

Subject: CRIMINOLOGY

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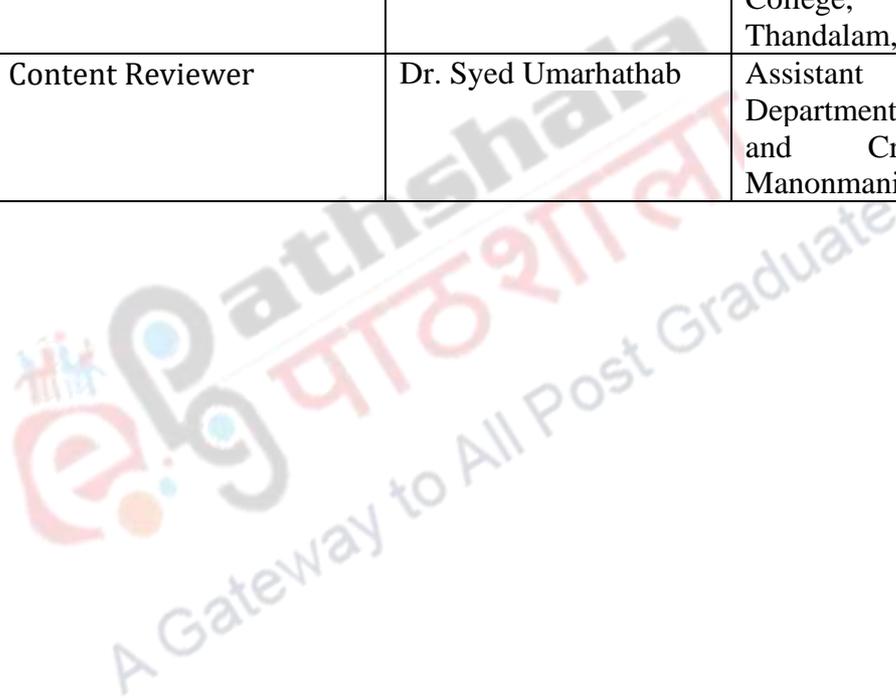
Paper : CRIME PREVENTION

Module : Concepts and Definitions





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DESCRIPTION OF MODULE

| Items | Description of Module |
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| Subject Name | Criminology |
| Paper Name | Crime Prevention |
| Module Name/Title | Concepts and Definition |
| Module Id | 1 |
| Objectives | To understand the <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Need for crime prevention➤ History of crime prevention➤ Punishment and Treatment➤ Definition of Crime Prevention➤ Crime Prevention Concepts➤ Levels of crime prevention strategies➤ Crime prevention and community safety➤ Sustainable crime prevention |
| Key words | Crime Prevention, Target, Desire, Opportunity, Punishment, Treatment, Social development, Situational crime prevention; Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention, Community safety, Sustainable crime prevention |



1. Introduction:

1.1 Prevention Better Than Cure- The Need for Crime Prevention

Preventing the occurrence of an illness is easier and health wise better than searching for a cure and curbing its detrimental effects. This age old wisdom makes similar sense in the case of crime. Violence and crime is very similar to an epidemic of a contagious disease. Incidents of crime and violence not only impact an individual but also the community. It affects a country's economic prospects, as it scares away investors and diverts large amounts of scarce resources from development. The causes of crime and violence are multidimensional ranging from factors such as social exclusion and marginalization, to lack of social control, lack of social integration into society and socialization in the family sphere and schooling, among others. High levels of violence and crime in the form of homicide, rape, abuse, suicide, robberies and civil unrest result in individuals living in fear of becoming victims of criminal acts of violence, and harboring feelings of insecurity within the environment they live. Many victims too young, weak or ill to protect themselves are forced by social pressures to keep silent about their experiences(Tracey, 2002)

1.1.1 Penology and prevention of crime

Penology is a section of criminology that deals with the philosophy and practice of various societies in their attempts to repress criminal activities, and satisfy public opinion via an appropriate treatment regime for persons convicted of criminal offence(Sharma, 1998). It is a term coined by Francis Lieber and is derived from Latin 'poena' which means punishment. Penology is concerned with the effectiveness of those social processes devised and adopted for the prevention of crime, via the repression or inhibition of criminal intent via the fear of punishment. All authorities on penology acknowledge that one of the most important duties of the state to society is that of removing the causes which contribute to the commission of crime(Eberhart, 1913).



