Subject: CRIMINOLOGY

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Paper : CRIME PREVENTION

Module : Strategies and approaches in Crime Prevention

ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

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DESCRIPTION OF MODULE

Items	Description of Module
Subject Name	Criminology
Paper Name	Crime Prevention
Module Name/Title	Strategies and approaches in Crime Prevention
Module Id	4
Objectives	➢ Clearly differentiate between the different approaches to crime prevention ➢ Understand the practical strategies that can be used effectively to deter crime such as o Crime Prevention through Environmental Design o Defensible Spaces o Situation Crime Prevention o Community Crime Prevention o Prevention based on Routine Activities o Prevention based on Crime Patterns o Pockets of Crime ➢ Collective responsibility for prevention ➢ Costs and benefits of crime prevention
Key words	Neighborhood watch, Alley gating, Biting back, Problem oriented policing

1. Introduction:

As explained in the previous module, there are three approaches to crime prevention;

1.1. The Environmental Approach

The environmental approach, which includes situational crime prevention techniques and broaderurban planning initiatives, aims to modify the physical environment to reduce the opportunitiesfor crime to occur (Crawford 1998; Hughes 2007; Sutton, Cherney& White 2008).

1.2. The Social Approach

The socialapproach focuses on the underlying social and economic causes of crime in the community (eg lack of social cohesion, limited access to housing, employment, education and health services)and on limiting the supply of motivated offenders, and includes developmental prevention andcommunity development models (Crawford 1998; ECOSOC 2002; Hughes 2007)

1.3. The Criminal Justice Approach

The criminal justice approach refers tovarious programs delivered by police, the courts and corrections that aim to prevent recidivismamong those people who have already engaged in offending behaviour and who have come intocontact with the criminal justice system (ECOSOC 2002; UNODC 2010)

2.Crime Prevention Strategies

2.1. CPTED: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Under this strategy the way to prevent crime is to design the "Total Environment". It is the opposite of the reactive strategies of the police and closely related to rational choice theory. Crime reduction can be achieved through policies that convince potential criminals to desist from criminal

activities, delay their actions, or avoid a particular target. Thus crime prevention can be achieved through one of three ways.

- Potential targets are carefully guarded
- Means to commit crime are controlled
- Potential offenders are carefully monitored

Crime prevention efforts aimed at people, such as general andspecific deterrence are less sure to work because of the highmobility of people.People are not permanent fixtures of anenvironment for very long, they move around a good dealthroughout the day.Howeverthings such as buildings and other physical features of theenvironment are relatively permanent. As a result, CPTED can produce effects on crime andperceptions of personal crime risk. It provides the following design principles -

- Control Natural Access: Encouraging people to go where they will do no harm or receive no harm. Eg: Using hedges, shrubs, gates and fences to direct people to the entrance and exits of buildings.
- Provide Natural Surveillance: Placing potential crime targets in places where they can be watched easily. Eg:Making front windows on houses face those across the street.
- Foster Territorial Behavior: Marking territorial areas so thatthey are easily observed and noted. Eg:Do landscaping so that it is readily apparent where one apartment ends and another begins.

The three main design approaches apply to three main strategies- natural, organized and mechanical strategies. Under natural strategies security results from the design and layoutof space.Both human and capital costs are low. Organized strategies are activated through the use of security personnel and police. It is labor intensive and expensive.Mechanical Strategies make use of surveillance equipment and other hardwareto control access and provide surveillance and is expensive. Natural strategies are superior economically and avoid confrontation by preventingcrime from happening in the first place (Jeffery, 1977).

Research has shown that

1. Much of the practical applications of CPTED have been in target hardening which have been largely successful

2. Increasing street lighting in crime prone areas reduced crime.

3. Creating cul-de-sacs in very dangerous areas of a city reduced the occurrence of drive-by shootings.

4. Making entrances and exits into public housing area one way reduced crime overall in those areas.

5. Placing strategic barricades of streets leading into a major drug neighborhood in order to limit access reduced drug related offenses.

