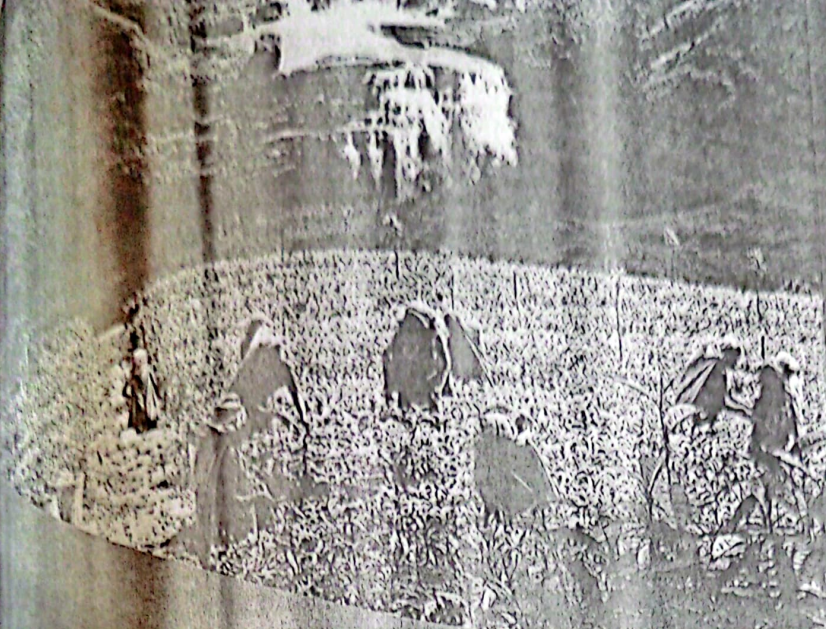


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Geography in Development

Issues and Perspectives

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CHAPTER 24

CONTEMPORARY PERCEPTION OF CRIME IN A GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE

Y. A. Ahmed and A. A. Salami

Introduction

The word 'crime' originated from the word; 'Crimean' which means 'charge' or 'offence'. Crime is a social fact. The Waverly Encyclopedia defines crime as "An act forbidden by law and for performing which the perpetrator is liable to punishment". Crime and its effects are significant aspects of daily life. It has been studied overtime by different geographers who have examined the interactions between crime, space, and society. The incidence of crime shows strong spatial variations, and, perhaps unsurprisingly, work by geographers was initially concerned with mapping and explaining patterns of crime (Fyfe, 2000), especially in urban centres of the Western world. The distribution of crime has been explained with reference to theories of human ecology, the built environment, housing markets, forms of urban management, and policing. As the mapping of crime remains important, especially with the growing sophistication of Geographic Information Science (GIS), the sub-discipline thrived by encompassing a wider range of theoretical and empirical concerns. Critical theories have been used to question the nature of crime and the extent to which it reflects wider inequalities in society.

Also, feminist geographers have examined crimes against women, the ways in which it contributes to their exclusion from society, as well as drawing attention to the often hidden crimes committed in private and domestic spaces (Valentine, 1989). Others scholars have also examined how crime is policed and how policing contributes to the fragmentation and reshaping of public space, often with exclusionary results. Related to this, some crimes have also been considered a form of resistance and examined in the context of wider social and political changes. Research into the geography of crime occupies its own niche; few geographers, for example, would describe themselves as "crime" geographers and may instead identify with the broader strands, such as urban, social or feminist geographer. Criminology, sociology and spatial statistics overlap with the geography of crime and these disciplines have been informed by geographical study. Research into the geography of crime remains diverse and vibrant, cutting across many areas of social and cultural geography as well as drawing on and contributing to debates in criminology and other related disciplines (Herbert, 1989).

This chapter reviews the contemporary perception of crime with wider views as it encompasses and reflects how older views support the contemporary perception of crime in geographical space. The 1980s and early 1990s were significant periods in the study of geography of crime. Several important publications emerged which include: *The Geography of Crime* (Evans & Herbert, 1989); *The Geography of Urban Crime* (Herbert, 1982), and *Crime, Policing and Place* (Evans & Fletcher, 2000). These publications set the path for researches into the geography of crime. Perhaps and surprisingly, only very few books have been published in recent time that provide a general impression on geographies of crime. Although research monographs have focused on particular aspects of the sub-disciplines. In fact, there are few recent journal articles that deal specifically with the subject matter. This may reflect the fact that research in geographies of crime has rarely occupied the annals of geographical research, thus, the need for this review. A contemporary work providing an overview of the geography of crime is long overdue and this prompted the need for a timely addition to any bibliography on this subject matter.

