

Sociological Analysis of Crime

التحليل السوسيولوجي للجريمة

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Abstract:

The analysis of any specific social phenomenon requires taking into account different orientations to analyse it, each of which reflects its own speciality. This study comes as an attempt to understand crime from a sociological perspective by identifying the various dimensions and factors of its explanation through sociological theories. In this regard, sociologists see that crime is a collective phenomenon, and that criminalization itself is a judgment issued by the group on certain types of behaviour, considering them anti-social and harmful to the collective interest of the society. Crime remains one of the major social problems that hinder the achievement of security in any society, and it has long been regarded as a complex, thorny, and multifaceted phenomenon with intertwined dimensions. This has made it a subject of interest for many scholars, ranging from sociologists to psychologists and legal specialists. Accordingly, crime carries within it many aspects and dimensions that must be focused on, which we will attempt to address through various sociological theories that have sought to analyse and examine this phenomenon in order to understand it and uncover some of the factors and dimensions that govern it.

Keywords: Crime, crime from a sociological perspective, dimensions of crime.

ملخص:

يتطلب تحليل أي ظاهرة اجتماعية معينة، الأخذ بعين الاعتبار اتجاهات مختلفة لتحليلها وكل تصب في اتجاه تخصصها، وتأتي هذه الدراسة كمحاولة للتعرف على الجريمة من وجهة نظر السوسيولوجية وذلك بتحديد الأبعاد والعوامل المختلفة في تفسيرها من طرف نظريات علم الاجتماع. ويرى في هذا الصدد علماء الاجتماع بان الجريمة ظاهرة جماعية وان التجريم بحد ذاته هو الحكم الذي تصدره الجماعة على بعض أنواع السلوك وان هذا السلوك مضاد للمجتمع ويضر بصالحه، حيث تبقى الجريمة إحدى أكبر المشكلات الاجتماعية التي تقف عائقا امام تحقيق الأمن في أي مجتمع ولطالما اعتبرت من الظواهر الدسمة والشائكة والمعقدة، والمتعددة الأبعاد والمتشابكة الجوانب الشيء الذي جعلها محل اهتمام العديد من العلماء من علماء اجتماعيين الى علماء النفس ومختصين قانونيين. وعليه فالجريمة تحمل في جعبتها العديد من الجوانب والأبعاد التي لابد من التركيز عليها والتي سوف نحاول التطرق اليها من خلال نظريات علم الاجتماع المختلفة التي حاولت تحليل وتناول هذه الظاهرة قصد فهمها والكشف عن بعض العوامل والأبعاد التي تسيروها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الجريمة، الجريمة من وجهة نظر السوسيولوجية، ابعاد الجريمة.

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1. Introduction

The phenomenon of crime in current society has been characterized by a wide and remarkable spread as it is accompanied by qualitative and quantitative changes that have become a major concern for political systems, thinkers, and even ordinary individuals. This is due to the insecurity and instability it causes, as well as the fear it generates for lives and properties. In addition, it requires significant material and human resources in order to confront it and thus protect both individuals and society. Given the seriousness of this phenomenon and its deep roots in society since ancient times, many scholars and researchers from various disciplines have devoted attention to studying it in all its forms.

The interpretation of this phenomenon has long been, and continues to be, a subject of extensive research, investigation, and empirical field study. This has resulted in numerous scientific contributions of great importance to any researcher seeking to study this phenomenon, which represents one of the most difficult, complex, and dangerous forms of human behaviour. Studying the phenomenon of crime in the present time, especially along with the rapid changes in social life patterns and technological means that have facilitated the development of crime, has become almost impossible unless the researcher is well equipped with knowledge of the major scientific contributions made by specialists from different fields in studying crime and deviance, the directions they have followed, and the factors they have proposed to explain individuals' engagement in such behaviour.

Among the scientific disciplines concerned with this field is the sociology of crime and deviance, which focuses on studying crime in terms of its factors, dimensions, motives, and consequences. A body of sociological theories has been devoted to analysing criminal behaviour. In this research paper, we will attempt to examine these sociological theories in explaining crime and identifying its various dimensions. Before that, we will address the nature of crime by answering the following questions:

- What is the sociological concept of crime?
- What are the driving factors behind criminal and deviant behaviour?
- What are its social and economic effects?

