Crime

Student’s Name:

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Crime

**Problem Statement**

Crime is a problem of my interest because of its adverseimpacts on society regardless of social class. Crime affects people in different ways, depending on thechanges they feel after a traumatic criminal experience. Personally, crime is a challenging social problem, and it is hard to cope with because it is a deliberate act from another person. Contrary to incidents like illness, criminals intend to harm others(VOROBYOV, 2013). People may have different experiences after a crime; for example, some may becomeangry or upset, leading to confusion. It can also cause the victims to fall apart suddenly or display physical symptoms like a lack of sleep. Moreover, victims of criminal activities may face long-term issues, such as illness related to anxiety or depression,and some may suffer from long-lasting effects like post-traumatic disorders.

The law divides criminal offences into financial, personal, statutory, inchoate, and property crimes. Financial offences involve deception or engaging in fraudulent activities for monetary gains. Personal crimes can lead to mental or physical harms to victims, for example, arson, assault, rape, kidnapping, or child abuse. Statutory offences are against the statue and can include selling alcohol to minors, drug trafficking, or traffic crimes. Inchoate offences are those that criminals initiated, but they did not complete, such as conspiracy, aiding, or attempts. Property crimes interfere with others’ belonging,and they include theft crimes like shoplifting, robbery, burglary, or larceny.

**Contributing and Resulting Behaviors from Crime**

Several behaviors contribute to the risk of engaging in criminal activities. The first action is substance abuse, which affects the ability of individuals to take part in productive and successful lifestyles. The use of drugs is correlated witha crime in different ways. The most direct way is that manufacturing, possessing, using, or distributing drugs is a crime because it increases the chances of potential abuse. Substance abuse also impacts the behaviors of users. The pharmacologic effects of drugs lead to criminal offences. For example, users may steal from others to obtain money for more substances.Intoxicants like alcohol affect the inhibitions of users, while substances like cocaine overexcite their nervous systems. The intoxicants result in psychological and physiological changes that have adverse effects on decision-making and self-control abilities. Such altered states can cause individuals to commit criminal acts. The second behavior that contributes to crime is anti-social personality, and it consists of several acts, including possessing dangerous weapons, stealing, harming animals, and damaging property. It also involvesrunning away, fighting, or skipping school.

People with anti-social personalities do not regard what is right or wrong and tend to ignore others’ feelings. They are also fond of manipulating, offending, or oppressing others; thus, violating the laws. Such peoplealso lie, abuse drugs, or have impulsive or violent behaviors. These characteristics render individuals unable to fulfil their family, school, or work obligations. Symptoms of anti-social personality include arrogance, lying, recurring criminal actions, abusive relationships, a lack of empathy for others, and intimidation. Unlawful activities may lead to punishment, which may, in turn, result in other behaviours. For instance, it may causefrustrated actionssince thoughts of offenders may dwell on previous mistakes instead of looking forward to a solution. Punishments can also cause negative feelings towards law enforcement officers or parents and interfere with the offenders’ relationships. Such feelings are common in case of criticisms or harassments.

**Theoretical Perspectives from Social Psychology**

Criminal behavior theories from social psychology insights tend to focus on the impact of situational and dispositional factors. Social-ecological models, for instance, argue that crime results from the interaction of various forces occurring at individual levels, immediate social surroundings, and other factors in larger environments. According to social learning theory by Bandura, criminal activities are learned behaviors that individuals develop when interacting with their social contexts. The learning process of crime involves the observation or imitation of others’ criminal behaviors or getting favorable consequences when involved in acts, for example, peer approval. Moreover, people can learn criminal acts when they realize that such acts can result in effective outcomes like instrumental values (Tittle, 2004). The social learning theory states that individuals learn to engage in criminal activities via the same processes that others learn about conformity. It assumes that people are born with no motivation to conform to society or commit crimes. They learn about crime by associating with others who take part in such activities.

Crime is a reinforced behavior, and people learn the beliefs that favor criminal acts. Consequently, people interacting with criminals believe that crime is a desirable or justifiable act in some circumstances. The theory also says that the primary mechanisms that encourage people to learn criminal activities are modelling, belief, and differential reinforcement.In modelling mechanism, people imitate the acts of those around them, particularly if they admire or look up to those people.The second mechanism involves beliefs that favour crime. Different interviews and surveys of criminals indicate that these beliefs have three categories,and one of them is approving minor kinds of criminal acts like gambling, violation of curfew, and alcohol use. The next category is justifying specific types of crimes, whereby individuals believe that criminal activities are wrong, but some of them are desirable or justifiable in particular situations. For example, fighting is illegal, but people approve it when someone else provokes or insults them. Another category is that people make crime appear more conducive or attractive by holding particular values. For example, people who yearn for excitement, easy success, or want others to see them as tough use crime to achieve these goals.

On the other hand, differential reinforcement involves teaching others to participate in criminal acts supporting and punishing some behaviors. Andrew and Bonta developed overall personality and social psychology insights about criminal habits. They argue that the availability of risk factors in individuals’ lives increase their chances of engaging in crime (Andrews &Bonta, 2010). They proposed both environmental and personal risk factors. The first one is the onset of anti-social behaviors at a young age. The second factor is temperamental characteristics that favor crime like aggressiveness, poor problem-solving skills, or impulsivity. Thenext force is anti-social beliefs and attitude, and the fifth one is interacting with pro-criminal individuals and avoiding non-criminal peers. The sixth factor is adverse experiences with parents and family, such as brutal discipline, poor parental supervision, and a lack of cohesion in the family.

Low achievement in schoolwork, drug abuse, and improper use of leisure and recreational time can cause people to engage in crime. Accordingto Andrew and Bonta, these factors can occur at an early stage of an individual’s life or in their middle school up to adolescence; thus, one can perceive the forces from a developmental point of view. The level of influence of eachforce depends on the development stage of the person (Andrews &Bonta, 2010). For example, family forces will have significant influence during childhood, while peer factors during adolescence. The analysis of Andrew and Bonta’s insight and the social learning theory indicates that particular factors that people bring to the situation like anti-social habits and their interaction with the surrounding social environments like peer influence relate to criminal behaviors.

**Intervention Strategies**

Crime intervention strategies refer to approaches that individuals, governments, businesses, and communities can implement to minimize social and environmental factors the increase the rate of criminal behaviors. Thefirst strategy of preventing crime is by ensuring stricter alcohol consumption policies because alcoholism contributes to violence. These policies can include higher tax rates of alcoholic products, discouraging the operation of alcohol outlets using stricter licensing measures, and revoking the right of the offender to drink(Di Ronco, 2016). The second intervention is raising the age for dropping out of school to ensure that children stay in school.

Adopting Denmark’s approach, which needs children to finish specific levels of grades, would also help to reduce crime. Behavioral measures are also effective because they focus on the vulnerable population, such as youths. Such measures target the neighborhoods of youths by addressing the causes of crime. Neighborhood crime prevention approach attempts to create a cohesive community that will discourage crime. Some of the measures are citizen patrols, watch programs, or social events. Secondary crime prevention approaches address possible opportunities that encourage criminal behaviors. Identification and prediction are the primary tools for preventing crimes in this measure. They involve identifying people, situations, or areas that support crime and predict future events of criminal acts.

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