1.2 History of crime prevention

Earliest responses to crime were left up to the individual and his family (clan). The Code of Hammurabi (1900 BC) was put together by Hammurabi, a Babylonian King as a set of written rules for his people to obey. This code outlined retribution by the victim. Norman conquest of England, 1066; an obligatory form of vocational citizen policing (Shire Sheriff's). Crime was rampant throughout England and Wales in 1655, when Oliver Cromwell led an effort to establish an organized body of professional police. This attempt was strongly opposed, principally by the wealthy, but Cromwell prevailed, and England and Wales were divided into twelve police districts. Opposition to the concept continued to grow, however Cromwell was forced to abandon his effort. In 1729, Thomas deVeil was appointed to the Commission of Peace for the County of Middlesex in the city of Westminster and is recognized as the first important milestone in the history of the British Police and Crime Prevention. A common feeling at the time was that those who enforced the law had a vested interest in crime. Determined to alter the system, deVeil's developed an organization of "Thief Takers" and "informers". This led to the birth of Crime Prevention Concept. In the mid-1700s Henry Fielding took first positive steps to:

- Stamp out crime
- Prevent future outbreaks
- Elicit Public help
- Remove crime conditions
- Establish a Strong police force

He is known for taking the first positive steps in forming a "responsible" police organization, changing public attitude toward policing, and in particular, for the prevention of crime. He is known as the "Father of Crime Prevention." Combined with these objectives, which remain as basic principles for crime prevention, Fielding initiated the first known crime prevention campaign by appealing to the public through advertisements in the press. Before he could see the total implementation of an organized police system, he died. His half-brother John Fielding, who was Henry's companion and assistant continued Fielding's work.

Sir Robert Peel, considered the "father" of law enforcement he is associated with the principles of policing still applicable today



1. The basic mission for which the police exist, is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.
3. Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public.
4. The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured, diminishes proportionally to the necessity of the use of force.
5. Police seek and preserve public favor; not by catering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law
6. Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the expertise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient
7. Police should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition; the police are the public and the public are the police. The police are charged with the duties that are incumbent on all of the citizens.
8. Police should always direct their actions strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.

In the 20th Century formal police forces become the norm. There was growth of scientific study of crime and criminal behavior. One of the prime examples of early crime prevention in America was the advent of the Juvenile Court System. Today it has become community based programs with prevention at the neighborhood level in every community.

1.3 Punishment, Treatment and Crime Prevention

According to Flew(1954) punishment is (1) a painful or unpleasant consequence (2) Intentionally imposed by other persons (3) upon an offender (4) for his offense against legal rules (5) under authority of the legal system against which the offense was committed. Sometimes the application of unpleasant

consequences to individuals may not be circumscribed by the concept of punishment. Individuals like psychopaths, troubled children, suicidal individuals and drug addicts maybe subject to therapeutic treatment through the legal process. (Brantingham & Faust, 1976). Packer(1968) observes that if the purpose of imposing a consequence is crime prevention then the consequence is punishment and if the purpose is social protection or individual betterment it is treatment. The justification behind punishment has always been that it will deter crime. The primary goal of any criminal justice system is prevention of crime. The prime purpose of the American penal code is “to forbid and prevent “crimes

Crime Triangle



and the principal purpose of sentencing and treatment of offenders is “to prevent the commission of offenses” (Brantingham & Faust, 1976). However there is no such stated objective in the Indian Penal Code. The Code of Criminal Procedure refers to prevention only in the context of powers granted to the police to prevent the commission of a cognizable offence.

2. Crime Prevention Triangle

The Crime Triangle identifies three factors that create a criminal offense.

