THEORIES OF CRIME

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CHAPTER -2

THEORIES OF CRIME

Theories of crime are basically grouped into four categories. They are:-

1. Sociological theory of crime
2. Biological theory of crime
3. Psychological theory of crime
4. Socio Psychological theory of crime

1. Sociological theory of Crime: - Sociological theories explain crime as the result of social or cultural forces that are external to any specific individual, that exist prior to any criminal act, and that emerge from social class, political, ecological, or physical structures attaching large groups of people. Sociological theory can be sub-divided into two classes. They are: -

   (a) Structural theory

   (b) Sub-cultural theory

(a) Structural theory: - Structural theories emphasise that most people have similar interests but differ dramatically in opportunities to employ their talent in socially legitimate ways. Discrepancies between aspirations and means of attainment create strains on people that lead
them to crime. Thus disorganised social arrangements thwart legitimate attainments and result in illegal conduct.

(b) Sub-cultural theory: - According to sub-cultural theories, crime originates when various groups of people adhere to cultural values that are inconsistent with the dominant, general rules of society. On this view, Crime is the product of sub cultural deviation from the agreed-upon norms that underline the criminal law.

2. Biological theory of crime: - According to biological theory, the bio-physical factors like genetic influence, chromosomal abnormalities, bio-chemical irregularities etc. predispose certain people to crime.

3. Psychological theory of crime: - According to the psychological theory, crime results from personality attributes uniquely possessed, or possessed to a special degree, by the potential criminal. Thus crime is the result of an immature ego and super ego, which are too weak to control the sexual and aggressive instincts of the id.

4. Socio-Psychological theories: - Socio-Psychological theories are subdivided into two classes. They are:

   (a) Control theory
   
   (b) Social learning theory

(a) Control theory: - According to control theory people will behave antisocially unless they learn not to offend through a combination of inner controls and external constraints on their behavior.
(b) Social learning theory: - Social learning theory explains about the ways individuals acquire specific criminal behaviors though different forms of learning. According to Albert Bandura most human behavior is learning by observation through modeling. Observational learning depends on (a) attention to the important features of modeled behaviour (b) retention of these features in memory so that they guide later performance (c) reproduction of the observed behaviours and (d) reinforcement of attempted behaviours which determines to a great extent whether they will be performed again. The theory emphasises modeling of aggression in three social contexts. They are: -

(1) Familial influences

(2) Sub-cultural influence

(3) Symbolic models

(1) Familial influences: - Familial aggression can assume many forms, from child abuse at one extreme to aggressive parental attitudes and language at the other.

2. Sub-cultural influences: - The highest rates of aggressive behavior are found in environments when aggressive models abound and where aggressiveness is regarded as a highly valued attribute.

3. Symbolic models: - The major influence of symbolic models on aggression has been attributed to the mass media, particularly television. A large number of studies have investigated the effects of televised violence on viewers especially children. Social-learning theory stresses the importance of environmental cues that increase
antisocial behavior. "Social learning theory suggests an even more direct way to reduce aggression: limiting exposure to aggressive models. If television and other media could reduce the violent content of programming, it seems reasonable that aggression could be reduced."

**Kinds of aggression:** - Two entirely different kinds of aggression can be distinguished in human beings. They are:

1. Defensive aggression

2. Malignant aggression

**1. Defensive aggression:** - This type of aggression is that which he shares with all animals, and it is a phylogenetically programmed impulse to attack or to flee when vital interests are threatened. It is reactive and defensive. It aims at the removal of the threat, either by destroying, or by removing its source. This type of aggression is in the service of the survival of the individual and the species, is biologically adaptive, and ceases when the threat has ceased to exist. Thus defensive aggression is a part of human nature and is based on instinct and is rooted in man's physiological needs. Thus organic drives are behind defensive aggression. The aim of defensive aggression is not lust for destruction, but the preservation of life. Once the aim has been attained, the aggression and its emotional equivalents disappear.

Different from animals, in human species two more types of defensive aggressions are found. They are:
(a) Defensive aggression based on future threats

(b) Defensive aggression due to brain wash

(a) **Defensive aggression based on future threats:** Since man is being endowed with a capacity for foresight and imagination, reacts not only to present dangers and threats or to memories of dangers and threats, but to the dangers and threats he can imagine as possibly happening in the future. If an individual or a group feels threatened, the mechanism of defensive aggression is mobilised even though the threat is not immediate. Thus man's capacity to foresee future threats enhances the frequency of his aggressive reactions. Aggression based on politics is an example for this.

(b) **Defensive aggression due to brain wash:** The arousal of defensive aggression by means of brain-washing can occur only in humans in order to persuade people that they are threatened, one needs, above all the medium of language, without this, most suggestion would be impossible. In addition, one needs a social structure that provides a sufficient basis for brain-washing. This process of brain-washing is usually done by the political as well as religious leaders. The result is religious as well as political aggression.