2. First: Defining Concepts

2.1 Concept of Crime

Linguistically:

Enter here In *Lisan al-Arab*, the word *jarama* is used to mean committing a crime and *jarama* also means that one's guilt is serious, that is, one has sinned (Ibn Manzur, 1990, p. 91). The origin of the word *crime* (*jarima*) comes from *jarama*, meaning to earn or to cut. It appears that this term was historically used to denote reprehensible and undesirable gain, and thus the word *jaram* came to imply urging someone toward a sinful act (Mohammed Al-Hashimi, 2005, p. 15). The term crime is applied to the commission of acts that violate truth, justice, and the straight path, from which the word *criminality* (*ijram*) is derived. In Arabic, crime has been used to refer to undesirable and unjust gain, as well as to the act of committing a sin.

Terminologically:

There are many definitions of crime that sometimes converge and sometimes diverge, due to the diverse disciplinary backgrounds of criminology researchers, such as psychology, law, and sociology. Crime, in general, is any human behaviour or act arising from psychological, material, or emotional origins that contradicts morals, customs, traditions, values, laws, religious laws, or beliefs, and is therefore considered a crime (Abu Samra, 2005).

Researchers from different disciplines agree that crime is a dangerous phenomenon for societies, but they differ in defining it due to the diversity of scientific disciplines concerned with studying crime. Below, we present several definitions from different fields in an attempt to better understand the concept of crime.

❖ Crime from a Legal Perspective:

From a legal perspective, crime is an act punishable by law (Salwa Othman Al-Siddiq et al., 2002, p. 235). In other words, it is an act or omission prohibited by law and for which a penalty is prescribed. It is also defined as any act that violates criminal law and is punished by the political authority of society (Jalal Abdel Khaleq & Al-Sayyid Ramadan, 1994, pp. 12–14). This definition of crime is linked to penal law and to society, as it refers to any act punished by society because it violates conditions considered essential to its existence or circumstances complementary to these conditions (Ramsis Benham, 1995–1996, p. 28).

From these definitions, we conclude that crime is an act committed in violation of the Penal Code, or an unlawful act resulting from a criminal intent for which the law prescribes a punishment or a preventive measure. Therefore, crime is a human behaviour that is punishable because it constitutes a breach or a threat to the values of society, to the human interests of its members, or to what the legislator considers as such in a given legal text.

In this sense, crime is a material act carried out by a human being, and this act is contrary to the Penal Code, which was established to punish individuals or anyone who is tempted to commit acts that harm society in its broad sense.

From the previous legal definitions of crime, it can be concluded that an act is not considered a crime unless it violates a legal provision, in accordance with the principle “no crime and no punishment except by law.” Likewise, a person is not considered a criminal unless the law provides a punishment for the act, in line with the same principle.

Based on this, it can be said that the aforementioned legal definitions are not precise enough in clarifying the boundaries of crime, the criminal, and the punishment imposed on them, starting from the well-known legal rule that the accused is innocent until proven guilty through evidence and material proof. However, some criminals’ acts are difficult to prove materially, and therefore they are considered innocent in the eyes of the law.

The law stops at clarifying the link between a specific act and the criminal rule that criminalizes it. Thus, these definitions are limited to the formal aspect of crime only. In view of this shortcoming in the formal definition of crime, some scholars have attempted to define crime in a way that reflects its essence and social content, by introducing certain social and moral elements into the definition, considering crime as a human, social, and

legal phenomenon.

❖ **Crime from a Psychological Perspective:**

Psychologists view criminal behaviour as antisocial behaviour, which, like any other form of deviant or abnormal behaviour, places the criminal individual in a position similar to that of a sick person who also exhibits abnormal conduct.