- Desire of a criminal to commit a crime;



- Target of the criminal's desire;
- the Opportunity for the crime to be committed

By eliminating any one of these elements a crime cannot occur. It is difficult to effect or remove a criminal's desire to commit a crime. If someone really wants to commit a crime they will. Similarly it is not possible to influence the ability of a criminal to commit a crime. A motivated offender maybe thousands of miles away and yet may commit the crime using a phone or internet. Crime can be greatly reduced by elimination any one of the three sides of the crime triangle. Increasing the risk of apprehension and/or the effort required committing the offence and/or by reducing the rewards available.

Strategies to prevent crimes may therefore be:

- Increase the RISK of apprehensions.
- Increase the EFFORT to commit the offense
- Reduce the REWARDS to the offender.

3. Definition of crime prevention

National Crime Prevention Institute of USA defines crime prevention as the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it.

Wikipedia define crime prevention as the attempt to reduce and deter crime and criminals. It is applied specifically to efforts made by governments to reduce crime, enforce the law, and maintain criminal justice.

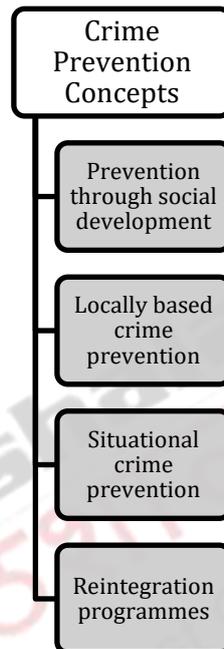
Oxford dictionary defines it as the adoption of measures intended to reduce or inhibit criminal activity, especially by implementing programmes to deter potential offenders or to enhance the security of potential targets.

A comprehensive definition is provided by the UN guidelines for crime prevention as strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.

4. Crime Prevention Concepts

Research on crime prevention has resulted in several approaches and responded developed in the last few decades. Some of these include developmental, environmental, situational, social and community-based crime prevention, and interventions.

Approaches to Crime Prevention



Source: (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010)

The UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime groups the approaches and programmes into four main categories:

4.1. Crime prevention through social development

It includes a range of social, educational, health and training programmes, such as those that target at-risk children or families when the children are very young, to provide them with support and child-rearing skills. Some early intervention programmes are also referred to as developmental crime prevention since they try to intervene to develop resilience and social skills among children and their families. Programmes may also target groups of children in areas where children and young people are at particular risk, such as street children or children living in informal



settlements or disadvantaged areas. Other examples include education projects in schools, or recreation and skills training projects for children and young people in the community, also in an attempt to increase awareness and resilience as they grow up and develop. Prevention programmes of this type: “Promote the well-being of people and encourage pro-social behaviour through social, economic, health and educational measures, with a particular emphasis on children and youth, and focus on the risk and protective factors associated with crime and victimization.”

4.2. Community or locally-based crime prevention

This type of prevention targets areas instead of individuals where the risks of becoming involved in crime or being victimized are high. This includes areas with high levels of deprivation, both in terms of infrastructure, services and wealth, or lack of community cohesion. This can include slums and informal settlements, or inner-city or suburban housing projects, often areas with a concentration of economic and social problems. Such programmes work to increase the sense of safety and security of the residents of particular communities, to respond to community concerns and crime problems affecting the population and to increase the services and social capital or social cohesion in the community. “Social capital” generally refers to the network of social relationships, trust and shared values, community involvement or a sense of civic identity that exist in a neighbourhood. Community crime prevention often involves the active participation of local residents and organizations in those communities and neighbourhoods. The term “community” can refer to small neighbourhoods, areas within a city, or small villages or towns, or in some cases groups of citizens with particular concerns. Such programmes aim to change the conditions in neighbourhoods that influence offending, victimization and the insecurity



that results from crime by building on the initiatives, expertise and commitment of community members.

4.3. Situational crime prevention

Situational crime prevention covers approaches that aim to reduce the opportunities for people to commit crimes, to increase the risks and costs of being caught and to minimize the benefits. According to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, such approaches help “Prevent the occurrence of crimes by reducing opportunities, increasing risks of being apprehended and minimizing benefits, including through environmental design, and by providing assistance and information to potential and actual victims.

