PREFACE

Crimeless society is a myth. Today crime is viewed as a socio-pathogenic phenomenon and by motivational inputs and proper training the behaviour of the criminals can be transformed. However, one of the treatments is to punish the criminal followed by a series of treatment for reformation while kept in seclusion. Criminal and the manner in which a person deeply involved in crime activities needs to be treated to bring him back to the normal life as a law-abiding citizen. One can think of minimizing the quantum of crime through certain preventive measures. To generate a sustainable relatively crime free society, it is necessary to deal with the ecological background of the criminals and understand their socio-economic background and also the other correlates, so that, through the administration of the prevalence of penal system the rate of crime can be minimized and criminals can be directed towards assuming features of productive human resources and get integrated into the society as the normal citizens. Over the past decades the approaches; the role of honorable courts; the attitude of the concerned prison authorities; perspective of the enlightened lawyers; the style of adjudication of the intellectual jury; investigative police personnel and the analytical mind of criminologist with regard to the increasing complexity of crime causation have under gone a sea change. None of those concerned have ever disagreed to the statement that the criminals are the product of social processes whose roots are many. From the research perspective of criminological science, the ways of thinking, acting and the values, and the know-how of all kinds of human community, including the prison inmates have been regarded as key factors in preparing and implementing developmental strategies. The objective here is to eliminate the social evils and direct criminals towards humanitarian goals and reformatory objectives. Crime is essentially an unacceptable human behaviour. In contemporary society crimes are of different varieties. This thesis raises a vital question on causation of crime from human ecological perspective. The questions are ‘why some individuals commit a great deal more crime than others’? Although Cohen
and Machalek (1988) have stressed that, can 'normal' individuals perform 'normal' behavior in unexpected social systems, one may raise such question on source of differential commission of crime. A few administrators–cum–academicians have expressed their concern over the deteriorating trend in the process of social change. From their personal experience and knowledge the events they come in contact with make them lament. A few of them have put down criminal activities to social deformities and maladjusted environment.

In social science it is well known that expressions of emotional states are culturally patterned. Among the Indians the common belief is that every one should control his / her anger and those who do not control their anger are not regulating themselves with regard to crucial issues and thus commit crimes. Such persons are not fully ‘normal’ members of the society. My own interest in this area of research has been triggered initially by a few Supreme court cases that have appeared at times in the last two decades. I felt that the court has a distinctive duty to reform prison practices (prisons, prison staffs and prisoners) and inject constitutional consciousness into the system. I felt it was better to look upon offenders as subject of circumstances. I was thinking of myself, as how much I know of my constitution and myself. Then, I thought of initiating a legal literacy campaign for the defenseless poor and downtrodden who can have some awareness of their rights and responsibilities. I felt that making people know only their rights is dangerous if they are not equally socialized on responsibilities. Thus, an innocent rural victim’s response to my questions jerked my work. Of many socio-economic factors, only a few have been incorporated in this study in order to understand the contribution the factors responsible for crime. A few psychological tools were used to find out the relation between the types of crime and the conditioning variables and the possible impact of reformative measures for the reintegration of the jail inmates. The administrative personnel of the jail were tested through psychological tools in order to have an assessment of their role in possible reformation of the prison inmates. In order to
rehabilitate the offenders the Jail authorities have taken steps, such that the offenders can use their acquired skill/knowledge for a dignified earning process and can be better integrated into the society after getting released from the jail. The induction of motivational inputs inside the prison from the inmates are supposed to socialize them for their better rehabilitation. The family members of the prisoners outside the prison keep on receiving the impulse of the prisoner’s status. Besides financial hardship, the members of the family suffer from deprivation in many socio-cultural frontiers. The researchers invariably overlook the social disabilities of the family due to prisoners.

The work has been arranged in ten chapters. The first chapter deals with the theoretical insights of the criminologist, criminal lawyers and few critical criminal events. The second deals with the methods adopted for the research, which include tools, techniques, and source of data and limitation of the study. The third chapter is all about the historical growth of the prison administration in the state. The fourth chapter critically views the Orissa Prison Manual. The details of the classification of prisons in Orissa are dealt with the fifth chapter. The overall scenario of crimes and criminals have been given in the sixth chapter. The sample studies on the socio-economic backgrounds of the criminals have been described in the seventh chapter. The census data of 1991 has been widely used as the details of the 2001 were not available. However, up-dated data available from different sources have also been used. Basing on the data the eighth chapter deals with the text note of the status of the family of the prisoners. The ninth chapter gives a short description of the involvement of the prisoners in various work/programmes and the attitude of the concerned authorities towards the prisoners followed by the conclusion and some recommendations.

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