Wherever the word 'crime' is mentioned, every individual

is disconcerted. Crime is no doubt a huge threat to public safety. It induces great personal suffering, vast materials lost, and causes enormous burdens on urban physical, social and economic life. Vanderschueren (1996) observed that, crime has increased around the world at a rate which has tremendously exceeded that of urbanization. He emphasized that, in every five years, ten percent of city dwellers have been victims of one form of crime or the other, and over half of these crimes have involved property. Violent crimes like murder, assault, indecent rape, manslaughter, child-stealing, women trafficking among others, constitute another 25 to 30 per cent of urban crime.

Concepts of crime have traditionally relied on some cultural or jurisdictional context for their relevance and impact (Findlay, 2000). The statement put forward by Bartol (1980) conjures up that crime reflects its dual dimension. He sees crime as: any violation of law, either divine or human; an omission of a duty commanded, or the commission of an act forbidden by law or gross violation of human law, in distinction from a misdemeanour or trespass, or other slight offence. Hence, any aggravated offence against morality or the public welfare; any outrage or great wrong or any great wickedness or sin and iniquity constitutes crime. When a person commits a crime, such person is subjected to a fine and/or being jailed or both. A crime, which is subjected to a fine only, is generally considered as a misdemeanour. As acts can be punishable, it therefore follows that crimes are '*mala in se*,' (bad in themselves), and these include all offences against the moral law; or they are '*mala prohibita*,' (bad because prohibited), as being against sound policy, which, unless prohibited, would be innocent or indifferent. Zvekic (1990) refers to crime as a moral or religious code, or as a way of formulating an intellectual or cultural frame of reference for human behaviour. This definition of crime is weigh-up as logical because it cuts across almost all human-angles.

The incident of crime within the geographical space has attracted the attention of a number of scholars who have attempted to shed light on it in recent time. While some have focussed on the causes of crime, others have concentrated on the crime locational distribution and dimensions or methods of attacks (Mukoro, 1991; Ahmed, 2010).

In developing nations of Africa, especially in Nigeria, the concept of crime has not been a subject of investigation as in other developed countries of the world. This suggested that both the geographical and legal approaches to criminal law lack sufficient conceptual framework similar to developed world such as in German, Sweden, Norway, America, Britain, Japan, China, and Arab nations among others (Jacobsen, 2010). This current review would not only add to the geographical perception of crime in the contemporary world, but also serve as additional measures that will obviously reflect the perception and ideas of a complete crime policy and control.

Conceptualization Issues on Crime Crime In Geographical Space

Crime is a broad and pluralistic term used to define specific acts and behaviours that our society has legislatively prohibited. The spectrum of prohibited activities ranges from stealing of property to the harming of another person. According to Schaefer (1989) crime is a violation of criminal law which formal penalties are applied by some governmental authority. In geographical perspectives of crime, and according to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICJR) (1996), crime can be defined from a strictly legal point of view, as the commission of any act prohibited by criminal law, or the commission done by any person who commits a crime.

According to Rengert (1980), 'there is considerable literature on the causes of crime most of which focus on economic, societal and/or pathological factors. Most of them proposed related hypotheses for their works. Their hypotheses aimed at explaining crime which include, "differential association", and "social alienation", to mention but a few (Schmid, 1960).

The ecological approach to the study of crime indicated that crime co-varies with social statistics. With this approach, it signifies that, higher rates of crimes are known to prevail in lower-class residential areas in the neighbourhood. Also, crimes are associated with commercial areas and areas of relatively higher rates of unemployment or areas where people of lower

income inhabit (Dunn, 1980). It is essential to note that the interest of geographers in crime issues is centred on the fact that crime is committed in 'Geographic Space' with locational dimension and they occur in patterns. For further perception of crime in a Geographical Space, the concepts of desire, opportunity, availability and prevention of crimes are essential, and are discussed below.

Concepts of Desire, Opportunity and Availability/ Prevention

Desire to Commit Crime

Crime is an individual or group activity. People who engage in crime commitments are moved by social, psychological, political, economic and environmental conditions around them. The desire to engage in criminal activities is controlled by such conditions, and a potential criminal goes with such "desire" to commit criminal act. For example, in order to get rich/wealth quick; or become unnecessarily popular within the society, they go extra mile in illicit acts.