Five specific categories of situational prevention strategies have been identified:

- 4.3.1. Those that increase the effort of offenders
- 4.3.2. Those that increase the risks for offenders
- 4.3.3. Those that reduce the rewards for offenders
- 4.3.4. Those that reduce the provocation to offend
- 4.3.5. Those that remove the excuses for offending

Situational techniques are designed to be directed at highly specific forms of crime, and assume that would-be offenders make rational decisions about the potential risks and rewards of breaking the law. They involve the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment in a systematic and permanent way. For example, such techniques include designing public spaces or housing to make it more difficult for people to break equipment or enter buildings without permission, or marking products so that they can be identified if they are stolen. Other examples include the use of closed-circuit television to protect car parks or the development of pedestrian pavements, gardens and seats in a public area



to encourage greater public use, with increased surveillance of that public space.

Situational crime prevention is closely associated with environmental crime prevention and crime prevention through environmental design, which is more specifically concerned with changes to the built environment or landscape.

4.4. Reintegration programmes

Crime prevention through reintegration refers to all programmes that work with children, young people or adults already involved in the criminal justice system, including those in custody and returning to the community.

According to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, it is important to “Prevent recidivism by assisting in the social reintegration of offenders and other preventive mechanisms.”

Those convicted of offences run the greatest risk of re-offending, given that they have already broken the law, have few opportunities and skills to pursue legitimate non-criminal lifestyles, and may have strong links with other offenders and offending lifestyles. Providing them with life and job skills, training, education, alternative lifestyles and role models and good support and housing in the community are all ways to assist with their reintegration. Programmes in prison may help to prepare them for release by providing them with new work skills or increasing their educational levels and social skills, including the ability to mediate conflict situations, and through the use of other restorative approaches.

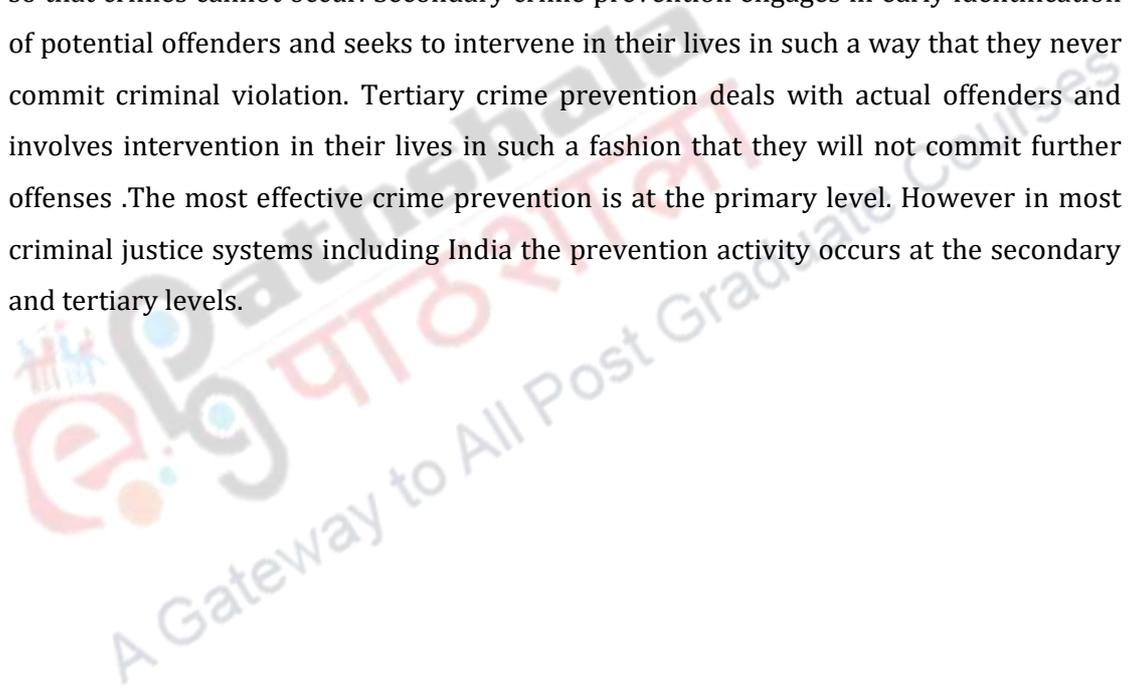
Programmes may take place in the community, or in halfway houses or sheltered homes that provide safe accommodation and in-house support and advice, and may include apprenticeship programmes, job-creation schemes, life-skills training, microcredit facilities and long-term support. Programmes that teach conflict resolution skills or use restorative justice approaches, such as victim-offender mediation or family or community



group conferencing, are other examples of ways in which offenders can be assisted in returning to civil society. These are all examples of crime prevention focusing on re-integration, with the overall aim of preventing re-offending