Burt argues that criminal acts are, in the end, nothing more than a free release of instinctual drives without restraint. He suggests that various forms of deviance, such as theft, assault, rape, sexual crimes, and others can be understood as expressions of specific instincts (Jalal Abdel-Khaleq Al-Sayed Ramadan, previously cited, p. 181).

Alexander, on the other hand, views criminal behaviour as the result of a disturbance in the three forces of personality: the Id, the Ego, and the Superego in their adjustment to the prevailing moral law in society. He also argues that environmental disturbance plays a role in shaping social personality; therefore, criminal environments produce more criminals, functioning as breeding grounds for criminal behaviour (same reference, p. 182).

From a psychological standpoint, crime can thus be defined as the satisfaction of a human instinct in an abnormal way, one that ordinary individuals do not use to satisfy the same instinct. This deviation may be quantitative or qualitative and is accompanied by one or more mental health disorders. At the moment of committing the crime, there is a collapse of higher instincts and a lack of fear of punishment (Ali Abdel-Qader Al-Qahwaji & Fattouh Abdullah Al-Shadhili, 1997, p. 13).

We can conclude that psychology, in its approach to crime, focuses on two main aspects to define it:

First : crime is instinctive.

Second : crime is a voluntary act resulting from psychological conflicts caused by repressed unconscious drives.

It is noticeable that psychological definitions of crime emphasize the mental and psychological health of the individual at the time of committing the act. These issues require specialized scientific examination in psychiatry, psychotherapy, and mental medicine to determine whether a psychological disorder exists before trial.

Accordingly, from the perspective of psychoanalytic analysis, crime is considered a defensive mechanism aimed at reducing inner conflict and psychological crisis. It represents a predisposition that makes the individual more vulnerable to the negative effects of the environment and is, at least in disordered personalities, a direct extension of a criminal predisposition acquired in early childhood.

Thus, psychologists view criminal behaviour as antisocial behaviour, similar to other forms of deviant or abnormal conduct. Consequently, the criminal individual does not differ from a sick person who also exhibits abnormal behaviour and therefore requires treatment, just as mental illnesses require care and therapy. In this sense, every criminal act is interpreted as an indication and expression of psychological conflicts that drive the individual to commit crime.

❖ **Crime from a Sociological Perspective**

Most sociologists agree that crime is a phenomenon that exists in every society, and it

Sociological Analysis of Crime

is also characterized by its ability to cross geographical boundaries. Despite this, defining crime sociologically remains difficult. This difficulty is due, on the one hand, to the nature of society and its social norms and values, and, on the other hand, to the intellectual and ideological background of the researcher who formulates the definition. Based on this, it can be said that the sociological definition of crime is characterized by relativity. This is because it is difficult to unify social norms and moral standards, and because these values differ from one time and one society to another.

Socially, crime is defined as a reaction that goes against the general feeling of the group, and as any individual or collective act that constitutes a violation of the rules of social control established by society. These rules are expressed through the set of values, traditions, and norms prevailing in society (Rashwan, 2005, p. 97). From this perspective, criminalization represents a value judgment issued by the group, whether or not the act is punished by law. In other words, it is the social criterion that determines the nature of behaviour.

Dr. Abdelkader Al-Qahwaji pointed out that sociologists' views on crime differ, and he identified two main trends:

1- The first trend links crime to moral rules. According to this trend, crime is any act that contradicts moral principles. However, supporters of this trend are divided into two groups. The first group limits the relationship between crime and morality to the violation of some moral rules, not all of them. The second group considers this relationship to include all moral rules without distinction.

The first group is led by the Italian scholar Garofalo, one of the leading figures of the Italian positivist school. Supporters of the second group define crime as any act or omission that contradicts the moral values recognized by society. Among the supporters of this group are Ferri, also a leading figure of the Italian positivist school, and Grisignani.

2- The second trend bases the social definition of crime on linking it to social values (Maatouq, 2008, pp. 27–28).

