


Subject: CRIMINOLOGY

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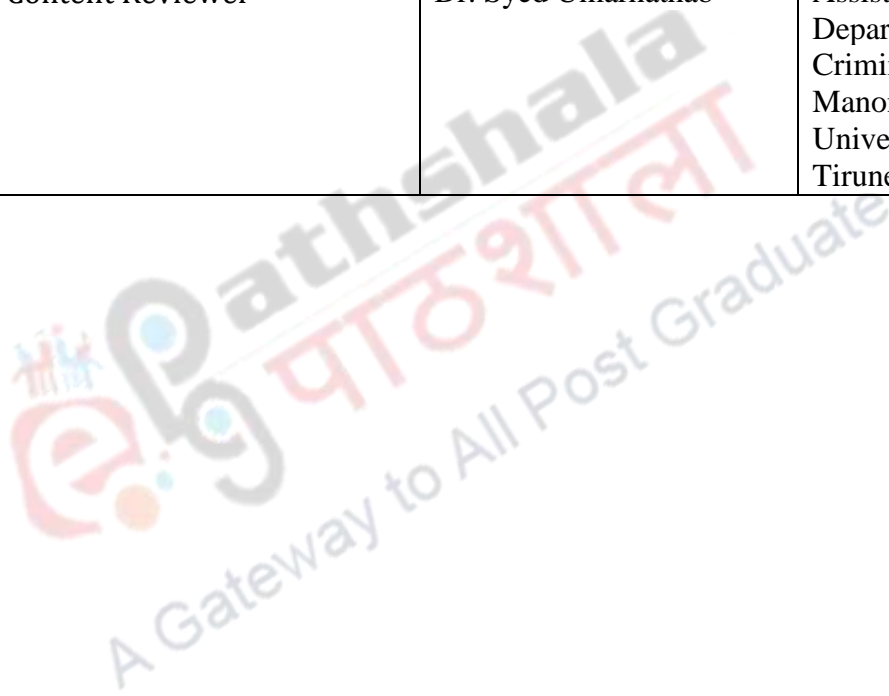


Paper : CRIME PREVENTION

Module : An Overview of Conventional Programmes in Crime Prevention



Role	Name	Affiliation
Principal Investigator	Prof. G.S. Bajpai	Professor and Registrar, National Law University, Dwarka, Delhi
Paper Coordinator	Dr. Beulah Shekhar	Professor & H Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Manonmaniam Sundaranar University TIRUNELVELI
Content Writer/Author	Dr. Vijaya Soma- Sundaram	Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Thandalam, Chennai
Content Reviewer	Dr. Syed Umarhathab	Assistant Professor Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu





DESCRIPTION OF MODULE

Items	Description of Module
Subject Name	Criminology
Paper Name	Crime Prevention
Module Name/Title	An Overview of Conventional Programmes in Crime Prevention
Module Id	13
Objectives	To understand <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Knowledge-based crime prevention➤ The public health model of crime prevention➤ Primary crime prevention programs➤ Secondary crime prevention programs➤ Tertiary crime prevention programs
Key words	Public Health Model, crime prevention education, social programs, offenders, interventions



1. Introduction:

The foundation of a proactive and effective prevention of crime is laid through knowledge-based crime prevention. One of the principles provided under the UN Guidelines for Crime Prevention is that

‘ Crime prevention strategies, policies, programmes and actions should be based on a broad, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about crime problems, their multiple causes and promising and proven practices’

The Guidelines state that Governments and/or civil society should facilitate knowledge-based crime prevention by:

- (a) Providing the information necessary for communities to address crime problems;
- (b) Supporting the generation of useful and practically applicable knowledge that is scientifically reliable and valid;
- (c) Supporting the organization and synthesis of knowledge and identifying and addressing gaps in the knowledge base;
- (d) Sharing that knowledge among researchers, policymakers, educators, practitioners from other relevant sectors and the wider community;
- (e) Applying this knowledge in replicating successful interventions, developing new initiatives and anticipating new crime problems and prevention opportunities;
- (f) Establishing data systems to help manage crime prevention more cost effectively, including by conducting regular surveys of victimization and offending;
- (g) Promoting the application of those data in order to reduce repeat victimization, persistent offending and areas with a high level of crime