Defensive aggression due to mass suggestion and brainwashing can be reduced by the development of independent critical thinking. In order to reduce group narcissism, the misery, monotony, dullness and powerlessness that exist in large sectors of the population would have to be eliminated. It will require the highest
degree of active participation and responsibility on the part of each
person in his role as a worker or employ or whatever he is as well as in
his role as a citizen.

2. Malignant aggression: - This is specific to human species and
virtually absent on most mammals. It includes cruelty and
destructiveness. It is not phylogenetically programmed and not
biologically adaptive. It has no purpose and its satisfaction is lustful. It
is biologically harmful because it is socially disruptive. Its main
manifestations - killing and cruelty-are pleasure without needing any
other purpose. It is harmful not only to the person who is attacked, but
also to the attacker.

Malignant or destructive aggression is based on human
passions rooted in his character. Character is man's second nature, the
substitute for his poorly developed instincts. Human passions such as
the striving for love, tenderness, and freedom as well as the lust for
destruction, sadism, masochism, the craving for power and property are
answers to existential needs, which in turn are rooted in the very
conditions of human existence. Thus instincts are answers to man's
Physiological needs, and man's character-conditioned passions are
answers to his existential needs and they are specifically human. While
these existential needs are the same for all men, man differs among
themselves with regard to their dominant passions. Whether man's
dominant passion is love or whether it is destructiveness depends
largely on social circumstances. These social circumstances operate in
reference to man's biologically given existential situation and the needs arising from it. "However man differs from the animal by the fact that he is a killer, he is the only primate that kills and torture members of his own species without any reasons, either biological or economic and who feels satisfaction in doing so"1 According to Fromm, destructiveness is a secondary potentiality rooted in the very existence of man, and having the same intensity and power as any passion can have.

**Vital interest v/s vital threats:** - Man like the animal defends himself against threat to his vital interests. But the range of man's vital interests is much wider than that of the animal. Man must Survive not only physically, but also psychically. He needs to maintain a certain psychic equilibrium lest he lose the capacity to function. Man has a vital

Interest in-retaining his frame of orientation. His sense of identity and his capacity to act depends on it. It others threat him with ideas that question his own frame of orientation; he will react to these ideas as to a vital threat.

Man needs not only a frame of orientation but also objects of devotion, which become a vital necessity for his emotional equilibrium. Whatever they one- values, ideals, ancestors, father, mother, the soil, Country, Class, religion and hundreds of other phenomena - they are perceived as sacred. Even Customs can become sacred because they symbolise the existing values. The individual or
the group reacts to an attack against the sacred with the same rage and aggressiveness as to an attack against life.

Even fright tends to mobilise either aggression or tendency to flight. The latter is often the case when a person still has a way out that saves him. But if he is cornered and no possibility of evasion is left, the aggressive reaction is more likely to occur. The flight reaction is based on the interaction of two factors. The first is the magnitude of the realistic threat. The second is the degree of physical and psychical strength and self-confidence of the threatened person.

Fright, like pain, is a most uncomfortable feeling and man will do almost anything to get rid of it. There are many ways to get rid of fright and anxiety, such as the use of drugs, sexual arousal, sleep, and the company of others. One of the most effective ways of getting rid of anxiety is to become aggressive. When a person can get out of the passive state of fright, and begin to attack, the painful nature of fright disappears.

Among all the threats to man's vital interest, the threat to his freedom is of extraordinary importance, individually and socially. Freedom is a biological as well as a psychological need of the human organism. The inherent impulse in man to fight for freedom lies in the fact that freedom is the condition for the full growth of a person, for his mental health and his well being. Thus for the development of the human organism, freedom is a vital biological interest of man and threats to his freedom arouse defensive aggression.
**Conformist aggression:** Conformist aggression comprises various acts of aggression that are performed not because the aggressor is driven by the desire to destroy, but because he is told to do so and considers it his duty to obey.

**Resistance:** Another important source of defensive aggression is aggression as a reaction to any attempt to bring repressed striving and fantasies into awareness. There are many reasons why a person represses certain strivings, often throughout his life. He might be afraid of being punished, of being humiliated, of not being loved, if his repressed impulses were known to others. This type of reaction is one of the aspects of what Freud called "resistance".

**Vengeful destructiveness:** It is a spontaneous reaction to intense and unjustified suffering inflicted upon a person or the members of the group with whom he is identified. It differs from normal defensive aggression in two ways:

(a) It occurs after the damage has been done and hence is not a defense against a threatening danger.

(b) It is of much greater intensity, and is often cruel, lustful and insatiable.

Vengeful aggression is widespread, both among individuals and groups and usually in groups it lead to a kind of chain reaction in which destructiveness and cruelty become so intense.