In this context, the French sociologist Émile Durkheim defines crime as a natural phenomenon that represents a price paid by society, while the individual bears its consequences. Durkheim's studies on crime contributed to a profound development in understanding the meaning of crime and in defining its sociological framework. Crime, in its origins, thus became a social concept more than a legal or psychological one. Social organization, according to Durkheim, functions as a regulatory system that controls individual behaviour within society. When this system becomes disrupted and fails to perform its regulatory function, individuals begin to pursue their goals by exceeding established objectives and the approved means for achieving them.

According to Émile Durkheim, crime is any act or omission that contradicts the values deeply rooted in the collective conscience of the group (Durkheim, 1977, p. 67).

3. Dimensions of Crime

Crime has three basic dimensions, as follows:

3.1 The Material Dimension:

This refers to the commission of an act or utterance that is prohibited by legislation.

Henane Aldjia

The stage of mere thinking or preparation is not considered a crime from a legislative perspective unless the act reaches the stage of execution (Abdel Mohsen Badawi Mohamed Ahmed, 2005, p. 10). The material dimension consists of three elements:

- The actor must be either a principal or an accomplice.
- The intended criminal result must occur, or at least a potential criminal result must be likely to occur.
- There must be a causal relationship between the act and the result.

3.2 The Moral (Mental) Dimension:

This refers to criminal intent, which is manifested through the offender's awareness and the deliberate direction of will to commit the act. Jurisprudentially, intent means that the perpetrator directs his will and intention toward committing the criminal act with the purpose of achieving the criminal result.

3.3 The Legal (Legitimacy) Dimension:

This means that the criminal act must not fall under any legal justification that removes criminal responsibility. A crime only exists when the act is unlawful and the law prescribes a punishment for it. An act is described as unlawful when there is a legal text criminalizing it, and when the circumstances in which it was committed are not subject to any justification that permits it.

4. The Theoretical Approach to the Phenomenon of Crime

4.1 The Sociological Approach:

Sociologists have focused in their explanations on social factors. There are two types of sociological explanations of crime. The first analyses social conditions and views crime as a response to severe social pressures or social disorder caused by a breakdown in social control mechanisms. The second explanation relies on analysing social interaction between individuals and small groups, and the resulting learning of violence and criminal behaviour.

Functional Structural Theory:

Claude Lévi-Strauss and functional structuralists argue that criminal behaviour cannot be understood, analysed, or defined outside its social context. This behaviour may result from the individual's loss of belonging and connection to social groups that organize and guide behaviour, or from the loss of norms and proper social control. Functional structuralism was influenced by the organic approach prevalent in early sociological theories, which emphasized the integration of parts within a whole and the interdependence of society's elements. Therefore, change in one-part leads to changes in other parts (Smouk Ali, 2006, pp. 23–24).

Accordingly, criminal behaviour may be functional or dysfunctional depending on the social context in which it occurs. For example, both a police officer and a thief may use violence, but the former represents a positive function, while the latter represents a negative one. Thus, violence is functional in the first case and dysfunctional in the second (Helmy Ijlal Ismail, 1999, p. 25).

In addition, functional structuralism relies on small units in its analysis of crime, such as the nuclear family and relatively small social systems. To reduce criminal behaviour, individuals must be connected to primary groups that satisfy their psychological and social

Sociological Analysis of Crime

needs and instil religious values and a sense of belonging (same reference, p. 25).

Social Learning Theory:

Among the most prominent pioneers of this theory are Bandura and Walters. Bandura describes aggression or violence as a wide range of behaviour acquired by individuals through prior experience, during which they learn aggressive responses, anticipate various forms of reinforcement, receive non-material rewards such as social status and approval, and escape emotional pain or punitive justice (Fayed Hussein Ali, 2005, p. 93).

In addition to imitation, Bandura introduced the concept of performance learning, through which violent responses are acquired via social modelling, which plays a decisive role in violent behaviour. Individuals acquire such behaviour by observing violent models and the reinforcement they receive.

For example, children learn to resolve conflicts through aggression by imitating adults or peers, especially when they observe that aggressive behaviour is rewarded. A violent player achieves more victories and gains a higher reputation (Al-Issawi Mohamed Abdel Rahman, 2005, p. 375). According to a study by Straus and his colleagues, husbands who grow up in violent families are ten times more likely to assault their wives than men who grow up in non-violent families. This shows that children are more influenced by the aggressive behaviour of parents than by advice urging them to avoid violence with others (Helmy Ijlal Ismail, 1999, p. 34).