2.2. Crime Prevention through Defensible Spaces

This strategy as explained under the Defensible Space theory proposes a residential environment designed in such a way as to allow and encourage residents to supervise and be responsible for their neighborhoods. The practical implication of the defensible space theory is improved visibility between apartment units/ homes by residents and creating spaces where residents could gather,thereby increasing the potential for resident surveillance. The overall goal is toreduce anonymity and isolation of people andplaces within a community. A key part of improving Defensible space is to improve thecontrol of local Space. Newman divides local space into four different categories:

Public: Places like streets where no one has control or dominion.

Semi-Public: Places like sidewalks in from of home that people treat as having some responsibility over, despite their public ownership.

Semi-Private: Areas like the backyard of a house that are controlled by a person(s) but arewithin view of the public.

Private: Places like homes in which people have complete ownership andare able to watch completely and deny access to others.

Under this theory private supervision is the key to crime prevention. Things are more likely to be stolen if they are left inpublic or semi-public space. The practical application of this theory resulted in housing and school projects all over USA using the Defensible Space concepts (Newman, 1996)

Research on Defensible Space showed that low-rise buildings instead of high-rise buildings in Governmenthousing areas reduced overall crime. Use of low fences in neighborhoods increased territoriality anddecreased incidence of burglary and theft.Small streets in residential areas increased neighborhoodsupervision and lowered crime.A larger number of small parks rather than a small number oflarge parks reduced incidents of crime by decreasing large publicareas where surveillance is poor.However impact of design changes on overall crime in areas outside of publichousing units was almost non-existent.

2.3. Situational Crime Prevention Strategies

There are several strategies under Situational Crime Prevention -

1. Increase effort needed to commit crime: This is proposed by

- Hardening targets- Making the potential target of criminal victimization more difficult to victimize. Eg: Unbreakable glass on store fronts, locking gates, fenced yards
- Controlling access to the targets - Limiting access to an area in order to reduce criminals chance of offending.Eg: Parking lot barriers, secure doors to stores
- Deflecting offenders from targets- Locating business and services so as to divert criminal opportunity.Eg: Residential behind retail in mixed use.
- Utilizing Control crime facilitator

2. Increase risks of committing crime:This is done by screening entrances and exits, using formal surveillance, surveillance by employees and natural surveillance.

3. Reduce rewards of committing crime.

- Remove targets
- Identify property
- Reduce temptation
- Deny benefits

4. Induce guilt or shame for committing crime.
- Set rules
- Alert consciences
- Control dis-inhibitors
- Assist compliances

While research indicates that Situational Crime Prevention tacticshave been very successful, the results need to be taken with a grain ofsalt:Many of the findings deal with relatively minor crimes. Many of the crimes where tactics have been successful have beencrimes against private organizations, not street crimes against people.Methods used to evaluate effectiveness of the tactics have been lessthan scientific, with no control groups and almost no follow-ups.

2.4. Community Crime Prevention Strategies

Community crime prevention strategies purport to make changes in community infrastructure, culture, or the physical environment to prevent crime. These strategies involve the residents, community,NGOs, and local government agencies in tackling crime at the local level. Some of the strategies are

2.4.1. Alley Gating:This is a situational crime-prevention strategy, mainly implemented in the United Kingdom that uses lockable gates to control access to alleys behind rows of homes, where crimes frequently occur.

2.4.2 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance: Public surveillance systems include a network of cameras and components for monitoring, recording, and transmitting video images. The ultimate goal of installing public surveillance cameras is to reduce both property and personal crime. .

2.4.3. Focused Deterrence Strategies:Problem-oriented policing strategies follow the core principles of deterrence theory. The evaluation found that focused deterrence strategies (also referred to as "pulling levers" policing) can reduce crime.

2.4.4. Improved Street Lighting:A crime prevention strategy that aims to improve the lighting on streets to reduce crime through modifying and improving environmental measures.

2.4.5. Neighbourhood Watch: Also known as block watch, apartment watch, home watch, and community watch, these programs involve citizens trying to prevent crime in their neighbourhood or community. Citizens remain alert for suspicious activities and report those activities to the police. .