Opportunity to Commit Crime

This refers to the availability of situation in which crime is likely hatched and discharged in crime planning area (s). It is also a conducive environment or the extent to which valuable objects clearly represent an attractive target for potential criminals are openly displayed without any security attached. This stands as opportunity for criminals to attack their victims or commit crime.

Availability of Space to Commit Crime and Prevention

This refers to the extent to which a potential criminal in an area (environment- conducive or not conducive) is given an opportunity to commit crime when he/she comes in contact with an attractive target.

Generally, for the crime to occur it must be in a geographical environment. Therefore, the desire to commit crime and the opportunity to complete criminal act must be present

simultaneously. If the opportunity exists, but desire does not, or if desire is present, but the environment does not allow – no opportunity- a crime cannot occur. Eliminate either or both of the components of crime, and then crime is prevented. Elimination of desire and opportunity is as a result of elimination of factors that generated desire in the first place.

Handling Intractable Crime

The Social Scientists like; Sociologists, Psychologists, Geographers, and other Security agencies, all use different approaches and techniques in handling of crimes. In the opinions of Brantingham & Faust (1976), crime is well prevented when there is modification of criminogenic conditions in the physical environment. It reduces criminal opportunity and lead to peacekeeping actions at crime location in neighborhood. Such programmes are adopted and commonly being carried out in some cities of the world. The programmes offer a combat ready approach against criminogenic environment and the criminals. The prevention measures against the commitment of crime and reduction of high crime rates in the third world nations should not be directed against the potential criminal and recidivist. It should rather be directed towards eliminating the factors that could force potential criminals to commit crime. This will obstruct any existing opportunity that would create contact between the potential criminal and the victims. Thus, intractable crimes are prevented through tactical handling of crime and this is discussed under different theories of crime.

Theories of crime such as System Analysis of Crime propounded by O'Neil (1976) and reproduced by McCarthy (1984) and others like Biological; Modernization and Dependency theories are discussed below:

- (i) **System Analysis of Crime (CAC):** O'Neil (1976) described system analysis as a legal/constitutional provision for handling criminal cases in a regional setting. He considers that in any geographical area, no crime is committed in a vacuum and that both internal and external factors play key role in commitment of crime in an area. The major concept

in system analysis is its interdependence, because each component or sub-system influences other components and affects the functioning of the entire system. A change in one component results to change in other components. McCarthy (1984) adopted system analysis propounded by O'Neil (1976) to illustrate an open system in a model he refers to as "Criminal Justice System -CJS" (figure 1). This model displays how outside influences affect criminality. For instance, the police, courts, institutional corrections, planners and community-based programmes are interdependent. All of them are influenced by the nature of crime and criminals; each organization influences the functioning of the others. To illustrate the interdependence of criminal justice agencies for clarity, supposed there are significant increase in the number of arrests made by police in a geographical criminogenic area. This action could generate any of the following results: -

- i. (a) Jail overcrowding
- (b) Increase in use of pre-trial release programmes.
- (c) Relaxation bail requirements.
- ii. (a) Increase in number of prosecutions.
- (b) Increase in court backlog and delay.
- (c) Increase in use of plea-bargaining to reduce the number of trials.
- iii (a) Increase in number of persons sentenced to prison.
- (b) Prison-overcrowding.
- (c) Relaxation of Parole requirements and increase in number of early releases from prison granted.
- (d) Backup of State prisoners in local jails (when state prisons are under court order restricting overcrowding).
- (e) Increase in use of probation.
- (f) Less supervision of probationers as size of caseloads swells.

Katz & Kahn (1966) described an open-system model as the processes of experimental in an areal dimension, communication and environmental influences, attitude change, and ecological transformation within a geographical area. It is a model, which incorporates these processes into a system from one geographical area into another in order to produce a good result.

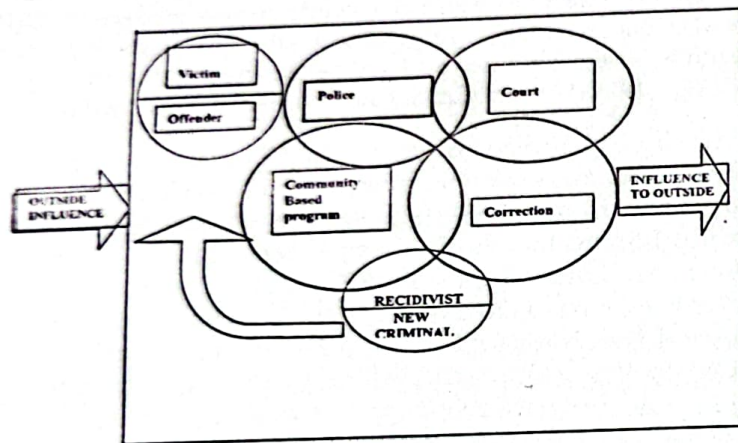


Figure1: A Model of the Criminal Justices in Open System.
Source: Adapted from McCarthy, 1984.

