

# The Sociology of Crime and Deviant Behaviour: Emerging Issues in Criminal Jurisprudence

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**Abstract:** *The sociology of crime presents not one but many theoretical perspectives. These will be examined in relation to the contemporary trends of crime in our society bearing in mind of the repeated caution that 'the direct transference of many criminological theories developed in the industrial nations may well be totally inappropriate in a developing country.'*

*It is in the nature of man to strive for advancement. Were it not so, he would stagnate, decay and perish. Aspirations which make man unique tend to proliferate in gradually ascending levels with increasing impact of knowledge.*

*According to Emile Durkheim, crime was a fact of life. He argued: 'A society without criminality would necessitate a standardization of the moral conceptions of all the individuals which is neither possible nor desirable. On the other hand, if there were no system of moral repression, a system of moral heterogeneity would exist which is irreconcilable with the very existence of society.' If crime is inevitable, what then is the rationale of punishment? Punishment is also a social necessity because it is the only instrument which strengthens the value system and supports the structural stability when aspirations are pitched too high and associated with industrial societies which are in a chronic state of 'anomie'. His thesis was that if men are driven by unattainable goals, the resulting sense of frustration leads to adoption of 'illegitimate' avenues of achieving them.*

*Although, in the existing class structure, the lower classes are numerically very large and consequently the bulk of traditional crime is traced to them, the extensive manifestations of white collar crime and power crimes by the numerically smaller but comparatively favored section preclude generalization, the only difference being in relation to the choice of the type of 'legitimate avenues'.*

*The Dalits who occupy the lowest rung of the caste ladder and other economically deprived section of the society grouped generically under 'weaker' sections have been the victims of age-old socially tyranny and economic exploitation. The 'atrocities' on Dalits are typical manifestations of social disorganization. It is the overwhelming sense of social injustice which weakens legitimacy of a social order or the institutions created by it. When the feeling is widespread, it leads to revolt. On a lower scale it is diffused as traditional criminality.*

*The author through this article traces the concept of sociology of crime and its perspective in Indian context..*

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