Anomie Theory:

This theory is based on normlessness, which refers to deviation from the customs and values commonly accepted within society. The concept of anomie is one of the most important explanations of deviant behaviour, due to the central role that cultural and value systems play in social structure. Norms, customs, and values regulate social interaction between individuals and society with the aim of controlling human behaviour.

Robert Merton argues that social behaviour, whether morally legitimate or illegitimate, can be understood in light of the values that give behaviour its meaning. Meaning does not lie in the nature of things themselves, but in what reference cultural groups assign to them (Smouk Ali, 2006, p. 112). Thus, behaviour is judged as normal or deviant according to prevailing group norms imposed on society as a whole.

Labelling Theory:

This theory holds that crime emerges or increases as a result of social labelling imposed by society on individuals at the moment of their first deviation. As a result, the individual slips into the world of crime, indifferent to the values of a society that has already labelled them as deviant (Abdel Mahmoud Abbas Abu Shama, 2003, p. 31).

This indicates that labelling theory focuses on social reaction. Its proponents argue that social reaction can be more influential in encouraging or deterring criminal behaviour than law and deterrent punishments.

Modern Sociological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour

❖ Lifestyle Theory:

Proponents of this theory argue that an individual's lifestyle and the people they associate with may push some individuals toward violent behaviour (Omar Abdullah Al-

Henane Aldjia

Mubarak Al-Zawahra, 2013, p. 44). Hindelang, Gottfredson, and Garofalo focused on the victim rather than the offender, arguing that the victim's lifestyle contributes to their exposure to crime. Violent behaviour is explained as a result of the victim's lifestyle, their place of residence, associations related to people with whom they interact, their reaction to violence, and their individual differences.

This theory consists of three components:

- Social roles
- Position or location within the social structure
- The rational component

With regard to roles, it is clear that we practice social roles according to the social statuses we occupy, in line with the prevailing expectations and social norms in society. In this way, we develop different lifestyles, some of which may lead to crime. As for status and position, the higher a person's status within the social structure, the fewer the opportunities for them to become a victim of crime. Concerning the rational aspect related to decision-making or appropriate behaviour, we find that social roles and social status interact together in rational decision-making. For example, individuals who frequently visit bars, cafés, and low-cost markets, and who spend their time outside the home late at night, are more exposed to crime than people who occupy respected positions and whose routine activities are fewer. What is meant here is that lifestyle and way of living are organically linked to the risks of exposure to crime.

(Al-Wuraykat, 2013, p. 287).

Differential Repression Theory:

Rogol and Hoyt developed the repression theory to explain juvenile delinquency. They argue that behavioural problems among juveniles, including crime, deviance, alcohol and drug abuse, and mental disorders can be understood as adaptive responses to oppressive social situations imposed by adults. Children experience varying levels of repression, ranging from mild forms such as obedience to social and moral rules to severe physical, psychological, and emotional abuse (Al-Wreikat Aayed Awad, 2013, p. 333).

The consequences of repression and excessive control transform juveniles into objects of power and authority. The more repression and control increase, the more juveniles are reduced to objects rather than persons.

Cooley and Becker argue that individual identity is shaped by others' reactions (Cooley's "looking-glass self"), meaning that labels and images imposed on children by adults have decisive and often irreversible effects. Adults' perceptions, such as inferiority, irresponsibility, or incompetence reinforce repression and control (same reference, p. 333).

Interactional Theory:

Thornberry argues that deviant behaviour is not merely the result of a set of social processes; rather, it is both a cause and a consequence at the same time. It therefore involves multiple reciprocal relationships, meaning that deviant behaviour develops dynamically over time. Accordingly, this theory contributed two fundamental issues:

- the developmental perspective, and
- reciprocal effects.