- (ii) **Biological Theories:** Different theories are put forward by scholars to what determines the cause of crime locally, nationally and internationally in the developed and developing worlds. These theories as related to human behaviour were understood - or more correctly, misunderstood - during the nineteenth and twentieth century's as an expression of biological instincts. Understandably, then, early interest in criminality emphasized biological causes. For instance, in 1876, Lombroso (1835-1909), an Italian physician who worked in prisons, suggested that, criminals had distinctive physical features- low foreheads, prominent jaws and cheekbones, protruding ears, hairiness, and usually long arms that made them resemble ape-like ancestors. Lombroso viewed

However, towards the end of his career, he acknowledged the importance of social forces in criminality. But his early postulation that some people were literally "born criminals" gain currency among powerful people who dismissed the idea that, failings in social arrangements might account, in part, for criminal deviance (Jones, 1986).

Although, popular for a time, Lombroso's research was flawed. He failed to realize that physical features he noted among prisoners appeared to the same degree in the population as a whole. 'Sheldon (1949) suggested that, types of body structure found in persons, such as Ectomorphs - who are tall, thin and fragile; Endomorphs, who are short and fat, and Mesomorphs muscular and athletic, can all be related to biological explanations of criminality. After Sheldon analyzed the body structure and criminal history of hundreds of young men, he found criminality to be more common among men with the mesomorphic body type.

Sheldon and Glueck (1950:1962) agreed with Sheldon. They however, cautioned that a powerful build is not necessarily a cause of criminality. In their opinion, mesomorphic men were somewhat less likely to be raised with affection and understanding from family members; consequently, they showed less sensitivity toward others and tended to react aggressively to frustration. Young and muscular men also have the physical capacity to become the "bullies on the block" (Gibbons, 1981). Moreover, expecting muscular and athletic boys to be more physically aggressive than others, people may treat them accordingly, thereby provoking aggressive behaviour in a self-fulfilling prophecy. Since the 1960s, and more recently, increasing knowledge of genetics has rekindled interest in the issues of biological origins of criminality. Some investigators have focused on unusual genetic patterns that may engender criminality in some people (Vold & Bernard, 1986). They observed that chromosomes determine the sex of human beings: female have two X chromosomes (ie XX) and male has one X and one Y chromosomes (ie XY). Perhaps, once in a thousand cases, a genetic mutation yields a male with an extra Y chromosome, an XYY pattern. Such individuals (men), seem more likely

than others to end up in prison or mental institutions. Initially, researchers thought the XYY pattern triggered criminal violence, but it appears now through evidence that such men are only taller and perhaps less intelligent than average. Probably whatever greater criminal occurs among XYY, man is the result of a tendency by others to define them as threatening and less capable, which is a social-barrier to acceptance and a good job (Hook, 1973). Therefore, although there is much to be learned about how human biology may affect behaviour, research currently places far greater emphasis on social and environmental influences than on human behaviour or other influences (Liska, 1991).

- (iii) **Modernization Theory:** - This theory analyses the effect of structural changes in society. Scholars using this approach assume that the growth of industry and cities results in social disruption that produces alienation and ultimately crime (Shelley, 1981). This theory is based on a synthesis of many national and comparative studies that have focused on crime patterns in developed and developing capitalist and socialist countries. The notion was that social, cultural, environment and economic development inevitably cause increase in criminal behaviour - was used to analyze crime patterns in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries, and is now being applied to developing countries in the 20th and 21st centuries. Shelley (1990) also focused on crime in developing countries, to see if it is replicating changes in rates and forms of criminality that occurred long ago in Europe. Having examined types of crime and indices of modernization (cars, communication methods etc). The study concluded that crime rates in African countries (including Nigeria) are considerably lower than in developed countries, but are approaching those of the more impersonal, industrialized societies as modernization proceeds - with rate rising rapidly for drug offences and crimes against property, especially those involving violence.