2.4.6. Problem-Oriented Policing: These analytic methods are used by police to develop crime prevention and reduction strategies.

2.4.7. Sobriety Checkpoints:Sobriety checkpoints are police operations that aim to reduce the number of alcohol-related car crashes by preventing people from driving under the influence of alcohol and other substances. Driving under the influence (DUI) is prevented by increasing the perceived and actual risk of detection and apprehension by the police.

2.5 Crime Prevention under the Routine Activities Theory

Routine Activity theory research has provided the following strategies that help prevent crime -

1. Those areas where a higher percentage of residents arehome during the day have lower property crime rates.

2. Corner homes, usually near traffic lights or stop signs, arethe ones most likely to be burglarized.

3. Secluded homes, such as those at the end of a cul-de-sac orsurrounded by wooded areas make more suitable targets.

4. Criminals are more likely to drift towards a city center thanmove outwards to commit a crime.

5. Communities that organize themselves restrict traffic,change street patterns and limit neighborhood entrancesand exits will reduce property crime levels.

2.6. Crime Prevention under the Crime Pattern Theory

Crime Pattern Theory attempts to achieve Crime Prevention through the following strategies-

• Awareness Space: Connectivity/Permeability of streets greatly impacts awareness space of offenders.

• Balanced connectivity: Neighborhoods should not beoverly permeable, not should they completely restrictmovement.

• Suitability of Target: Design should work to make targets(homes, etc...) as unsuitable as possible.

• Good natural surveillance

• Effective lighting systems

• Physical Protection

• Well maintained landscapes

2. 7. Crime Prevention under the Pocket of Crime Theory

This theory implies that for prevention of crime –

• Context is vitally important. Understand wherecrime isoccurring and whyit is happening there and not elsewhere.

• While crime is a result of numerous factors, all of which need tobe dealt with, Opportunities are the biggest single factor.

• Disorder levels will help determine general areas ofcrime.

• Opportunities will determine locations of high crime.

• Design matters with regards to reducing opportunities

• Site Design: How buildings and roads are designed.

• Zoning

• Building Design

3. Combining Crime Prevention Approaches

No one approach or underlying theory of prevention is inherently better than the others. All of them have advantages and disadvantages. Some social development approaches can be long-term and require commitment and investment continuing over a number of years. Community or locally based approaches can require considerable patience with the difficulties of engaging citizens in positive ways, or maintaining the momentum of projects. They are more difficult to evaluate, so clear and rapid results from interventions may be hard to identify.

Situational prevention has often been criticized for focusing too much onopportunistic crime and target-hardening techniques or surveillance, for encouraging unequal access to security and for failing to tackle the social or economic causes of crime problems. Some of the recent developments in situational prevention have focused on better use of regulations, such as municipal and local by-laws and their enforcement, and this is seen as a valuable tool that encourages businesses or local residents to change and regulate their own behaviours.

No specific crime prevention approach should be considered superior to the others. Any approach that is selected should form part of a strategic and balanced plan, and the advantages and disadvantages of each approach in a particular context should be considered.

Thus, a project in a city neighbourhood, for example, may combine a range of initiatives such as changes to traffic layout, better lighting, employing and training young people to act as guardians and local mediators, providing support to low income families and providing better recreation facilities and opportunities indisadvantaged residential apartments

4. Collective approaches and the role of governments

The UN Guidelines for Prevention of Crime states that it is the responsibility of all levels of government to create, maintain and promote a context within which relevant governmental institutions and all segments of civil society, including the corporate sector, can better play their part in preventing crime.

Over the past few decades, there has been a major shift from the traditional view that crime prevention is the responsibility of the police to the view that it is a collective responsibility. Since the 1980s, it has been argued that it is more effective, and cost-efficient and beneficial, to take a collective and proactive approach to preventing crime. The importance of collective action is recognized in both the Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime.

