



Evolution of the criminological theory: A short overview

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Abstract

Available historical evidence up to date, failed to prove the exact origin of crime and criminality. Measuring causes of crimes staged sooner the society realized the negative consequences of it and found the criminal behavior denotes an abnormality of the fewer. Criminological theories indicate the climax of identifying the causes of crime and criminality. This paper sketches an overview of the evolution of criminological theories, explained causes of criminality in different perspectives. Existing literature regarding criminological theories were used and a qualitative evaluation is done. Criminological theories were introduced by different philosophers and researchers based of supernatural beliefs, psychological, biological, sociological, and environmental reasons. As individual theory cannot draw a complete picture of crime, a combined multidisciplinary approach is essential to identify causes of criminality.

Keywords: biological explanation, criminology theory, demonology, environmental theories

Introduction

The origin of crime and criminality cannot be proven by the historic examples. Although Archeologists and Historians can make their assumptions and hypothesis based on the buried material elements through excavations and elucidate the routine activities of the early humans, crime and criminality is yet to be clarified. But stories related to the material evidences and criminal activities of the pasts are buried untold. The material evidences of "arrows" used by early human, not only revealed the usage of the iron and the techniques of long-distance hunting but also bared an untold story of "crime and criminality". Apart from the material evidences, as the social phenomenon called crime based on human activities, recorded written history can be utilized as evidences for origination of criminality. Thus, the vacuum of the origin of criminality is still existing.

Evolution of the crime starts with a deficiency of its origin. Although an equitable assumption related to the origin of offences against person can be formulated parallel to the creation of two or more humans, the offences against environment expand beyond it. Criminological explanation of the evolution of crimes arose with the "theories" which explain the causes of criminality. This paper examines the evolution of rationalism in crime with reference to "criminological theories".

Materials and Methods

The analysis of criminological theories emphasized causes of criminality. As the paper discusses the evolution of the criminological theory in bird eye view, qualitative narration has done.

Results & Discussion

The timeline of the evolution of criminological theories could be divided into several categories based on the "identified direct cause of criminality".

1. Supernatural explanation of crime
2. Psychological explanation of crime

3. Biological explanation of crime
4. Sociological explanation of crime
5. Environmental explanation of crimes

The supernatural explanation of crime; demonology/spiritualism, is unempirical and non-scientific ideology of crimes. This basically implies that advanced science will never acknowledge any clarification that includes non-material or otherworldly shapes of prove. This explanation rejected the guilty of the individuals in a crime and identified it as an activity done by the invisible spirit which controlled the intention of the doer. This is like the present status of "psychologically unbalanced criminals" with the absence of "mens rea". Although this explanation seems to be privileged to the criminals the methods used for taking the intention back was brutal. As the demon controls the head, the skull was cut to send the spirit away.

In Europe, medieval masters set up different implies of deciding criminality or non-criminality. God may show who the criminal was after a trial by unsafe tests, and in case the individual survived, he or she had been ensured by God. Ladies charged of witch- crafts were tied up and tossed to the water. If they drifted instead of sank, and hence survived, they were guiltless. Running the gauntlet and strolling on fire were comparable tests. Although the fear of the exorcism might push people away from committing crimes for a certain extent, demonology did not exist so long due to the nonscientific basement of the explanation. But some criminologists still identify "demonology" as the first theoretical school of criminology. Until criminology got to be an independent science, criminality was investigated from the philosophical, mystical, lawful, sociological, psychological, anthropological, psychiatric perspectives.

The classical school of criminology was created within the eighteenth century, where marked the elimination of supernatural belief. It is considered that scholars such as Montesquieu and Voltaire energized maybe the rise of this modern 'classical' considering, by getting to be included in

campaigns for more illuminated approaches to be taken towards criminality and the discipline given by the equity frameworks at the time. Classical schoolers focused on psychological reasons behind the criminality and discussed a legitimate social control required to control crimes while defining criminality because of a human "free will" and the behaviour guided by the hedonism.