Such findings were supported by Clinard & Abbot (1993) who suggested that economic inequality leads to an increase in homicide. It asserted that a good measure of the effective development of a country probably is its rising crime rate. Other

authors challenged the notion that development brings crime (Adeyemi, 1992). He examined the relationship and argued that social and economic "development per se is non criminogenic" - though crime in Nigeria can be attributed to cultural conflict and social disorganization. In a critical analysis of crime and modernization theory, Arthur (1991) used Interpol data on three categories of crime in eleven African countries, including Nigeria along with development indicators ranging from poor industrial base, poor infrastructural facilities and amenities, unemployment ratio to per capita income which are the basic attributes of crime commitment in cities and urban centres. He also noted that, in 1990's, homicide and major property crimes decreased, while minor property crimes increased along with economic development - and he found no conclusive empirical evidence that development brought higher crime rates in the countries studied. Critics of crime and modernization theory argue that other social, economic, political and environmental conditions may explain further about the evolution of criminality, "...the theory ignores, for example, political instability, environmental changes - rapid urbanization, and changes in law, justice, like in Nigeria-the introduction of Sharia -Law, Social structure, and family in Africa and Latin America..." and that it fails to account for corruption, torture and crimes committed by the state (Arthur, 1991).

- (iv) **Dependency Theory of Crime:** This theory suggests that poverty, structural inequalities, and unbalanced distribution of wealth and resources are the roots of crime in the developing world (Summer, 1982; Oyeboji, 1982; Adedayo, 1988). Crime can also be induced as a result of colonial and neo-colonial inequalities of power distribution. Colonialists disrupted the traditional social structure by replacing it with foreign institutions. Colonization weakened the extended family as agent that controls and instigates socialization. Criminality is thus, the result of an imposed order of law, Western institutions, and modes of production completely alien to the developing world. Inequalities of power lead to criminality, and its institutions really matter for understanding of crime in developing world (Summer, 1982).

(v) **Holistic Theory of Crime in Retrospective:** Sometimes, many speculations are put up as to what concerned geographers on crime discussions, and when they became crime-busters. But their holistic attempts to handling of crime cannot be dislodged because geographers compartmentalize the study of one or more societies apparent problems into the bounds of a conventional discipline. The aim to recognize in this direction is not only to acknowledge geographical perception on crime commitment, but also to explore the practices and frameworks developed by them over the past few decades which can as well add a dimension, hitherto largely neglected, in the broad field of criminology. However, "these geographical prospectors have no special claims in relation to problem-solving but rather offered a limited and partial role which must be ultimately fused with other disciplines in the attempt to understand the phenomena on crime (Ahmed, 2012 as quoted Herbert, 1980).

There are various theories that have been put-forward in literature as frameworks in the study of crime. However, a geographical approach to crime issues is presented in order to compliment other views that have been earlier discussed by scholars. This prospect affords space a central position and recognized the roles of more conventional analysis in understanding the framework that analyses crime in geographical perception. These are referred to in three Levels or Consumptions Model (figure 2). The model relates space to what are essentially production and fundamentally the distribution functions in Levels 1 (Production) and 2 (Distribution), both suggest that; it is from the 'roots' of ideologies and allocative-systems that any manifestation in space originates.

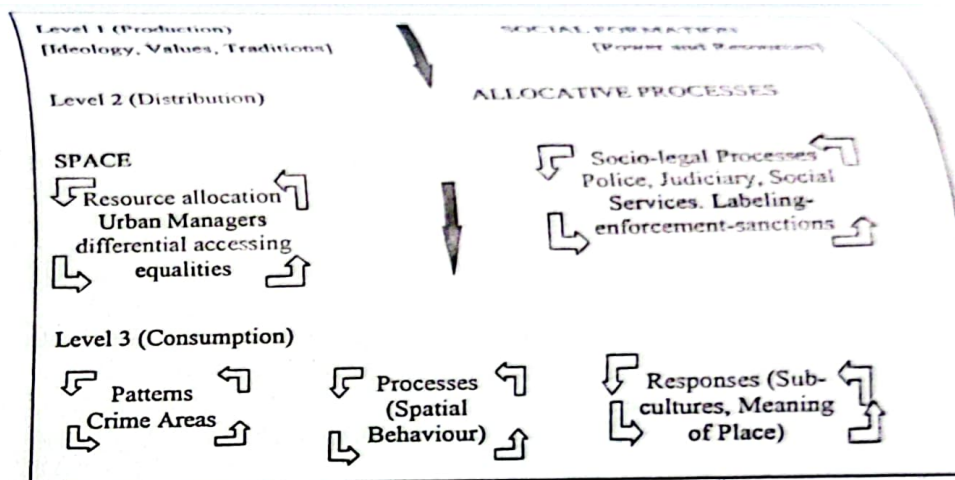


Figure 2: A Conceptual Framework for Geography of Crime.
Source: McCarty, 1984.