**Instrumental aggression:** Another biologically adaptive type of aggression is instrumental aggression, which has the aim of obtaining
that, which is necessary or desirable. The aim is not destruction as such; this serves only as an instrument for attaining the real aim. In this respect it is similar to defensive aggression, but in other important aspects it is different. It can be defined in terms of an unquestionable physiological need, as, for instance, warding of starvation. If a man steals or robs because he and his family do not have even the minimal amount of food they need, the aggression is clearly an act motivated by physiological necessity.

However the truth is that people desire not only what is necessary in order to survive, not only that which provides the material basis for a good life, most people in our culture are greedy, greed, for more food, drink, sex, possessions, power and fame. What all people have in common is that they are insatiable and hence never satisfied.

Greed is one of the strongest non-instinctive passions in man. It is clearly a symptom of physical dysfunction of inner emptiness. In our culture greed is greatly reinforced by all those measures that tend to transform everybody into a consumer. Of course the greedy person does not need to be aggressive, provided he has enough money to buy what he desires. But the greedy person who does not have the necessary means must attack, if the wants to satisfy his desires.

**Pseudo aggression:** - That aggressive act that may cause harm, but are not intended to do so, comes under pseudo aggression.
Aggression as exaggerated anal characteristics: - According to Franz Alexander that the criminal cannot postpone immediate gratification in order to obtain greater rewards in the future. The criminal does not orient his behaviour with reality principle, which is a basic lesson to be learned during the anal stage of development. Alexander regarded the antisocial activities of the adult as exaggerated anal characteristics acquired in childhood.

Aggression as substitute gratification of basic needs: - According to some psychoanalysts, criminal behaviour is a means of obtaining substitute gratification of basic needs such as love, nurturance and attention, which should have been satisfied normally with in the family.

Fraud's theory of instinctivism: - Freud in his first theory considered that human life is ruled by two egoistic drives, one for food, and the other for sex. However in his second theory he recognised that it is not egoistic drives, but two passions i.e. love and destruction, which rules human life. He called these two passions as life instinct and death instinct. Thus according to Freud human destructiveness is one of the two fundamental passions in man. All though these two passions are not directly serving physical survival, they are stronger than instincts. They form the basis for man's interest in life, his enthusiasm, his excitement etc. Their intensity is not due to specific physiological needs but to the need of the whole organism to survive- to grow both physically and mentally. These two passions are at the very root of human existence. These non-instinctual passions excite man, fire him on, and make life worth living. According to the French philosopher
von Holbach, a man without passions or desires would cease to be a man. The human passion transforms man from a mere thing into a being. The death instinct is directed against the organism itself and thus is a self-destructive drive but if it is directed outward, then it tends to destroy others rather than oneself.

**Sexual instinct and environment:** - According to the analytic therapy the development of a person is by the specific environmental constellation of infancy i.e. the impact of the family. This aspect is reconciled with instinctivism, by the assumption that the modifying influence of the environment occurs via the influence of the libidinous structure. Thus every negative development in a person is to be understood as the result of damaging influences in early childhood.

The sexual instinct in Freud's system was supported to a large extent moulded by environmental influences. Thus the character was understood as being the outcome of the interaction between sexual instinct and environment. According to Freud the differences between the various motivating forces are the result of environmental influence in the libido. Thus love, tenderness, sadism, masochism, ambition, curiosity, anxiety, rivalry and many other drives were no longer each attributed to a special instinct, but to the influence of the environment, especially in the early childhood via libido.

**Character traits and behavior:** - Character determines behavior. The character trait, whether loving or destroying, drives man to behave in a certain way, and that man in acting according to his character feels
satisfied. Thus the character trait tells us how a person would like to behave. However an average person tries to find a compromise between what his character would make him want to do and what he must do in order not to suffer more or less harmful consequences.

**Character traits and self-interest:** - The motivating power of character traits is influenced by self-interest in varying degrees. They imply that character constitutes the main motivation of human behavior, but restricted and modified by the demands of self-interest under varying conditions. Man of course also behaves in accordance with his self-interest, but not always, and not necessarily so. He often acts according to his passions, his meanest and noblest and is often willing to risk his self interest, his fortune, his freedom and his life in the pursuit of love, truth and integrity or for hate, greed, sadism and destructiveness.

**Self-preservation or ego-interest:** - The degree to which a person follows the dictates of self-preservation i.e.: ego-interest varies. At one extreme the weight of ego-interest is zero, and if the ego-interest is zero, then the person will be a martyr or a fanatical killer. At the other extreme the ego-interest will be the maximum and the person will be an opportunist for whom self-interest includes everything that could make him more successful and popular or comfortable. Between these two extremes all people can be arranged, characterised by a specific blend of self-interest and character-rooted passions.
Influence of situations: - How much a person represses his passionate desires depends not only on factors within him but also on the situation. If the situation changes, repressed desires become conscious and are acted out. For example a sadistic-masochistic person will be submissive to his boss, but he will be sadistically domineering to his wife and children. When the total social situation changes, there can be a total change in the character of a person. For example the sadistic character who may have posed as a meek or even friendly individual may become a wicked and malicious person in a terrorist society.