5. Levels of Crime Prevention Strategies

Brantingham and Faust conceptualize crime prevention as operating at three levels- primary, secondary and tertiary level. According to them primary crime prevention identifies conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for or precipitate criminal acts. The objective of intervention is to alter those conditions so that crimes cannot occur. Secondary crime prevention engages in early identification of potential offenders and seeks to intervene in their lives in such a way that they never commit criminal violation. Tertiary crime prevention deals with actual offenders and involves intervention in their lives in such a fashion that they will not commit further offenses. The most effective crime prevention is at the primary level. However in most criminal justice systems including India the prevention activity occurs at the secondary and tertiary levels.



PREVENTION ACTIVITIES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

| | PRIMARY | SECONDARY | TERTIARY |
|------------|--|---|--|
| POLICE | <p>GENERAL DETERRENCE (through "presence")</p> <p>CITIZEN EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> | <p>INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS</p> <p>SOCIAL SERVICE OPERATIONS (athletic programs, family crisis units, sensitivity training)</p> <p>PATROL PEACE-KEEPING ACTIONS (“move-along” orders, stop-and- frisk contacts)</p> <p>INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION (drunk detoxification, juvenile supervision)</p> | <p>ARREST AND PROSECUTION</p> <p>MISDEMEANOR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS</p> |
| COURTS | <p>GENERAL DETERRENCE (through “exemplary” sentences)</p> | <p>PRE-ADJUDICATION DIVERSION</p> | <p>POST-ADJUDICATION DIVERSION, REFORM, REHABILITATION, AND INCAPACITATION (through sentence)</p> |
| CORRECTION | <p>GENERAL DETERRENCE (through existence)</p> | <p>OPERATION OF DIVERSION PROGRAMS</p> | <p>REFORM (through punishment, community treatment, institutional treatment)</p> <p>REHABILITATION (through aftercare support, training, and surveillance)</p> <p>INCAPACITATION (through custody)</p> |

The above figure provides a view of crime prevention activities by police, courts and prisons as identified in the American criminal justice system. The reason for focus at these two levels and not at the primary levels is due to challenges in implementation, resources and ethical considerations.

The criminal justice system is charged with tertiary prevention. The assumption is that through effective intervention, the offender will be fully restored to a permanent, functional level of socially acceptable behaviour. For those offenders whose behaviour is not amenable to modification through known forms of punishment or treatment, tertiary prevention aims to provide such control of the offender’s behaviour as is necessary to protect society and elicit the highest and most sustained level of conforming behaviour possible. The preventive aspect of intervention at this level may be found in the notion that such intervention keeps society from being placed at increased risk, keeps the offender from being placed at greater risk for his own harmful behavior and from the excessive retaliation of others, and keeps conditions from occurring which offer no opportunity and encouragement for whatever higher level of



conforming behavior the offender might be capable of achieving at some future time. For offenders whose criminal behaviour is not amenable to correction through known forms of punishment and treatment and who are seen as potentially dangerous to society, the traditional societal reaction has been incapacitation-the imposition of lifetime or long-term confinement in a secure setting. This confinement has been justified as societal protection. Theoretically, it is assumed that the behaviour of offenders in this category might improve to some degree but not sufficiently to warrant their release from custody in the near future. However any behavioral improvement is desirable. Offenders who are not seen as potentially serious threats to society, the correctional system combines rehabilitation and reform to elicit more conforming behavior. The hope is that the behavioral improvements for these prisoners will be sufficient to inhibit further illegal activities. Effective tertiary prevention is thus the primary goal of the correctional subsystem.