Crime may not occur where there is no demand (Production level) and where there is no area of supply (Distribution level). This is one of the major reasons why the geographical concept has been contented in the third level of the analysis (Consumption level), where all patterns, processes and responses to criminal activities are processed and carried in to "Space." Thus, geography of crime developed, and as it has been contented almost exclusively in the third level of analysis above. Regional or urban patterns have been identified, the broad spatial ecology of offences and offenders has been displayed through detailed correlative exercises, and some of the humanistic qualities of local places have been studied. We can infer therefore that, as the geography of crime develops, it can have no separate existence either from criminology or from other social sciences (Harries, 1974; 1980). It looks to the former to evolving theoretical bases and conceptual positions, and for much of its crime-specific research literature. It looks at the latter for basic methodologies

to which it can relate. Therefore, geography of crime will retain a strong descriptive role, which shows patterns in space, and here there is room to revise and improve ways that the roles of space and place have been incorporated into criminological research.

Major Causes of Crime in any Geographic Space

Geographical Factor:

This reflects those factors which are linked with physical environment. In other words, it is the settings that govern the form of society. In the evolution of society, the geographical components (factors) play a significant role. This has been accepted not only by the Social Scientists but equally by other scholars in other fields. For instance, Lombroso (1835-1909), an Italian origin, viewed criminals as evolutionary throwbacks, lower forms of life. Towards the end of his career, he prepared a calendar showing the occurrence of crimes in specific months of the year. According to him, child murders are proportionally more in the period from January to April. In July, murders and total attacks are found to increase. Human needs change according to the changes in seasons. Therefore, whenever there is any change in the geographical setting, there is also a change in society (Singh, 1964).

Child Employment and Crime:

The employment of children is looked upon as a cheaper labour, but it deprives the child the early tendency that necessary to socializing him/her and the affectionate groups of their own family group and the schooling. Such child employment denies him/her healthy growth in an environment congenial to it formation. The child may have to spend his childhood in contact with maladjustment and displeasure through hard work. The child is deprived of his rights to healthy growth and education. By curbing the child's physical growth and maintenance of good health and making him to work monotonously without proper education, definitely make the child desire less for progress. He becomes a misfit and oddity among bountiful, welfare and cares which other children enjoy (Bonger, 1981).

No one can deny the fact that the desire for too much money may result to crime being committed. According to Merton (1990), economic depressions along with poverty have tremendous influence in causation and commission of crime. The crime may be committed to achieve dishonest possession. In the process of acquisition, crime is the least thought off. If there is scope to make compensation to the aggrieved party while dealing with offender, the cases of dishonest acquisition may decrease to a great extent. However, economic depression may lead to criminality everywhere and the percentage is more if the persons involved are of infirm character or weak will power. Of course, poverty itself is not necessarily a crime causing factor but there are other factors that commute to criminality. Hundreds of poor persons are there in many lauds and they are not at all crime minded. On the other hand, there can be hundreds of wealthy persons who are acutely avaricious and therefore do not hesitate in indulging with criminal transactions where money is concerned. Among the educated white-collared people, there are offenders who have high positions and status in society and the multiple factor theory can apply to determine the true factors in the causation of crimes. As a side issue of unemployment, poverty plays a major role. Due to the negative way of life, they are discouraged and may take recourse to improper functioning leading to delinquency and criminal behaviour. In a capitalistic organization there can be crimes of property management and purchase. Unemployment and consequently distress doubtlessly put an individual under strain which is impossible for them to bear. Of course, some people are there who in their deepest distress do not commit crime and virtuous girls do not fall a prey to prostitution though they are under heavy strain. So in most cases, economic factors affect indirectly rather than directly. Need becomes a circumstance under which certain people respond by antisocial conduct and act (Buchanan, 2004).

Population and Crime:

The United Nations estimates that the population of the world is becoming double every thirty five years, adding million people every year. Unrestricted increase of industrial population

is leading the breakdown of the barriers of society. Hence the population explosion is a dilemma. We can compare the crime rate along with the growing population. Overcrowding definitely causes social, moral and mental problems. Modern scientific investigations have revealed how even rats and cats degenerate in a crowded living condition. Thus, the population increase and urbanization have together caused serious problems in establishing healthy urban units and there is now a challenge to healthy human existence because of prostitution, hurting rioting, thefts looting and banditry etc. (Raymond, 2002).