There are a number of compelling arguments. First, since the factors that cause crime and violence to increase or decline are closely linked to many social, economic and environmental issues, governments at all levels cannot rely solely on the criminal law and justice system to ensure safety. Multisectoral partnerships between ministries such as those responsible for housing, health, education and employment, recreation, social services and the environment, as well as the police and justice sector, can all make a significant difference to crime levels by establishing proactive rather than reactive strategies to prevent crime and victimization.

Secondly, the value of collective approaches has become apparent from evaluations of crime prevention programmes in high-income countries in particular, which have shown the limitations of the police role. In almost all countries, for example, the majority of crimes are never reported to the police. It has also been demonstrated that prevention helps reduce the costs of criminal justice interventions. The criminal justice system is primarily reactive, that is, acting after offences have been committed.

Crime prevention takes a proactive approach. Moreover, there can be other benefits from timely prevention programmes, such as improving social functioning and employment prospects, and rebuilding communities, all of which can help to reduce social and economic costs in a city or country.

5. Cost and benefits of Crime Prevention

The criminal justice system is very costly to maintain in all countries, so any reductions in rates of crime and in the numbers of people processed through the

courts and prisons are likely to save on policing, prosecution, defense and court costs, and the considerable expenses of running prison and parole systems. Apart from the criminal justice costs of crime, there are many long-term social and economic costs associated with lost productivity, and the social and welfare services incurred byoffenders and their families, for example, when breadwinners are imprisoned or children taken into care. The costs of crime also include the costs for victims, in terms of their health and their ability to work or go to school or to care for their own families. Estimates of the costs of crime for victims and society in terms ofhealth, lost earnings and productivity suggest that these can be even higher than the criminal justice costs.

Finally, all expenditure on protective security such as technological systems, private policing or fencing and barriers must be included in the costs of crime.Over the past decade, a number of studies of the costs and benefits of crime prevention programmes have been conducted. They have shown, for example, that early intervention programmes to provide support to children and families at risk, or working with young people to encourage them to stay in school and complete their education, lead to considerable reductions in long-term criminal, social and economic costs that exceed the sums invested in those programmesAs a return on the money invested, prevention programmes not only reduce expenditure on the criminal justice sector, but also on social service interventions. They also bring other social and economic benefits, such as increased earned income or lower health costs. All of these factors help to demonstrate the benefits for Governments of working in a collective way. Thus, national Governments that develop a national strategy on crime prevention through a multisectoral partnership across ministries can help to facilitate and support the development of strategic and planned responses at the sub regional level, and with local governments and civil society.

Local governments are in the best position to understand their own needs and strengths, as well as citizens' concerns. Working in partnership with local service sectors, citizens and stakeholders can be a difficult process, but such partnerships are likely to be more effective than imposing a strategy. The

Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention place particular emphasis on the importance of a local approach to crime.

It is not just national or local authorities and service sectors, however that can help to prevent crime; the role of local communities is crucial. The involvement and cooperation of local civil society demonstrates that government action alone cannot succeed in creating healthy and safe communities. Governments need to work inpartnership with communities and civil society organizations.

Contemporary crime prevention is therefore a strategic process and methodology for responding to crime and safety issues. It recognizes that crime affects people in their daily lives, at the local level, and is a major factor affecting the quality of their lives.

Conclusion

Based on practical implications, interventions, delivered activities there are three approaches to crime prevention: the environmental approach, social approach and criminal justice approach.Different theories of crime prevention such as CPTED, Defensible Space, Situational Crime Prevention, Routine Activities, Crime Pattern and Broken Windows provide different types of strategies to achieve crime prevention. Community crime prevention methods are focused and aimed changing the cultural and physical environment so as to reduce opportunities for crime. Most of the strategies have developed through practical applications (National Institute of Justice, USA). Every approach of crime prevention and its underlying theory has its own advantages and disadvantages. A combination of strategies suitable to the particular context is a better and effective method of crime prevention. From a traditional view of crime prevention as the responsibility of the police it is now increasingly acknowledged as a collective responsibility with leadership provided by all levels of the government. Crime prevention is a proactive approach and timely prevention programmes deliver benefits in the form of improved social functioning, employment prospects and rebuilding of communities that reduce social and economic costs of a nation.

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