Classical school explain that free will makes a rational choice and select to do criminal acts due to greatest pleasure and least pain. As the offenders are rational, they weigh up the costs and thus we ought to make obstructions which marginally exceed what would be gained from the crime. Typically, the reason behind the punishment being seen by classical scholars such as Beccaria and Bentham as futile since there would be no obstruction. In any case when considering murder, as Bentham moreover accepts, in case the seriousness of the discipline ought to somewhat exceed the crime that point doubtlessly capital punishment ought to be utilized, there doesn't appear to be any more grounded a obstruction to other offenders considering of undertaking the same criminal conduct, than seeing another being killed due to their actions.

The positivist school of criminology identifies logical strategies to ponder crime and criminals and centers on what components compel criminals to commit crimes. Cesare Lombroso utilized the term atavisms to depict the physical contrasts he accepted he found between criminals and non-criminals. The common hypothesis recommended that criminals are recognized from noncriminal by numerous physical inconsistencies. He hypothesized that criminals spoken to an inversion to a primitive or subhuman sort of individual characterized by physical highlights reminiscent of apes, lower primates, and early people and to a few degrees protected, in present day "savages". The behavior of these organic "throwbacks" will unavoidably be opposite to the rules and desires of cutting-edge civilized society. Lombroso classified criminals in to four major categories based on the research conducted. Born criminals, insane criminals, occasional criminals, and criminals of passion. Enrico Ferri identified more factors affecting criminality including biological characteristics. Interrelatedness of social, economic, and political factors were identified, and classified criminals as born criminals, insane criminals, passion criminals, occasional criminals, and habitual criminals. Raffaele Garofalo identified two human sentiments combined with criminality or non-criminality as "pity" and "probity". Based on the sentiments identified Garofalo's classification includes murders, lesser criminals, thieves, and sexual criminals.

Relating to the biological explanation Earnest Kretschmer identified four types of bodies named asthenic, athletic, pyknic and mixed. Asthenics are lean and narrowly built with the deficiency of thickness in their overall bodies. Athletics had broad shoulders, excellent mussels, a deep chest, flat stomach, and powerful legs. Pyknics were medium built, round shoulders, board faces and short stubby hands. Kretschmer's argument was asthenic and athletics builds were associated with schizophrenic personalities whereas pyknics were manic depressives. These types of the bodies could determine the psychological background of individuals and it determines the nature of criminality hidden inside. William Sheldon invented a body index and introduced three types of bodies; Endomorph – fat, mesomorph – athletic built and ectomorph – skinny and

concluded as criminality is inherited with reference to juvenile delinquency.

Apart from the biological positivism, psychogenic school discuss another form of positivism which seek to explain crime by focusing attention on mind and how it produced. Sigmund Freud: a physician, identified crimes as one category of the human behavior and reasoned that if an explanation could be found for normal behavior, criminality also could be explained in vice versa. According to Freud "crime is a symbolic expression of inner tension that each person has but fails to control. It is an "acted out" expression of having learned self-control improperly". The explanation argues although all the behaviors are motivated and purposive, not all the behaviors are socially acceptable. Rejection of individualism led the dimension of criminology to sociological explanation. Although the criminality considered as an abnormal behavior, sociological explanation emphasize that the abnormality is with the society and the normal response of the individuals towards the abnormality is also abnormal. The Chicago School of Criminology is recognized with neighborhood considers of crime and delinquency that center especially on the spatial designs of such behavior, particularly as reflected in maps of their spatial conveyances. Be that as it may, such a characterization is at best a caricature of the wealthy experiences that were cultivated by the mental setting of the University of Chicago that molded the introduction of these early criminologists.

"Concentric zone model" which was built by Earnest Burgess directly link with the dwelling or the settlement of the people. A settlement is a small or large, permanent, or temporary place where people live. In the Chicago city fluctuation of population density could be discovered. Birth rate and death rate as well as migrations created this fluctuation in Chicago scenario, migration mainly causes for increasing population and fluctuation of population causes to create different patterns of settlements.

Burgess emphasized center of the city provides the source to the growth of the population and the distribution of the population is similar to a drop of water fall in to the center of a bucket filled with water and impact of the wave will form circle that ripped out. When it applies to theory of city growth, high pressure point is center of the city and this pressure grows to next zone. Burgess introduced five concentric zones as central business zone, Zone of transition, zone of working class and their residential, zone of middle-class homes, commuter's zone.

Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay; two sociologists who did their ponder cases based on micro and macro level of individual's environment causes for crime rates. Whereas working on their case they found out that, there were a zone with higher crime rates than the other portion of city and they compare discoveries with Burgess Demonstrate. And found out most of the crime and delinquency were detailed from the zone of transition.

Robert E. Park did tests with respect to human conduct and their environment, basically centered on standards of environment. Through connecting his tests with Darwin's hypothesis, he recommended the development of cities takes after a common design with advancement and expected cities were not created arbitrarily.

Edwin H. Sutherland agreed with the sociological explanation of crime and coined the concept of "differential association". Differential association theory comes with set

of nine propositions.

1. All criminal behavior is learned.
2. Criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others via a process of communication.
3. Most learning about criminal behavior happens in intimate personal groups and relationships.
4. The process of learning criminal behavior may include learning about techniques to carry out the behavior as well as the motives and rationalizations that would justify criminal activity and the attitudes necessary to orient an individual towards such activity.
5. The direction of motives and drives towards criminal behavior is learned through the interpretation of legal codes in one's geographical area as favorable or unfavorable.
6. When the number of favorable interpretations that support violating the law outweigh the unfavorable interpretations that do not, an individual will choose to become a criminal.
7. All differential associations are not equal. They can vary in frequency, intensity, priority, and duration.
8. The process of learning criminal behaviors through interactions with others relies on the same mechanisms that are used in learning about any other behavior.
9. Criminal behavior could be an expression of generalized needs and values, but they do not explain the behavior because non-criminal behavior expresses the same needs and values.

Differential affiliation takes a social psychological approach to clarify how a person gets to be a criminal. The hypothesis sets that a person will lock in in criminal behavior when the definitions that favor abusing the law surpass those that do not.

Durkheim's concept of "anomie" was taken by Robert K Merton and explained the "typology of adaptation" which proposed that different ways existed for people to resolve the strains generated from the inability to attain success.

Table 1: Merton's typology of adaptation (Source: Lilly et al, 2007)

Mode of adaptation	Cultural goals	Institutionalized means
Conformity	+	+
Innovation	+	-
Ritualism	-	+
Retreatism	-	-
Rebellion	+-	+-

Merton's five modes of adaptation due to the restricted access to socially accepted goals and means. Not everybody who denied get right of entry to society's goals became deviant but the response, or modes of adaptation, depend on the individual's attitudes closer to cultural goal and the institutional mean to attain them. "The conformity" is the adaptation mode of a normal person in the society. Such people accept each the goals in addition to the prescribed method for accomplishing the goal, the institutionalized mean. "Innovators" take delivery of societal goal which is accepted but have few invalid approaches to achieve the ones desires, therefore they innovate their very own method to get ahead. The approach to get ahead may be through robbery, embezzlement, or different such crook acts. "Ritualists" abandon the goal they once believed to be within their reach and consequently dedicate themselves to

their cutting-edge lifestyle. They play by way of the rules and feature a daily, secure routine. "Retreatists", given to those who surrender now not simplest the goals but also the mean. They frequently retreat into the world of alcoholism and drug addiction. These people break out into a nonproductive, non-striving lifestyle. "Rebellions" takes place while the cultural goals and the legitimate means are rejected. Individuals create their own dreams and their own manner, by way of protest or innovative activity.

As the criminality is a social dilemma, criminologists examined the impact of social institutions of criminality. Albert K. Cohen addressed the criminal subcultures and its special social distribution. After making several important observations on the slum youths, slum values and delinquency a "delinquent subculture" was identified. As the social order established with the middle-class values, a contrast between the lower-class values and the existing values has been created and it leads lower class youth to violate the accepted values. Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin also discussed deviance in subcultural aspect and concluded as "social structure generates pressures for deviance, pressure experienced most intensely in the lower class".

Walter C. Reckless addressed the limitations of other approaches intended to explain delinquency and crime. Factors in outer containment and inner containment were identified and argued that to commit crime or delinquency requires to individual to break through a combination of outer containment and inner containment that together tend to insulate the person both the pushes and pulls of criminality. Outer containment includes societal norms and values absorbed by the initial social institutions in the socialization process and self-concept and disciplines of individuals; attributed through the socialization were included in the inner containment, together create the resistance of criminal behavior while the inverse lead to the criminality.