Theory of innate force: - According to Freud and Lorenz, human aggressiveness is an instinct fed by an ever-flowing fountain of energy, and not necessarily the result of a reaction to outer Stimuli. Lorenz holds that energy specific for an instinctive act accumulates continuously in the neural centres related to that behavior pattern and if enough energy has been accumulated an explosion is likely to occur even without the presence of a stimulus. However, the animal and man usually find stimuli, which release the dammed-up energy of the drive; they do not have to wait passively until the proper stimulus appears. Thus according to Lorenz aggression is primarily not a reaction to outside stimuli, but a built-in inner excitation that seeks for release and will find expression regardless of how adequate the outer stimulus is. It is the spontaneity of the instinct that makes it so dangerous.

Lorenz's model of aggression is called hydraulic model, in analogy to the pressure exercised by dammed-up water or steam in a
closed container. This refers to the mechanism through which aggression is produced. The hydraulic character of dammed-up aggression is used to explain the murderous and cruel impulses of man, but there is no supporting evidence for this.

According to Lorenz defensive aggression is supposed to be transformed in man into a spontaneously flowing and self-increasing drive that seeks to create circumstances which facilitate the expression of aggression, or that even explodes when no stimuli can be found or created. Hence even in a society that is organised from a socio-economic view point in such a way that major aggression could find no proper stimuli, the very demand of the aggressive instinct would force its members to change it or, if they would not, aggression would explode even without any stimulus. Thus the conclusion at which Lorenz arrives that man is driven by an innate force to destroy. According to the older instinctivists also, each motive of behaviour was attributed to special kind of innate drive.

**Environmental theory human aggression:** - The theories about human aggressiveness by environmentalists are just opposite that of instinctivists. According to environmentalists, man's behavior is exclusively moulded by the influence of the environment i.e.: by social and cultural, as opposed to 'innate' factors. This is particularly true with regard to aggression. According to the philosophers of the Enlightenment period, man was supposed to be born good and rational, and it was due to bad institutions, bad education, and bad example, that
he developed evil strivings. They believed that the "good society" would create the good man, or rather allow the natural goodness of man to manifest itself.

**Behaviorism:** - Behaviorism was founded by J.B. Watson. It is based on the premise that the subject matter of human psychology is the behavior or activities of the human being.

**Neo-behaviorism:** - B.F. Skinner was the founder of neo-behaviorism. It is based on the same principle as Watson's concepts. According to skinner, as a science, Psychology has to study what reinforcements tend to shape human behavior and how to apply the reinforcements most effectively. Skinners "Psychology" is the science of the engineering of behavior, its aim is to find the right reinforcement in order to produce a desired behavior.

Instead of simple conditioning in the Pavlovian model, skinner speaks of ‘operant’ conditioning. Briefly this means that unconditioned behavior, provided it is desirable from the experimenter’s stand point, is rewarded, i.e. followed by pleasure. According to skinner the rewarding reinforcement is much more effective than the punishing. As a result, the subject will eventually continue to behave in the desired fashion. Skinner has shown that by the proper use of positive reinforcement, the behavior of animals and humans can be altered to an amazing degree, even in opposition to what some would loosely call ‘innate’ tendencies.
The result of Skinner's experimental work supports the views of those who believe that the social-structure can shape man, even though not necessarily through operant conditioning. Skinner does not neglect genetic endowment. However according to Skinner, apart from genetic endowment, behavior is determined entirely by reinforcement. According to Skinner reinforcement can occur in two ways: it happens in the normal cultural process, or it can be planned, and thus lead to a 'design for culture.'

**Behavior and motivating impulse:** - The behaviour of a person depends on the motivating impulse whether love or sadism. However this difference may not be visible on a superficial inspection. For example each of two fathers with different character structures spanks his son because he believes that the child needs this kind of punishment for the sake of his healthy development. The fathers behave in what seems to be an identical manner. They slap the children with their hands. If we compare the behaviour of a loving and concerned father with that of a sadistic father, we find that the behaviour is in reality not the same. Their way of holding the child and of talking to the child before and after the punishment, their facial expression, make the behavior of one quite different from that of the other. Correspondingly, the children's reactions to the respective behaviours differ. The one child sense the destructive, or sadistic quality of the punishment, the other have no reason to doubt his fathers love. All the more so because
this single instance of the fathers behaviour is only one among innumerable behaviors the child has experienced before and which have formed his picture of his father and his reaction to him. The fact that both fathers have the conviction that they are punishing the child for his own good makes hardly any difference, on the other hand, if the sadistic father never beats his child, his non-violent behavior will produce the same reaction because his eyes convey to the child the same sadistic impulse that his hands would do in beating and because children are generally more sensitive than adults, they respond to the father’s impulse and not to an isolated bit of behavior.