1.1 Public Health Model of Crime Prevention

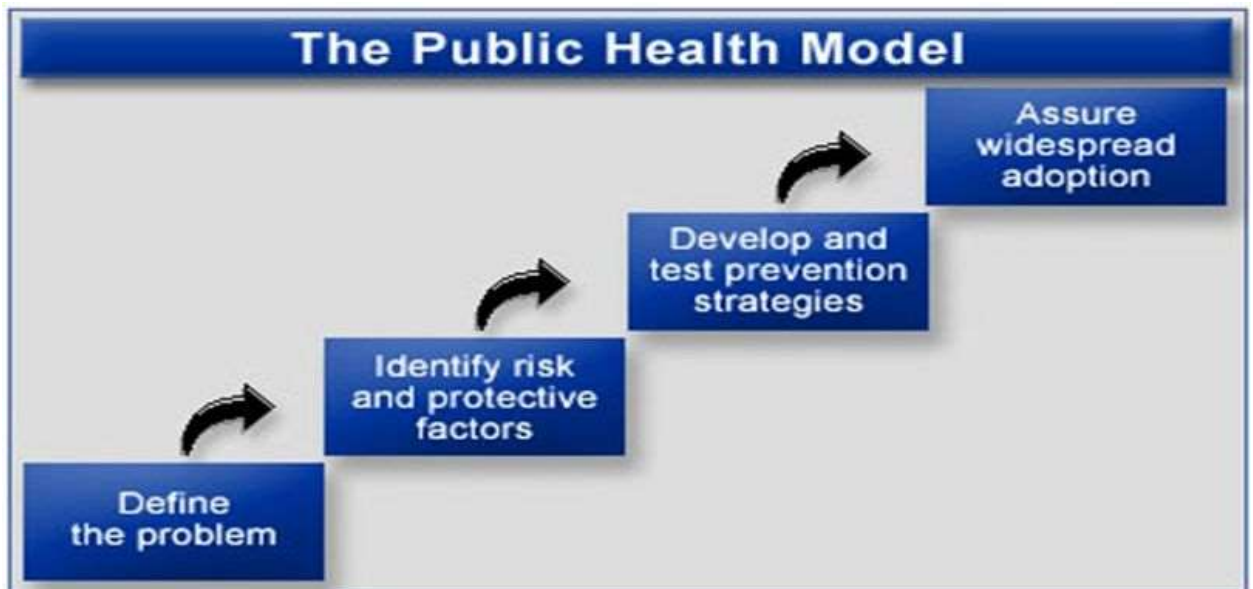
A proactive approach of crime prevention that emerged in the eighties is the public health model of crime prevention. Brantingham and Faust put forth the idea of adopting the medical model of prevention and borrow the primary-secondary-tertiary (PST) analogy for the conceptualization of crime prevention



efforts (Andresen & Jenion, 2008). The public health model focuses on reducing the risk of and increasing resiliency against illness and disease. With its emphasis on prevention of disease or injury, the public health approach to violence offers an appealing alternative to an exclusive focus on rehabilitation or punishment. In Criminal Justice this model has been adopted to understand the nature of violence and identify potential points of intervention. In the context of delinquency prevention, the public health model focuses on reducing the risk of and increasing resiliency against problem behaviour. It offers a practical, scientifically based procedure to promote and maintain pro-social behaviour.

‘Violence results from a confluence of multiple factors including personal behaviours amenable to change, as well as family, neighbourhood and social systems that are themselves modifiable. Just as application of public health principles and comprehensive strategies reduced the number of deadly traffic accidents and the number of deaths attributable to tobacco use, the public health model can help to reduce the extent of injuries and deaths due to violence.’ (Hamburg, 1998)

In essence, the public health approach follows a four-step procedure to identify problems and develop solutions for entire population groups. These steps are 1) define the nature of the problem using scientific methods (i.e., data); 2) identify potential causes through analyses of risk and protective factors associated with the problem; 3) design, develop, and evaluate interventions; and 4) disseminate successful models as part of education and outreach (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2000).



The public health model distinguishes three levels of prevention: primary (or universal) prevention; secondary (or selected) prevention and tertiary (or indicated prevention) (Tilley & Sidebottom, 2017)

The Primary-Secondary-Tertiary Model			
Crime Prevention			
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
The general paradigm	Environmental design; general social and physical well-being programs; crime prevention education	Early identification; predelinquent screening; individual intervention; neighborhood programs	Community treatment; institutional treatment; punishment; training; support; surveillance; institutional custody
Time horizon	Long	Short-to-medium	Immediate

Table 1: Source: The PST Model of Crime Prevention (Andresen & Jenion, 2008)

2. Primary Crime Prevention Programmes

Primary prevention encompasses activities designed to prevent crimes before they might otherwise occur. Sometimes also referred to as universal prevention, such activities typically target whole populations, regardless of whether some members of a given population may be at a greater or lesser risk. Whole populations can be defined in many ways- eg. citizens of a district, all school



children, all residents of a neighbourhood, and so on. Universal prevention can also include place based prevention. Thus prevention activities may be focused on specific types of setting – all schools, all parks, all public toilets and so on. As a comprehensive strategy activities can be devised to aim to prevent crimes in the first place by targeting potential offenders, potential victims and settings where such crimes may otherwise occur. Reppetto has identified this type of prevention as mechanical crime prevention (Reppetto, 1976). However he warns that mechanical prevention programs can have a displacement effect. Opportunity reduction can merely shift the incidence of crime to other forms, times and locales.

