

Module 5 Crime, Criminal, Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency

Lecture 29

Characteristics of Crime

Characteristics of Crime

Various characteristic features of crime in India may include:

- The “state” has been designed in such a way which perpetuates inequality across regions. Inequality in terms of regional development, economic endowments and socio-political opportunities has led to both organized and unorganized crime across the continents.
- Public policies of the state – education, employment, health, social security measures, administrative policies, etc. – are planned which cater to the wishes of the elites of the society by neglecting the needs of the majority of the populace. It has led to socio-psychological pressures which the marginalized sections of the society undergo.
- Conflicts of all hues arising out of religious fundamentalism, caste hierarchy, regional disparity and artificiality of superiority/inferiority of various languages have led to chaos thus adversely affecting national integration.
- A lack of proper socialization is responsible for being engaged in criminal activities.
- Criminal activities are further promoted by colonialism and imperialism.

Available statistics on crimes in India depict an extremely disturbing picture of the law and order situation of the country. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, during 2010, a total of 67,50,748 cognizable crimes comprising 22,24,831 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 45,25,917 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes were reported, showing an increase of 1.11% over 2009 (66,75,217). The (IPC) crime rate has increased by 3.9% over 2009. Crime trends under major heads from 1953-2011 reveal that crimes such as Dacoity and Burglary/House breaking have been on the decline over a period of 59 years however,

crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping & abduction, robbery and riots have been on the rise. While, Burglary/ House breaking has declined by 37.2% (from 1,47,379 in 1953 to 92,504 in 2011) and Dacoity has declined by 23.2% (from 5,579 in 1953 to 4,285 in 2011), Murder has increased by 250.0% (from 9,802 in 1953 to 34,305 in 2011); Rape by 873.3% (from 2,487 in 1971 to 24,206 in 2011); Kidnapping & Abduction by 749.0% (from 5,261 in 1953 to 44,664 in 2011); Robbery by 193.8% (from 8,407 in 1953 to 24,700 in 2011) and Riots by 233.7% (from 20,529 in 1953 to 68,500 in 2011). It is evident that heinous and violent crimes are on the rise which is surely a cause for concern. The police force in India is constrained by the lack of adequate manpower, equipment, technology and technical know-how and to some extent political will. According to NCRB, in 2011 the actual strength of police force was 12, 81,317 against the sanctioned strength of 16, 60,953. In terms of percentage of IPC cases, disposed by courts was mere 13.5% as opposed to the remaining 84.5% cases which were pending. Similarly, disposal of SLL cases by courts was 41.3% while remaining 57.9% cases were pending during the year 2011.

References

National Crime Research Bureau. 2010. Crime in India Compendium, New Delhi.

National Crime Research Bureau. 2011. Crime in India Compendium, New Delhi.