Sociological Analysis of Crime

Thornberry considers the second issue to be of great importance for understanding crime and deviant behaviour. As for the developmental perspective, the assumption here is that crime is not a permanent personal trait. According to the theory, crime can be divided into three stages or processes: initiation, continuation, and termination.

Thornberry designed a dynamic model of delinquency consisting of a number of factors that may have different effects on adolescent behaviour across different life stages. He presented three models:

The First Model: Early Adolescence (11–13 years):

In this model, three factors emerge:

First factor: Parental influence: Parents who have strong influence over their children maintain continuous contact with them, and practice appropriate parenting skills are more likely to guide their children towards socially acceptable behaviours, faith, security, and trust. They may also keep them away from delinquent peers and delinquent acts.

Second factor: Belief in values and traditions: Adolescents who maintain close relationships with their parents, are influenced by them, continue attending school, and believe in social values and norms are less likely to engage in delinquency than those who lack parental connection, drop out of school, and lack faith, principles, and social values.

Third factor: Constraints: Various constraints may lead to delinquency and may act as influential factors that interact with other causes, resulting in delinquent behaviour.

The Second Model: Middle Adolescence:

At this stage, the model begins to change, with emphasis placed on the adolescent's relationship with parents, which may reach its peak. At this point in the life course, the adolescent may choose a path of delinquency as a means of extending beyond the household. The constraint that was between the adolescent and parents during childhood begins to weaken due to the emergence of additional stimuli. Adolescents may stop attending school, and some indicators of delinquency begin to appear.

The Third Model: Late Adolescence:

Thornberry argues that new variables emerge in this stage, most notably regular engagement in conventional activities such as employment, university enrolment, and military service. As individuals transition into the world of work and form their own families, their commitment to continuity increases significantly. Communication during this phase becomes a response to financial success and personal satisfaction. Life circumstances change, new social roles are assigned and new interests and networks of interaction emerge. In summary, social theory attempts to address crime as a social phenomenon linked to multiple factors directly connected to society. The environment and social and material conditions play a major role in shaping deviant behaviour. According to this perspective, these factors include the individual's immediate environment, such as school, family, work, standard of living, and educational level, all of which contribute to rising crime rates in any society.

Social theory shifts the focus from the offender to the source of criminal behaviour, namely society itself and its social institutions. Émile Durkheim is considered one of the pioneers of this social analysis, as he linked crime to the structure of society and the nature

Henane Aldjia

of social life. According to him, society produces crime by condemning certain behavioural patterns as violations of established norms and rules and labelling them as crimes.

In this context, Durkheim emphasizes that social conditions generate what is termed anomie, meaning the loss of norms and the absence of social rules. As a natural result of this state, individual desires become liberated from all constraints, leading individuals to commit acts that contradict social order.

This vision was further developed by Merton, who described anomie as a social condition characterized by imbalance and conflict between the goals defined by society and the means prescribed to achieve those goals.

According to Merton, criminal behaviour is an inevitable result of the lack of social balance between accepted goals and means to achieve them. This imbalance creates psychological tension in individuals due to their inability to achieve desired goals through lawful means, which leads to deviance.

Thus, for sociologists, criminal behaviour is not produced by exceptional causes but rather originates within the cultural structure of the society in which crime occurs. The cause of crime lies not only in individual or societal flaws, but also within social institutions, organizational structures, and the culture of the society where crime is committed.

4.2. The Biological Approach:

This approach argues that there is a strong relationship between criminal behaviour and organic or psychological defects in the offender. In other words, some individuals possess predispositions or tendencies towards crime that others do not. External conditions do not trigger criminal tendencies in all individuals but only in those who already possess such predispositions.

Lombroso is considered one of the most prominent pioneers of this approach. His work represents the first scientific foundation for the study of crime. Through autopsies of soldiers' bodies, skulls of executed individuals, and prisoners, Lombroso observed that criminals differ from non-criminals in physical characteristics. He concluded that criminals possess bodily traits and internal anatomical defects, describing the criminal as biologically abnormal. These traits include irregular skull shape, narrow forehead, large jaws, abnormal teeth, crooked nose, large or underdeveloped ears, excessive body hair, and dense scalp hair (Fattouh Abdel Shadli, 2006, p. 52).