Primary prevention can be done in any context or location, whether a residence, workplace, school, neighborhood, community, or society. Primary prevention involves altering the environment in such a way that the root causes, or at least the facilitators, of crime are eliminated. As such, primary prevention is typically driven by supportable theory about the etiology of crime. An early example of this would be the *social disorganization* theory of Shaw and McKay (1942) which stated the residential mobility and racial heterogeneity led people to have little interest in improving their neighborhood and more of an interest in moving out, leaving behind an area where crime could easily occur. More recent examples include Newman's (1972) *defensible space* theory, Cohen and Felson's (1979) *routine activities* theory, and Wilson and Kelling's (1982) *broken windows* theory. The theory of defensible space, like its counterpart in the field of private security called Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CTPED), tends to have a focus on preventing easy access and exit by potential criminals as well as the elimination of their hiding places and where they can geographically select a target. Routine activities theory posits a high rate of potential victims becoming actual victims whenever three things occur in space and time together: the absence of capable guardians; an abundance of motivated offenders; and suitable targets. Broken windows theory argues that signs of decay, disorder, and incivilities, such as abandoned buildings, broken street lights, and graffiti all invite potential criminals to an area. On a larger level,



primary prevention can be based on *macro-social* theories about the causes of crime in society, with examples of such efforts being job, housing, education, healthcare, and religious programs (Lavrakas 1997).

3. Secondary Crime Prevention Programmes

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 (Brantingham & Faust, A Conceptual Model of Crime Prevention, 1976). Secondary prevention refers to techniques focused on at risk situations such as youth who are dropping out of school or getting involved in gangs. It also refers to targeting social programs and law enforcement into neighborhoods where crime rates are high. The uses of secondary crime prevention in cities such as Birmingham and Bogotá have achieved large reductions in crime and violence. Programs that are focused on youth at risk such as the youth inclusion programs in England or Quantum Opportunities in the USA have been shown to significantly reduce crime.

Secondary prevention involves a focus upon specific problems, places, and times with the twin goals of reducing situation-specific opportunities for crime and increasing the risks for committing crime. Following Clarke (1980), many people call this situational crime prevention. Secondary prevention is most typically based on well-established law enforcement practices, such as problem-oriented policing where the problem drives a team solution, hot spots analysis which targets certain areas for saturation or directed patrol, surveillance and target-hardening which increase the risk and effort for committing crime, property identification, security lighting, intrusion alarms, Neighborhood Watch, citizen patrols, protection personnel, and efforts on the part of victims to change their lifestyles. A major criticism of secondary prevention is that it doesn't really reduce crime, but displaces it to other areas. Criminological theories that have been developed in this area include routine activities theory, lifestyles theory (Jensen & Brownfield 1986), and rational choice theory (Cornish & Clarke 1986). Lifestyles theory posits that individuals



who lead deviant lifestyles, such as abuse of drugs or alcohol, spending time on the street, or association with deviant peers, are themselves more likely to be at high risk of victimization. Rational choice theory emphasizes the calculated decision-making that offenders engage in while determining the payoff and risks for certain crimes. Additional reward-risk models can be found in the criminological literature for specific offense categories.

4. Tertiary Crime Prevention Programmes

Tertiary crime prevention deals with actual offenders and involves intervention in their lives in such a fashion that they will not commit further offenses (Brantingham & Faust, A Conceptual Model of Crime Prevention, 1976). Tertiary prevention is used after a crime has occurred in order to prevent successive incidents. Such measures can be seen in the implementation of new security policies following acts of terrorism, most notably the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Tertiary prevention is a term taken from the field of medicine to describe procedures to be taken after a disease or threat is manifest. Such procedures typically serve a deterrence or minimization of harm purpose, and are almost always characterized by being reactive, or after the fact. Examples would include personal injury or property insurance as well as self-protective measures engaged in by those who have been victimized previously. Carrying a non-concealed self-protective device or walking in a self-confident manner accomplishes the purpose of deterrence. Carrying a concealed device or whistle to blow for help accomplishes the purpose of minimization, or at least the chance for an unsuccessful criminal outcome. In some cases, a victim's device may be turned against him or her and result in greater harm, but these cases are probably few in number since it is known that less than 5 percent of homicides involve the killer using the victim's gun (Kleck 1998). Tertiary prevention is often symbolic, as with get-tough legislation and other legal reforms which make the punishment for crime more certain, severe, and swift.



5. Conclusion

Proactive and effective crime prevention is possible only if it based on using appropriate knowledge and information to promote good understanding about the current crime situation, the underlying causes of crime and potential preventive strategies. The conventional crime prevention programs follow the PST (Primary-Secondary-Tertiary) model that is an analogy of the public health model. The public health model distinguishes three levels of prevention: primary (or universal) prevention; secondary (or selected) prevention and tertiary (or indicated prevention). The model focuses on reducing the risk of and increasing resiliency against problem behaviour. It offers a practical, scientifically based procedure to promote and maintain pro-social behaviour. Primary prevention encompasses activities targeted at whole populations through reducing opportunities for crime. They are done in any context or location, altering the environment in such a way that the root causes, or facilitators of crime are eliminated. Programs under CPTED, routine activities, defensible space, broken windows fall under the primary prevention category. Secondary crime prevention engages in identification of and interventions aimed at potential offenders. Situational crime prevention, Neighbourhood Watch, citizen patrols, protection personnel, rational choice are some secondary crime prevention programs. Tertiary crime prevention aims to deter offenders from committing future crimes. Punishment, tougher legislations, legal reforms are some tertiary crime prevention mechanisms.

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