

Profiling 4

Law



Profiling Discuss Victimology and how technology changes over the past 20 years have created circumstances that can increase a person's chance of being victimized.

Introduction

Victimology is defined as the study of victims i. e. understanding and analyzing people who have suffered criminal victimization. It typically deals with the changing psychological and behavioral characteristics of an individual who has undergone severe criminal attack which has resulted in harm or injury (Turvey, 2011). Technological changes over the decades have actually brought significant benefits to humans while on the other hand they have immensely increased the chances of victimization. This paper aims to discuss victimology in relation to the technology changes observed over the decades.

Discussion

Technology which causes victimization includes cyber net, cell phones, ATM machines, electronic data transfer etc. However, in the contemporary world the most intense victimization is seen over the internet. Within the last few years internet identity crime has gained enough recognition throughout the world (Gray, 2010). This is based upon an individual's personal identity numbers, bank accounts, school information or any other security code which is unique to every person around the globe. Online criminals hack or steal this information and then they use it for causing financial, physical or moral damage to the victim. Victimization is now increasing with a stimulating rate as compared to the past. Moreover, the lack of awareness regarding internet identity crime has also facilitated it to a greater extent (Gray, 2010).

People suffering from victimization are usually reluctant to contact law enforcement agencies because of embarrassment or due to the chances of further victimization by the offender. It is significantly easier for any cybercriminal to harass an individual by staying at a distance. This increases the complexity of the situation for law enforcing agencies since they fail to trace the offenders. Online criminals do not only harm individuals rather they possess the ability of destroying large corporations, for instance, by simply causing them financial loss or interrupting the bank transactions (Gray, 2010).

Victims of online crime belong to a relatively narrowed group of people who are largely neglected by the judiciary system. Victimology was only recognized in the middle 20th century, before that, criminals were the major focus of the law enforcement agencies. There are primarily three factors which initiates victimization in this era of technological advancement. These include the environmental affects, characteristics of the offender and most importantly the precipitation of the victim. Environment and distinguishing characteristics of an offender are easy to understand since they revolve around the criminal and law enforcement agencies. However, victim precipitation deals with the unique personality of the injured person. Research indicates that victimization is not only carried by the offenders, rather victims also equal participants in the crime through their involvement in dangerous situations. For instance, sharing personal information on public websites can cause serious damage which should be avoided. These victims usually undergo severe depression, psychological issues and financial crises (Gray, 2010).

Conclusion

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Technological changes are unprecedented to the advancement in science which has further encouraged the online offenders. However, much awareness is required in terms of sharing information online so as to reduce the massive victimization taking place over the internet.

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