**Instinctivism and behaviourism:** - According to Erich Fromm, that the man of the instinctivist’s lives the past of the species, as the man of the behaviourist’s lives the present of his social system. The former is a machine that can produce inherited patterns of the past; the latter is a machine that can only produce social patterns of the present. According to instinctivists, mans primary instincts lead him either to indulge himself in unlimited freedom, or to see dominion over others.

   Instinctivism and behaviourism have one basic premise in common: that man has no psyche with its own structure and its own laws. According to instinctivists and behaviourists man is exclusively determined by conditions outside himself, he has no part in his own life, no responsibility and not even a trace of freedom. He is a puppet, controlled by instincts or conditioning.
Frustration-Aggression theory: - This theory was developed by J. Dollard, N.E. Miller and others in 1939. According to this theory the cause of all aggression is frustration i.e.: the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration and the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression.

However in 1941 N.E Miller dropped the second part of the hypothesis, allowing that frustration could instigate a number of different types of responses, only one of them being aggression. According to A.H. Buss, this theory was accepted by almost all psychologists. However Buss concluded that frustration is only one antecedent of aggression and it is not the most potent one.

According to A.H. Buss, basically there are two meanings in which the term frustration has been understood. They are-

(a) The interruption of an on-going, goal-directed activity
(b) Frustration as the negation of a desire or wish.

If a child, for instance, is forbidden to eat candy, this frustration, provided the parents attitude is genuinely loving and free from pleasure in controlling, will not mobilise aggression. But if this prohibition is only one of the many manifestations of the parent’s desire for control or if, for instance a sibling is permitted to eat it; considerable anger is likely to result. What produces the aggression is not the frustration as such, but the injustice or rejection in the situation.
According to Fromm, the most important factor in determining the occurrence and intensity of frustration is the character of the person.

A very greedy person, for instance, will react angrily when he does not get all the food he wants, and a miserly person, when his wish to buy something cheap is frustrated, the narcissistic person feels frustrated when he does not get the praise and recognition he expects.

Thus the character of the person determines in the first place what frustrates him, and in the second place the intensity of his reaction to frustration. "Providing examples of alternative, non-aggressive ways of dealing with frustration, however, leads to a reduction in aggressive behaviour."

Washburn's theory of Carnivorous Psychology: - According to S.L. Washburn man has a carnivorous psychology. Washburn identifies the carnivorous psychology with a drive for and pleasure in killing. It is easy to teach people to kill, and it is hard to develop customs which avoid killing. Many human beings enjoy seeing other human beings suffer or enjoy the killing of animals. Washburn claims that many people enjoy killing and cruelty. In contrast to virtually all mammals, man is the only primate who can feel intense pleasure in torturing and killing. Man's hyper-aggression is due to the fact that aggression producing conditions are much more frequent for humans than for animals living in their natural habitat. Only man appears to be destructive beyond the aim of defense or of attaining what he needs.
Non-identification of co-species: - According to Fromm that there are good reasons to assume that man does not experience his fellow man as a member of the same species, because his recognition of another man is not facilitated by those instinctive or reflex-like reactions by which either smell, form certain colours etc. give immediate evidence of species identity among animals. Since man has less instinctive equipment than any other animal, he does not recognise or identify co-specifics as easily as animals. For him different language, customs, dress, and other criteria perceived by the mind rather than by instincts determine who is a co-specific and who is not, and any group, which is slightly different, is not supposed to share in the same humanity. In short man's humanity makes him so inhuman.

Rational theory of Crime: - According to Nettler rational crime involves illegal behavior in which a person is rewarded for doing it. Crime organised as a business is an examples for rational crime. The illegal provision of liquor, drugs, prostitution and gambling comes under rational crime.

Containment theory of Crime: - According to Walter Rackless's containment theory, it is largely external containment- that is social pressure- that controls crime. If a society is well integrated, with well-defined social rules and limits on behavior, effective family discipline and supervision, and reinforcement for positive accomplishments, crime will be contained. But if these external controls weaken or disappear, control of crime will depend on internal restraints, or the individual
super-ego. Thus a positive self-concept becomes an insulator against delinquency. Strong inner containment is inferred from the abilities to tolerate frustration, to be goal directed, to resist distractions, and to find substitute satisfactions.

**Equity theory:** - Equity theory states that people make comparisons between what they feel, they deserve and what they observe other people receiving. If a person perceive himself as being unfairly treated by society, this sense of inequity can lead him to a crime like stealing to encourage his gains because such behaviour will help him to restore his sense of equity

**Anomic theory:** - According to Emile Durkheim there should be a functional necessity for moral bonds between individuals in society. Life without moral obligation or social requirements would become intolerable and result in anomic, a feeling of normlessness that may precede destructive behaviors like suicide or crime which has been increasing with the growth of industrialisation. One implication of anomie theory was that unlimited aspirations produce a pressure for deviation from social norms. Merton applied anomie to situations in which the social structure stimulates common aspirations like wealth property ownership etc.