He also added certain psychological traits characteristic of criminals, such as low sensitivity to pain, a strong tendency toward aggression, and absence of moral feeling. Lombroso, through his experiments on members of the Italian army, concluded that the physical and mental traits of criminals prevent them from conforming to laws, leading to deviant behaviour. This theory excessively focused on physical and mental traits while completely neglecting social and economic factors as fundamental causes of crime.

4.3 The Psychological Approach:

This approach focuses on the psychological dimension in explaining crime, based on the belief that crime is a psychological activity expressing criminal intent resulting from psychological interactions. Crime is therefore viewed as a psychological illness or mental

Sociological Analysis of Crime

disorder. According to Freud, crime represents instinctual energy that fails to find a socially acceptable outlet, prompting it to seek another outlet that is often socially unacceptable.

Despite the individual's awareness that such behaviour is socially rejected, they attempt to overcome obstacles that hinder criminal acts. Among these obstacles is ego constraint, which prevents the criminal from feeling shame associated with committing the criminal act. The psychological approach thus centres on psychological problems as primary causes of crime, while excluding other factors such as social and environmental influences.

5. Causes of Crime:

Crime has existed since the existence of human beings on Earth. Its causes are both internal, related to the offender's morphological or psychological constitution, and external, related to the environment and social context in which they live. These causes can be summarized as follows:

Poverty:

Poverty resulting from unemployment, high living costs, and lack of sufficient income pushes individuals toward theft and looting.

Family disintegration:

The family is the primary social environment that nurtures individuals, providing upbringing, warmth, and moral guidance. Divorce or separation often leaves children marginalized and vulnerable to crime and deviance.

Unemployment and idleness:

High unemployment rates in any society increase violence and crime, hindering social stability and development.

Bad companions:

Peers influence one another through interaction, making association with delinquent peers a major risk factor, which urges parents to keep their children away from bad company.

Mass media:

Through entertainment and content dissemination, media may instil violent and criminal practices, particularly among adolescents and youth.

Social and urban transformations have also created new patterns of relationships and social phenomena, which intensified crime rates. Economic growth failure to match population growth has reduced employment opportunities, especially in rural areas, leading to irregular migration to cities. This has resulted in the expansion of impoverished urban neighbourhoods, shifts towards material-based social values, increased crime, family problems, and new forms of domestic violence.

6. Economic and Social Effects of Crime:

Crime imposes significant costs due to the construction of correctional institutions and the allocation of security forces. However, its effects extend beyond material costs to include severe social consequences affecting individuals, families, and society.

6.1. Economic Effects:

States allocate large financial resources to combat crime at the expense of health, education, and social programs. Economic costs include direct and indirect losses, such as property destruction, reduced goods availability, and expenditure on drugs, prostitution,

gambling, bribery, and corruption. Crime removes both offenders and victims from productive economic activity, resulting in financial loss borne by the state.

6.2 Social Effects:

Crime represents a lasting stigma affecting offenders and their families, and its psychological and social effects continue to affect the children of the perpetrator and the children of the victim, in addition to the relatives of these families. These effects are as follows:

- Anxiety and tension within offenders' families, leading to further delinquency and consequently increasing crime rates in society and its instability.
- Increased family disintegration and complex social problems.
- Social marginalization of offenders' families, resulting in frustration, shame, and social isolation, which negatively affects their capabilities and negatively impacts the economic returns in society.
- Loss of social status for children and relatives, making them more vulnerable to violence and deviance.

4. Conclusion

This paper concludes that most sociological theories rely on social, cultural, and environmental factors to explain crime. However, relying on a single theory is insufficient to analyse all forms of criminal behaviour. Therefore, a multi-factor or integrative theoretical approach is necessary, combining two or more theories based on shared elements to develop a broader and more comprehensive approach for the explanation of criminal behaviour. This is especially important given the complexity and unpredictability of human behaviour, which is constantly changing and difficult to fully understand.

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