Course Code : BLLB3009/ BAL919CR/ BBL919CR Course Name: FORENSIC SCIENCE & LAW INTERFACE

Crime & Criminal behaviour

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Crime

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Topics: Definition of Crime Characteristics of Crime Various types of crime Criminal Behaviour- Causes & Theories

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What is Crime?

According to Blackstone: Crime is an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law forbidding or commanding it.

According to Donald Taft: " Crime is a social injury and an expression of subjective opinion varying in time and place."

According to cross & Jones: crime is a legal wrong the remedy for which is punishment of the offender at the instance of the state. According to Austin: " a wrong which is pursued at the discretion of the injured party and his representatives is a civil injury; a wrong which is pursued by the sovereign or his subordinates is a crime.

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Interpretation of Crime....

Leaving aside definitional context, we can say that a crime has 3 attributes:

- 1. it is a harm brought about by anti social act of a human being;
- 2. the preventive measures taken by the state appears in the form of a threat of a sanction or punishment;

3. the legal proceedings wherein the guilt or otherwise of the accused is determined are a special kind of proceedings governed by special rules of evidence.

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Etymology of Crime:

Crime is derived from Latin word 'crimen' which means ' charge'. The ancient Greek word krima, from which the Latin word is derived, typically refereed to an intellectual mistake or an offence against the community, rather than a private or moral wrong.

Think over. How Can we differentiate crime with tort, ethics, morality and sin?



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Characteristics of Crime...

- 1. Mens rea.
- 2. Actus reus.
- 3. Human being.
- 4. Injury- in relation to mind, body, person, property, reputation

5. External consequence- crimes always have a harmful effect on society, may it be social, personal, emotional or mental. Such harm should be outlawed. Amy immoral or reprehensible behaviour is not crime unless it is outlawed.

- 6. Prohibited act- the act or conduct should be prohibited or forbidden under the law.
- 7. Punishment- punishment shall be given for the prohibited act

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Types of Crime:

Property crimes- traditional & modern.

Corporate crime: Insider trading, false representation of accounts, escalation of assets and liabilities.

Violent crimes- violent crimes against body, property, public safety and affecting women.

Inchoate crime- abetment, attempt and criminal conspiracy.

Statutory crime- selling tobacco to a minor.

Cyber crime- stalking, hacking etc.

Hate crimes- offence which manifest evidences of prejudices based on religion, race, ethnicity, MOB LYNCHING, disability or sexual orientation. (Broadly against minorities).

Victimless crimes- ex. Prostitution , begging, drunkness, vagrancy, soliciting, homosexuality.

Organised crimes. (MCOCA)

Occassional crimes- pick pocketing during certain gathering or festivals.

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Causes of Criminal Behaviour

Causes of criminal Behaviour could be a single following reason or a complex of few ones:

1.Social

- 2. Psychological
- 3. Economical
- 4. Biological
- 5. Political

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- **Theories of criminal Behaviour & Schools of Criminology:**
- **1. Pre-Classical school.**
- 2. Classical School.
- 3. Neo- Classical School.
- 4. Positivist School.
- 5. Sociological School.
- 6.Economical School.
- 7. Psychological School.

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