoherent , the weak , the depressed , the restless , and also the reflective ,the self- controlled ,the honest , the well-balanced . Among the intellectual , several distinct groups are observed . there are the broad – minded , whose ideas are numerous , who assimilate, co-ordinate and unite a most varied knowledge . Then there are the narrow –minded and then , an the other-hand , there are also the groups of the logicians and of the intuitive . Most of the great men belong to this latter group. There are many combinations of the intellectual and affective types. There are many combinations of the intellectual and the affective types. The intellectual may be emotional , passionate , enterprising and also cowardly , irresolute and weak .....certain personalities are very rich , very strong , Others weak , easily modified by environment and circumstances.

The abovementioned classifications of personalities provide good basis for analyzing the traits of personality of the offender concerned. They supply a very good analysis of the various personality types.

#### 4. Causes of crime-

The criminals are always the victims of social maladjustment arising out of the defensive environmental conditions and unavoidable circumstances of life. Some of these situations may be summarized as below.

- i) Learned as a professional art- Criminal behavior may be learned like any professional art like tailoring , wood work or haircutting from the parents or the members of the family , community or race . The perpetuation of a particular criminal behavior like burglary , prostitution , theft or bootlegging among certain tribes, castes or races are some other examples.
- ii) The impact of defective family environment- The uncongenial home environment contributes to criminal character formation . It is often the result of broken homes through desertion, divorce separation or the death of one or both parents . Moreover , the defective and deficient environment created by unfavorable intra- familial tensions and conflicts , lax parental control , poverty, sibling rivalries and maltreatment is insufficient to fulfill the basic physiological and psychological needs of children in the family . In order to gratify their physical ,social and emotional needs they are lured and sometimes forced on the path of crime.
- iii) Economic factors- Poverty , unemployment , desire for the pleasurable life, competition to earn money by any means , evils of industrialization all contribute in pushing an individual toward criminal behavior.
- iv) Degradation of moral values- The crisis of character and degradation of moral values in- the society also cause criminal character formation . Crimes such as the call-girls rackets in posh colonies and luxury hotels, adulteration of food and drugs , forgery , counterfeiting of money , bank robberies, bank robberies, black money transactions, smuggling, bribery and selling secrets of one’s own country can be attributed to lack of moral values.
- v) Environment outside the family- whereas defective home environment and circumstances provide the basic causes of for criminal behavior, the criminal environment outside the home nourishes it by providing substitute for the gratification of unsatisfied needs and cherished goals. Neighborhood, community , places of social contacts where there are opportunities for mixing with criminal attract and even push the individuals into the world of crime. The unhealthy impact of the mass media, especially cheap literature , obscene pictures, photographs and films encourage individuals towards crime.
- vi) Social system and denial of justice- The defective social system and traditions lead to circumstances where an individual learns criminal behavior . For eg. The dowry system , dominance of men in social setup , the status of a widow , give rise to complications leading towards crime . The gulf between the rich and the poor , caste differences , hatred toward other communities , races ,

linguistic groups , sects and religions the exploitation of landlords often lead to strained relationship and crime.

- vii) Mental illness and abnormal state of mind- Sometimes crimes are committed by the mentally ill persons in an abnormal state of mind. The compulsive behaviors like kleptomania of the neurotics and abnormal behavior of the sexual deviants may lead to crime .Similarly , psychotic individuals classified as criminality insane may commit a variety of offences are committed not by the professional criminals or socially and emotionally maladjusted individuals but by normal people. Individuals suffering from senile brain degeneration and mental deficiency in an abnormal state of mind without realizing the consequences of behavior.

### 5. Criminal behavior-

- a) Criminals usually show normal or extra – ordinary concentration.
- b) Criminal offences are planned and well organized.
- c) Criminal operate under a conscience peculiar to themselves and are loyal to each other , but not to society , by whom they frequently feel rejected . They may be hostile to one particular group of people or section of the society , but may be generous to others.
- d) It is not essential for the criminals to be- inadequate in all forms of behavior .
- e) Criminals exhibit skill and proficiency develop a sophistication in community crime. They are ruthless in their approach which is their work . They act with judgment and keen insight.
- f) Criminals have an affect , this means that they commit an offence with a motive and frequently care for their family and children . They get upset and punish children if they commit crime.

### 6. Processes in criminal behavior-

In life history of the criminal, in interaction between criminals and the public and in interaction among criminals , all of the processes seen in other social life may be discovered . some of these processes have significant processes in the life history of the criminal maturation. Segregation, conflict , and competitive development of techniques of crime and of protection against crime appear in the interaction between criminals and the public.

#### These processes are discussed briefly-

- i) Maturation- A process which may be called “maturation” appears in the life history of persisting criminals. This means merely that criminality in such persons grows in a somewhat consistent course. It does not mean that an individual who starts on this course must follow it to the end , or that he may not begin at some other point than that at which most other criminals begin. Like other terms borrowed by the social sciences from biology , the term “maturation” is misleading but it is used in the absence of a better term.  
A person’s criminal age is determined by the point he has reached in this process of motivation. The process describes the development of criminality ,with reference first to the general attitudes toward criminality , and second to the techniques used in criminal behavior . A boy who is reared in an area of high delinquency might reach criminal maturity by age twelve or fourteen. He has reached criminal maturity because criminality has become an integrated part of his personality . he plans his offences , knows how to “fix” things if caught and thinks of himself as “delinquent”.
- ii) Segregation- Segregation may be observed in the interaction between criminals and the public . The extent to which segregation occurs is determined largely by the hatred the group has for the criminal. The sex offender was completely ostracized in many communities two generations ago. Much less completely now . The person with a prison record is still completely ostracized in certain communities but he may become a political leader in other communities. Thus segregation as a process does not apply universally to all criminals in all groups.
- iii) Progressive conflict- Criminals and the protective agents are engaged in continuous conflict. In this conflict each side tends to drive the other side of greater violence unless the conflict becomes stabilized , on a recognized level, as it has been in England for some years . In England the police and

the criminals both go without guns and the danger of death is practically eliminated . Until the last decade in the American city, on the other hand , there has been progressive rapidity of shooting . Each side adopted the slogan “shoot and shoot first” . Each side felt that it was dangerous to give the other side a chance. This affected not only the police but also that part of the general public which was repeatedly victimized by criminals. The result was on increasing death rate on both sides.

iv) Competitive development of techniques of crime and protection against crime-

Both criminals and protective officers appropriate the inventions of modern science so far as these are useful to them . In early days both proceeded on feet or horseback , then both used bicycles, now automobiles with the occasional use of an airplane .

When the police develop an invention for the detection or identification of criminals utilize a device to protect themselves.

### CONCLUSION-

Crime is as an act prohibited by law of a country or state of a failure on the part of an individual to perform an act that is prescribed by the law. Criminal are not born. Causes of crime are in the social maladjustment arise due to defective environment. Criminal behavior is shaped by personality of an individual , segregation and progressive conflicts. There is a provision of punishment in law for crimes. But punishment is not a sufficient solution to remove criminal behavior. A holistic treatment is essential for the improvement in the criminals.

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