Secondary prevention is the level at which crime prevention is most fervently pursued in research and program funding. Courts, probation and parole services, general social services, educational institutions, planners, private citizens, and police all engage in secondary prevention. It is argued that poverty, low educational level, lack of vocational skills, minority status, and poor physical and mental health are all associated with criminal activity. The assumption is that these social and physical problems are causally related to crime.

Primary prevention is the identification of those conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for or precipitate criminal behavior and the alteration of those conditions so that no crimes occur. Primary prevention consists of interventions that are employed before any crime has occurred to prevent initial perpetration and victimization. Primary prevention includes building an environment that encourages well-being and healthy choices. This could include approaches such as public dissemination of information and resources.

6. Crime prevention and community safety

One of the most common assumptions about crime prevention is that it can be clearly separated from other areas of activity, and that it is restricted to academia, or solely the province of the police and justice system. In fact many



interventions that help to prevent crime are called something else, whether early childhood intervention, educational and employment support, drug treatment or urban renewal.

Crime prevention is not the only term commonly in use internationally. In different contexts and countries, other terms such as safety and security, crime reduction and community safety are often used. The term community safety is commonly used to refer to the broader range of issues that must be tackled to promote safer cities or communities, and with outcomes that bring benefits beyond an absence of crime

Crime prevention has been deemed a police term, while community safety is preferred in local authorities in Britain to signify a broader set of interests in crime consequences.

Thus, what is important, regardless of the terminology preferred, is the use of a strategic approach that enables policymakers and practitioners to tailor interventions to the problems they confront, selecting from a wide range of interventions, finding a balance between the need for short-term and longer-term outcomes, as well as protecting human rights.

6. Sustainable crime prevention

Crime prevention can also be linked to the notions of sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods, in the sense that it should meet the needs of the present, without compromising those of future generations. This is especially relevant in middle- and low-income countries. Efforts should be aimed at increasing the capacities and resources of populations, providing opportunities for the next generation and helping to increase intergenerational capital. Sustaining crime prevention strategies beyond the life of a Government is an important part of this process. Figure shows crime prevention strategies that can contribute to sustainable development. Crime prevention contributes to sustainable development by reducing violence, fostering social inclusion, reintegration, empowerment of victims and by protecting environment and economic resources.

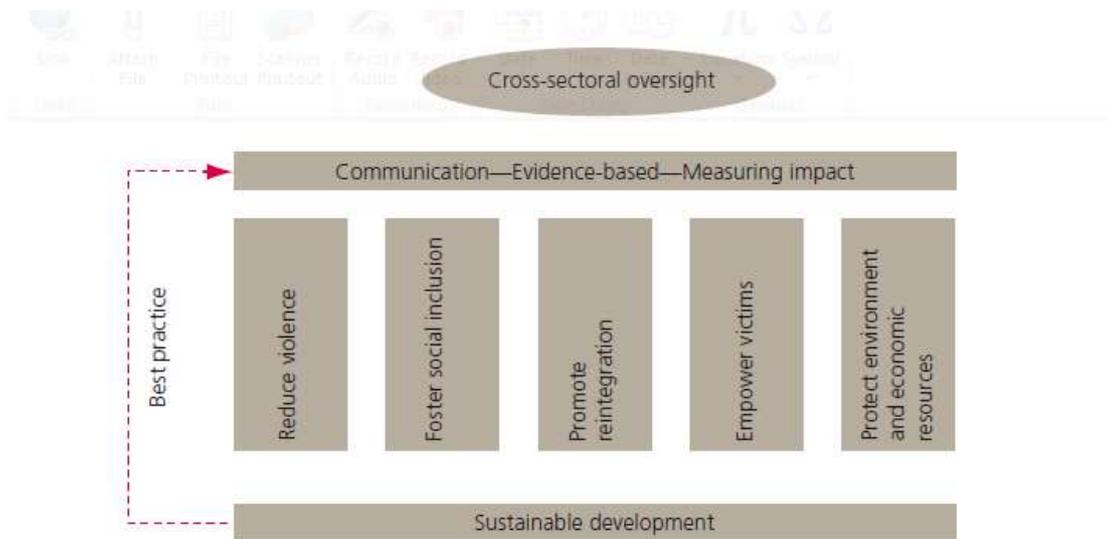


Figure 1: Crime Prevention and Sustainable Development (Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010)