Sociological Factor:

Eduardo (2002) and Antoine (2004) also pointed out that the number of crimes increases or decreases depending upon how far a society or a community is organized or divided. In a social group where migration, cultural differences, changes in the population and political instability prevail; there, a conflict arises regarding the abatement of social rules.

Physiological Factor:

As a living being, man's physique, heredity and the functions of body glands are taken into consideration. In the opinion of Lombroso (a crime specialist), there is abnormality in the body and mind of a criminal right from his birth. Hence he becomes a criminal in his life. A man of oppressive and bad tempered mentality becomes a criminal. Broadly speaking, an individual inherits some of the organic properties from the parents. We call these as hereditary qualities. This inherited behavioral property is mainly responsible for the criminal attitude. Hereditary weakness and criminal tendency convert a man into a criminal. Hence, the consequent circumstances of hereditary qualities cause the future generations to be criminal minded continuously (Widom, 1992).

Other Causes of Crime

Social Causes: Social exclusion due to long periods of unemployment or marginalization, dropping out of school or illiteracy, and the lack of socialization within the family seem to be the most recurring factors amongst the social causes of

delinquency. Although, none of these factors on its own can be regarded as sufficient explanation. In many African cities, the lack of perspectives for the youth to ever enter the job market and to develop as meaningful members of society is a dominant character of urban society, particularly of poor neighborhoods (Findlay, 2000).

Institutional Causes: With admiration to institutional causes, it is necessary to mention the role of the judiciary system, of the prison and of the police in combating crime, particularly minor delinquency are always taking with parochial minded. Justice is slow, entrenched with corrupt practices and overloaded. Being an inherited system from colonial administrators, it is expensive and uses an outdated working methodology. Additionally, the traditional forms of justice though complementary, have not been sufficiently considered (Agnew, 1992).

Prisons Control: with the exception of some modern and experimental prisons constitute technical schools for the training and development of criminal networks. In Africa, many prisons are overcrowded and do not meet their objectives of rehabilitation of inmates, and have intolerable conditions (Agnew, 1992).

Police: In most developing nations, police are ill-equipped to deal with minor offences and in general concentrates its efforts on major crime. Relations with the population are most often characterized by mistrust and abuse and there is scarce accountability to the populations. Also some nations are under policed with an average of one policeman to 5,000 or more, compared the situation in developed nations of the world with one policeman to 400 persons. Where the above situation prevails, it may be difficult for handicap police force to combat intransigent criminals who are using modern sophisticated weapons to commit crime in the country (Ahmed, 2010).

Impacts of Crime on Communities/Societies

The numerous consequences of crime/violence include lost investment and city/urban decay, fear and insecurity and links between petty and organized crime, which constitute a fertile

territory for consolidation of deeply rooted crime cultures. Central Business Districts in major Africa cities like Lagos, Johannesburg, and Nairobi among others have experienced heavy economic loss due to insecurity in the past years. Major cities of the world constitute haven of insecurity systems, creating new regulatory problems and in some cases open conflict with state bodies in charge of security. The poor suffer most because of urban violence. Research has demonstrated that even in countries where the economic differences are most striking, the poor are more vulnerable than the rich. Not only do they have difficulties in protecting themselves from crime, since private security is unaffordable, but the impact of crime and violence on the poor is higher and more difficult to recover. Unprotected by insurance or by any other social security system, the poor permanently lose income and invested capital at the occurrence of theft or injury, increasing their overall vulnerability. Feelings of insecurity and fear among the poor limit their initiatives as well as their social cohesion, social interaction and access to services (Katz, 1988).

Mitigation Strategies and Control of Crime

Co-evolution of Criminal Strategies and Counterstrategies

A lot of strategies can be adopted to control and mitigate crimes trend, the measures can provoke counterstrategies (defensive responses) from victims and potential victims. In homes individuals can install alarm systems, avoid going out at night, or stay away from hot-spot locations and take proper control in displaying of criminogenic items. As information about crime spreads, others adopt similar counterstrategies. Eventually, community groups and government may respond with things such as neighborhood watch programs, and increased police surveillance on problem spots. Over time, criminal strategies and counterstrategies can co-evolve in response to one another for several reasons. Defensive counterstrategies encourage people seeking criminal opportunities to adapt by developing new strategies for crime or shifting to a different type of crime (Cohen & Machalek, 1988). More generally, higher crime rates often lead to more rigorous protective measures that initially may cause crime rates to decline. Similarly, lower crime rates may lead to

a relaxation of barriers to crime as individuals and communities channel limited resources to more pressing problems. Understanding the different ways that counterstrategies address the causes of crime is the key to making criminological research relevant to public policy.