Travis Hirschi introduced two theories related to the crime and delinquency. The theory of "social bond and delinquency" explains causes of delinquency as a dependent variable on the nature of social control which named as "social bond". The "self-control theory," presented in a General Theory of Crime which explain self-control is the restraint that allows people to resist crime and other short-term gratification.

"Labeling" is another concept used by criminologists to explain the causes of criminality. Society is creating the labels for certain activities as crimes and the individuals who commit it the criminal. Edwin Lemert and Frank Tannenbaum identified two types of labeling as primary and secondary. In primary labeling the offender conceive of himself as a deviant, nor does the offender organize his life around this identity. In secondary labeling, the offender becomes stigmatized through labeling or stereotyping. Labeling process creates a criminal in perpetuity as society never let them to ignore it.

Conflict theory provide an explanation for a wide variety of social phenomena, which include wars, revolutions, poverty, discrimination, and domestic violence. It ascribes maximum of the fundamental trends in human history, inclusive of democracy and civil rights, to capitalistic attempts to govern the masses. Central tenets of war theory are the standards of social inequality, the department of resources, and the conflicts that exist between exceptional socioeconomic

classes. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels identified criminality in economic terms and the division of labor, power and wealth are underdiscrimination. Capitalists possessed all and suppressed party was proletariats and the activities done by the suppressed which affected power and wealth of the capitalists were named as crimes. Moreover, the conflict between the parties are existing until abolish the class system is predicted. George Simmel, William Bogner, George B. Vold also identified the relationship between the conflict and crime is interconnected while Thorsten Selin identifies the culture conflict as a crime generator.

Environmental theories of crime explain crime is influenced, by a person's spatial environment. The basis is specifically how individuals, with all their diverse attributes, become influenced to commit crimes by the elements in their immediate location. Routine activity theory by Marcus Felson and Lawrence E. Cohen emphasizes that crime occurs with the coverage of three elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. This theory includes the routine activities of both offender and victim attached to the environment.

Derek B. Cornish and Ronald V. Clarke explained the rationality of criminals, explained by classical thinkers, with the environmental factor based on the assumption of involvement from rational actors which are the individual's rational calculations and rationally of available information to minimize the losses of criminal activity. It states that for a crime to occur, an available and suitable target; a motivated offender; and no authority figure to prevent the crime from happening should be insist. As this theory focuses on the characteristics of crime rather than the characteristics of the offender while emphasizing the environment related causes of criminality, it can be taken as an approach of crime prevention through environmental designing.

James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling discussed the influence of visible signs towards crime and anti-social behavior create an urban environment that leads to crime, including serious crimes. Theory named as Broken window Theory which used "broken window" as a metaphor for disorder within neighborhoods indicated the social and natural environment.

With the development of criminology is a subject different subfield were established and theories related to the etch sub disciplines were established. Moreover, different types of theories have been built, criticized, reorganized, and rejected and to be introduced in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

Conclusions

Development of a subject is based on its theories for a considerable extend. Strong theoretical basements build strong subjects' fields and supported to the growth. Inter-connection of the theories directs the field to different dimensions. As different approaches and aspects of one field could cherish another field with multidisciplinary value different theoretical bases of the same field also develop the field itself.

The timeline of the criminological theory could be summarizing under five major single explanations as supernatural belief, psychological, biological, sociological and environment. Although these could be taken as five different explanations inter connection can be identified. As an example, classical school in criminology emphasized the impact of free will towards committing crimes and factors

affecting free will might be supernatural belief, biological, sociological or the environment.

As criminology is a subfield of sociology, finding causes of crime liberated from sociological reasons is impossible. Although the journey of criminological theory started from the supernatural belief at the first, it was also connected with the cultural background existed. As culture is a part of the society as well as individuals psychological background and at the same time the impact of all elements are directly combined with the environment classifying the theories with reference to single aspect is difficult. Criminological theories emphasized not only a narration of the causes of crime but also a contemporary analysis on the society and people in a multidisciplinary point of view.

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