

# Criminology



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CRIMINOLOGY Criminology & Criminal Justice Criminal justice is a system of applications practiced by the local or national government in order to execute laws sanctioned by the society. It functions to guard people from common crimes like murder, rape, theft, onslaught, and others; and charges criminals according to the law for these disgraceful deeds. On the other hand, Criminology is the scientific study of Criminal justice as well as crime, criminals, and criminal behavior; their main task being, research on why people turn to crime such as biological, psychological and sociological factors.

Thus, it is clear that both of them are actually related to each other and that Criminology forms the basis of formation of the Criminal justice system, while its future development also depends on further case studies. As Criminology feeds information into the Criminal justice system, it develops the appropriate defensive techniques, just like the human body does, in response to a vaccine. This is why one is useless without existence of the other.

### Criminology & Deviance

Deviance is behavior that is quite different from the social norms, and morally unacceptable in the society. They can be of varying extents in different societies due to cultural variations among them. Urinating in public, and rape are common deviation examples of small & large scale, respectively. Meanwhile, Criminology is the science of studying and recognizing reasons behind these deviations found in some people of a society, which it feeds to the Criminal justice system to help right them and build a more socially acceptable society.

### Theories of Crime

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Consensus view: suggests that crime is behavior prohibited in a society as it contradicts laws sanctioned by the majority, and may be damaging to the society.

Conflict view: suggests that influential people use their strength to sanction their own laws so that their own interests are benefited.

Interactionist view: suggests that a person's insight of an experience is largely affected by his deduction of another person's response to the same event.

#### Comparison of the Three Theories

While the Consensus view relies on consent of the majority of a society, Conflict view is a one-man show, the exact opposite of Consensus. On the other hand, the Interactionist view can be calibrated between these two, as it depends on an individual's own judgment of an event.

It is possible that every member does not agree with the majority, but does have to follow them, as they are the lawmaking body and a strong bond of the society. Even if every society does have a Consensus view, it may not necessarily be morally acceptable to other societies. This may be due to cultural differences among them; for example, nudist colonies are despised by almost all societies although some may find it kinky. Meanwhile, in the Conflict view, economically powerful personalities bend the law to their own benefit whether it is accepted by the majority, or harmful to them. It may be for protection as they may themselves be involved in organizational crimes such as smuggling. And the Interactionist view can be regarded as a psychological view of crime, as it designates a person's action to be a crime, depending on his intentions. For example, murder in self-defense is not a crime, in most societies. The designation is not a matter of general

agreement, but the word of influential people who can impress their 'preferred definition' on the society.