In Durkheims theory anomic was a condition in a social structure, in which the norms and goals of the social systems no longer influenced individual behaviour. This is a state of 'normlessness.' He meant by the term anomie to the destruction of all traditional social
bonds, due to the fact that all truly collective organisations had become secondary to the state and that all genuine social life had been annihilated. He believes that people living in the modern political states are ‘a disorganised dust’ of individuals.

The anomie of industrial society can only be removed if the whole social and spiritual structure is changed radically. The individual is not only adequately fed and housed, but also the interests of society become identical with the interests of each individuals is a must. Man can change the social structure; he can develop bonds of solidarity and common values.

**Personality theory:** - Eysenck explains three major types of personality disorders in his personality theory. They are: -

(a) Extraversion

(b) Neuroticism

(c) Psychoticism

According to Eysenck extraverted persons are outgoing, active, aggressive and impulsive. Persons high in neuroticism are restless, emotionally volatile and hypersensitive. Persons high in psychoticism are troublesome, lacking in empathy and insensitive to the point of cruelty.

Persons high in neuroticism have a reactive autonomous nervous system and react excessively to stimuli. Therefore high neuroticism interferes with efficient learning because of irrelevant
arousal that is evoked. In addition high neuroticism leads to greater drive to carry out behaviour of all sorts, including crimes.

Eysenck believed that high scores on extraversion and neuroticism would result in poor conditioning and consequently, inadequate socialisation. Poor conditioning leads to a faulty conscience, which in turn produces a higher risk for criminality. Moreover if the person is high on psychoticism, he or she would tend to be more of a primary “tough-minded” psychopath. Behaviourally, psychoticism is characterised by cold cruelty, social insensitivity, unemotionality, disregard for danger, troublesome behaviour, dislike of others and an attraction to the unusual. Psychotics are hostile toward others and enjoy ridiculing them. The data on relationships of extraversion, neuroticism and psychoticism to criminality support a positive association between elevated extraversion and increased law breaking.

**Anti social personality disorders:** - Many psychologists attribute the cause of crime to a personality defect in the offender. The concept of psychopathy refers to persons who have frequent and repetitive criminal activity. They lack adequate conscience development. The underlying unsocialised character, the lack of conscience, brings such persons into repeated conflict with society, often from very early ages. They are superficial, arrogant and unable to feel guilt. They lack empathy and loyalty to individuals, groups or society's values. The official diagnostic designation for the psychopath is Antisocial Personality.
Disorder. "Individuals with antisocial personality disorder continually violate the rights of others through aggressive, antisocial behaviour without remorse or loyalty to any one."³

Psychopaths appear unable to understand and accept ethical values except on verbal level. They glibly claim to adhere to high moral standards that have no apparent connection with their behaviour. In short, their conscience development is severely retarded or non-existent, although their intellectual development is typically normal.

Psychopaths are characterised by selfish, irresponsible and deceitful behaviour. They are highly impulsive, lacking in judgement, deficient in inner reality and moral controls and seemingly unable to learn from punishment and experience. They have a callous disregard for the rights, needs and well-being of others.

Psychopathic persons are also thought to have a reduced anxiety level and to be relatively underaroused in the resting state as well. This combination of low cortical and autonomic arousal results in a high need for stimulation. Consequently, the psychopath prefers novel situations and tends to ‘shorten’ stimuli, there by being less controlled by them.

The thrill seeking and disruptive behaviour of the psychopath serves to increase sensory input and arousal to more tolerable level. One result of this thrill seeking is that the psychopathic person may be ‘immune’ to many social cues that govern behaviour. Prone to thrill seeking and deviant and unconventional behaviour, they
often break the law impulsively and with out regard for the consequence. They live in the present without realistically considering either past or future. External reality is used for immediate personal gratification.

Often Psychopaths are charming and likable, with a disarming manner that easily wins friends. Typically, they have a good sense of humour and an optimistic outlook. They are frequent liars and if caught in a lie, they usually will seem sincerely sorry and promise to make amends- but will not do so. They seem to have good insight into other people’s needs and weaknesses and are adept at exploiting them. They readily find excuses and rationalisation for this antisocial conduct, typically projecting the blame on to some one else. Thus they are often able to convince other people as well as themselves that they are free of fault. Although initially able to win the liking and friendship of other people, psychopaths are seldom able to keep close friends. Irresponsible and egocentric, they are unusually cynical, unsympathetic, ungrateful and remorseless in their dealings. They seemingly cannot understand love in others or give it in return. Psychopaths and highly alienated or narcissistic people enjoy the suffering of others and feel no remorse when their behaviour is punished by authority. Apparently they have little or no feeling of opposition to the cruel acts they perform. They lacks in any kind of moral reaction.

Psychopaths pose a menace not only to chance acquaintances but also to their family and friends. Violence towards family members is common. Manipulative and exploitative in sexual
relationships psychopaths are irresponsible and unfaithful mates. Although they often promise to change, they rarely do so for long.