Suggested Counter-strategic and Mitigation Options

In the past, most crime control proposals ignored the simple fact that criminality is strongly influenced by early life experiences due to the cumulative, sequential nature of development. Avoidance strategies attempt to reduce criminal opportunities by changing people's routine activities or by incapacitating convicted offenders through incarceration. Also they can increase guardianship through such things as target hardening, vigilant watch group, and increasing the numbers or effectiveness of police. Deterrence strategies attempt to diminish motivation for crime by increasing the perceived certainty, severity, or celerity of penalties. 'Non-punitive' deterrence approaches also advocate raising the costs of crime (Wilson & Herrnstein, 1985).

Sampson and Laub's (1993) rigorous reanalysis of data from the Glueck Archive indicate that the best way to encourage most adult offenders to desist from crime is to increase their "social capital" by improving employment opportunities and family ties. Improving child nurturance may be the most effective defense against crime. Nurturing strategies such as educational, health care, and child care programs that address the roots of criminality early in the life course seldom have been employed for crime control. This paradigm suggests that it should be possible to reduce the concentration of criminality in a population by improving early life experiences and channeling child and adolescent development.

Other relevant mitigation options for a pertinent criminal investigation outcome, for proper control and management of crimes, the following criteria need be embraced:

- i **Socio-economic Victimological Criterion-** This relates to when crimes are committed with the use of sophisticated methods and harmful consequences are melted on a large segment of society.

The type of crimes that corresponds to the above criterion include; Organized crime at national and international level such as advanced fraud-419 syndrome, White collar crimes (forgery, corruption) and crime against labour safety and environment (pollution of air, water and land). The burdens result from the costs it accrues on the victims must be given most privileged attentions by security agencies.

ii **Degree of Gravity of Crime and Accepted System of Values-** This criterion in each particular case is specifically attached to specific values by the offenders. Crime against property is a typical example and is one of the most dangerous economic crimes. Thus, this category of crime should by no means be underestimated. This criterion is taken into account by the Panel Code, the Criminal Justice System and the Public Opinions as well as the Statistical Records.

iii **Quantitative and Dynamic Criterion-** In accordance with this method, primary attention must be given to these kinds of crime prevention measure when put into use. This approach is relatively simple to apply, since it is based on rising rates of crime, but at the same time there is availability of statistical data on such crimes. Therefore, this criterion implies a dynamic approach to the problem of priorities, and such a methodological approach could be acceptable from the dialectical viewpoint. Theft, larceny, embezzlement among others is typical examples under this criterion.

iv **Psychological Criterion-** This is related to the scope and intensity of the public opinions to criminal phenomena in any geographical entity. It is sure that certain kinds of crimes evoke fear on the general public. Fear makes dangerous things seem greater than it real. Most people find the idea of being injured through violent crime more frightening than that of being hurt in a traffic accident- such as street crimes, armed robbery and so forth. Thus, this criterion pertaining not to reality but to the perception of crime in the mind of the public cannot, however, be

neglected. Thus, it is the duty of the government, the security agencies and the society to protect that freedom.

Futurological Criterion- Wilson & Grammenos (2000), suggested by this principle that, the most careful awareness in the development of crime prevention and control approaches are to giving precedence attentions. Trends, patterns and tendencies of crime are dynamic and oriented towards the future, which must always be a major concern to everybody. This aside, the problem of forecasting crime cannot be resolved by focusing exclusively on crime. But, foreseeing crime trend is contingent on the forecasting of criminogenic factors such as; urbanization, migration, industrialization, technological advancement and the like. If we must forecast future crime trends or patterns, we need to monitor and observe the rapid changes in different walks of individual and social life.

Conclusion

This chapter has revealed some views about different criminal activities in terms of causes and consequences worldwide. It demonstrated the effect of the social structure on human beings which is central to social analysis. The reaction of human beings for survival within the social structure has constituted a corpus of knowledge relevant to an analysis of youths in different urban violence. Crime and its effects are significant aspects of daily life and it has been studied overtime, but geographers examined the interactions between crime, space, and society. This equally shows the sub-discipline thrived by encircling a wider range of theoretical and empirical concerns. Critical theories have been used to question the nature of crime and the extent to which it reflects wider inequalities in all societies, as no society is totally free from crime. For a proper mitigation against all forms of crime and its ramification, this review opines a fundamental restructuring of the society towards productive substructure. If this is emphasized by all our educational institutions, others will inculcate such values where government and the general public perform their tasks aptly.

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