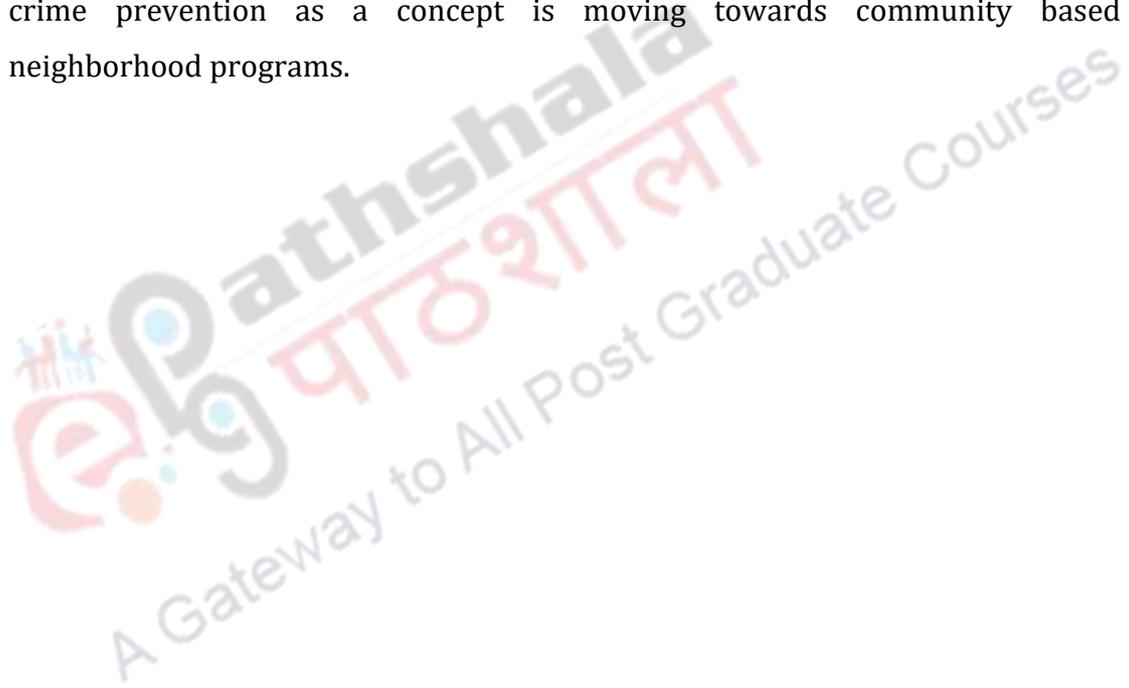
3. Conclusion

If the purpose of imposing an unpleasant consequence on an offender is individual betterment and societal protection then it is treatment and if the purpose is crime prevention it is punishment. The birth of the concept of crime prevention came about in the 1700s. Sir Henry Fielding is the father of crime prevention who gave the core principles for crime prevention. Sir Robert Peel is known as the father of law enforcement and associated with the nine principles of policing still prevalent today. Crime prevention is the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it. Crime prevention can be conceptualized as prevention through social development, locally based crime prevention, situational crime prevention and reintegration programmes. Crime prevention through social development promotes the well-being of people and encourages pro-social behaviour through social, economic, health and educational measures, with a particular emphasis on children and youth, and focus on the risk and protective factors associated with crime and victimization. Locally based crime prevention targets areas with high levels of deprivation and work to increase the sense of safety and security of the residents of particular communities, to respond to community concerns and



crime problems affecting the population and to increase the services and social capital or social cohesion in the community. Situational crime prevention prevents the occurrence of crimes by reducing opportunities, increasing risks of being apprehended and minimizing benefits, including through environmental design, and by providing assistance and information to potential and actual victims. Reintegration programmes prevent recidivism by assisting in the social reintegration of offenders into the community.

Crime prevention operates at three levels- primary, secondary and tertiary. The most effective crime prevention happens at the primary level by reducing opportunities or precipitating factors of crime in the environment. Currently crime prevention as a concept is moving towards community based neighborhood programs.





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