Only individuals eighteen or over are diagnosed as antisocial personalities. However many psychopathic and antisocial personalities improve after the age of forty even without treatment, possibly because of weaker biological drives, better insight into self-defeating behaviours and the cumulative effects of social conditioning.

**Causes of psychopathic behaviour:** - There are many theories about the causes of psychopathic behaviour. One view is that psychopathic persons suffer a cortical immaturity that makes it difficult for them to inhibit behaviour. Robert Hare has proposed that psychopaths may have a deficiency in the left hemisphere of their brains that impairs their ability to plan and regulate behaviour carefully.

A general explanation for psychopathy involves familial disturbance, especially parental rejection or early parental loss, either by death or divorce. It is assumed that lack of parental affection and inconsistent discipline, in childhood are the other main reasons for the development of psychopathic and antisocial behaviour.

Buss (1966) identified two parental patterns that might foster psychopathy. First there are parents who are cold and distant. The child who imitates these parents develops a cold, detached interpersonal style that gives the superficial appearance of social involvements; but lacks the empathy required for stable, satisfying relations. Second there are parents who are inconsistent in their use of
rewards and punishments, making it difficult for the child to imitate a stable role model and to develop a consistent self-identity. Buss felt that a child in this situation learns how to avoid blame and punishment, rather than how to distinguish right and wrong behaviour. However all those who come from such family backgrounds does not become psychopaths and antisocial elements. Heredity also plays a dominant role in creating psychopaths and antisocial elements.

**Borderline Personality Disorder:** - They typically display intense anger, outbursts with little provocation. They might threaten suicide over minor setbacks.

**Sadistic personality Disorder:** - A person with sadistic personality disorder will have a pervasive pattern of cruel, demeaning and aggressive behaviour toward other people. Sadistic personality disorder is sub divided into two. They are:-

(a) Physical sadism

(b) Mental sadism

(a) **Physical sadism:** - Individuals with this disorder have a history of using physical cruelty to inflict pain on other people, usually for the satisfaction of seeing them suffer. They are characteristically fascinated with violence, weapons, martial arts or torture.

(b) **Mental Sadism:** - Mental cruelty, the wish to humiliate and hurt another person's feelings is probably even more wide spread than physical sadism. This type of sadistic attack is much safer for sadist; after all, no physical force, but only words have been used. On
the other hand, the psychic pain can be an intense or even more so than
the physical. Parents inflict it upon their children, professors on their
students, superiors on their inferiors, beurocrates on their sub-ordinates.
In short it is employed in any situation, where there is someone who
cannot defend himself against the sadist. This kind of sadism is often
the more effective if the humiliation is inflicted in front of others. To
force someone to endure pain or humiliation without being able to
defend himself is one of the manifestations of absolute control, but it is
by no means the only one. According to Fromm, the person who has
complete control over another living being makes this being into his
thing, his property, while he becomes the other being’s god.

It is found that most sadism is malevolent. Complete
control over another human being means crippling him, choking him,
thwarting him. One of the main traits of sadist is that he is stimulated
only by the helpless, never by those who are strong.

Albert Camus’s play, Caligula, gives an example of an
extreme type of sadistic control, which amounts to a desire for
omnipotence. Caligula, in his position of unlimited power, sleeps with
the wives of the senators and enjoys their humiliation. He kills some of
them, and those that remain still have to smile and joke. But even all
this power does not satisfies him; he wants absolute power, he wants
the impossible.

**Character-rooted sadism:** - The destructive and sadistic passions in a
person are usually organised in his character system. In a sadistic
person, the sadistic drive is a dominant part of his character structure. It motivates him to behave sadistically, limited only by his concern for self-preservation. In a person with sadistic character, a sadistic impulse is constantly active, waiting only for a proper situation. Thus character-rooted sadism is a spontaneously flowing impulse, seeking for occasions to be expressed or to create such occasions. The sources of the sadistic passion lie in the character and not in a phylogenetically programmed neural area. These character-rooted passions do not appear as single units but as syndromes.

According to Fromm there are two types of syndromes. They are:

1. Life furthering syndrome, such as love, solidarity, justice, reason etc. They are all interrelated and are manifestations of the same productive orientation.

2. Life thwarting syndrome such as sado-masochism, destructiveness, greed, narcissism, incestuousness etc. They are all interrelated and are rooted in the same basic orientation.

Where one element of the syndrome is to be found, the others also exist in various degrees. The average person is a blend of both syndromes, what matters for the behaviour of the person and the possibility of change is precisely the respective strength of each syndrome.

Sadism and masochism: - For the sadistic character there is only one admirable quality, and that is power. He admires loves, and submits to
those who have power, and he despises and wants to control those who are powerless and cannot fight back. In short control of those below and submission to those above. The need to submit is rooted in masochism. Thus sadism and masochism are invariably interlinked.

**Bureaucracy and sado-masochism:** - In a social sense, the bureaucratic character is roughly equivalent to the sado-masochistic character. In the bureaucratic system every person controls the one below him and is controlled by the one above. Both sadistic and masochistic impulses can be fulfilled in such a system. Those below, the bureaucratic character will hold in contempt, those above, he will admire and fear. So also the attitude of the bureaucrats is contempt towards the public. In our bureaucratic system, common people are considered as things by the bureaucrat. They think that the common people are below them. They believe that they have the power to control the common people. That is why they behave in a sadistic way to the public. The important aspect of the behaviour of a bureaucrat is the fact that he enjoys in frustrating people, showing then that he controls them, the same is the case of police force in Kerala. They are not the friends or servants of the public, but the controllers. According to Fromm, a society based on exploitative control tends to weaken the independence, integrity, critical thinking and productivity of those submitted to it.

**Causes of Sadism:** - A non-sadistic child may become a sadistic adult because of fright producing terrific punishments by sadistic parents. This type of punishment is not strictly limited in intensity. Depending
on the temperament of the child, fear of such punishment can become a dominant motive in his life, his sense of integrity may be slowly broken down, his self-respect lowered, and eventually he may have betrayed himself so that he has no more sense of identity, that he is no longer "he"

The other condition for the generation of vital powerlessness is a situation of psyche scarcity. If there is no stimulation, nothing that awakens the faculties of a child, if there is an atmosphere of dullness and joylessness, the child freezes up, there is nothing upon which he can make a dent, nobody who responds or even listens, the child is left with a sense of powerlessness and impotence. This is one of the main sources that contribute to the development of sadism, both individually and socially.

Sadism is much more frequently found among frustrated and socially lower class individuals who feel powerless and have little pleasure in life, for example, the lower class in the colonies and coastal areas of Kerala. Their material poverty and social impotence is compensated by sadistic spectacles.

**Narcissism:** - One of the most important sources of defensive aggression is the wounding of narcissism. The concept of narcissism was formulated by Freud in terms of his libido theory. The schizophrenic patients do not seem to have any libidinous relationships to objects either in reality or in fantasy. According to Freud the libido that has been withdrawn from the external world has been directed to
the ego and thus gives rise to an attitude which may be called narcissism. Freud divided narcissism into two types. They are:–

(a) Primary narcissism

(b) Secondary narcissism

(a) **Primary narcissism:** - The original state of man in early infancy is primary narcissism, in which, there are not yet any relationships to the outside world. Primary narcissism is a normal phenomenon conforming with the normal physiological and mental development of the child. At birth and still for sometime afterward, the infant’s attachment to mother occurs in a manly narcissistic frame of reference. While physiologically the infant has his own independent existence, psychologically he continues an ‘intra-uterine’ life in some respects and to some degree. He still lives through mother; she feeds him, cares for him, stimulates him and gives him the warmth bodily and emotional -that is a condition for healthy development. In the process of further development the infant’s attachment to mother becomes warmer, more personal as it were, she changes from being a quasi intra-uterine home into a person for whom the child feels warm affection. In this process the little boy breaks through the narcissistic shell.

b, **Secondary narcissism:**- Narcissism exists also in later stages of life, if the growing child fails to develop the capacity for love or lose it again. In the course of normal development the child increased his libidinal relationships to the outside world in scope and intensity, but under special circumstances-the most drastic one being
insanity—the libido is withdrawn from objects and directed back to the ego. Freud calls this phenomenon as secondary narcissism. Even in the case of normal development, however, a human being remains to some extent narcissistic throughout his life.

Narcissism is the basic of all severe psychic pathology. Narcissism can be described as a state of experience in which only the person himself, his body, his needs, his feelings, his thoughts, his property, everything and everybody pertaining to him are experienced as fully real, while everybody and everything that does not form part of the person or is not an object of his needs is not interesting, is not fully real.

A person, to the extent to which he is narcissistic, has a double standard of perception. Only he himself and what pertains to him has significance, while the rest of the world is more or less weightless or colourless. Because of this double standard, the narcissistic person shows severe defects in judgement and lacks the capacity for objectivity. He needs to hold on to his narcissistic self-image, since his sense of worth as well as his sense of identity is based on it.

Often the narcissistic person achieves a sense of security in his own entirely subjective conviction of his perfection. If his narcissism is threatened he is threatened in a vitally important area. When others wound his narcissism by slighting him, criticising him, showing him up when he has said something wrong, defeating him in
game or on numerous occasions, a narcissistic person usually reacts with intense anger or rage. The intensity of this aggressive reaction can often be seen in the fact that such a person will never forgive someone who has wounded his narcissism and often feels a desire for vengeance which would be less intense if his body or his property had been attacked.

**Narcissism and insanity:** - The most extreme form of narcissism is to be seen in all forms of insanity. The insane person has lost contact with the world, he has withdrawn into himself, he can not experience reality, either physical or human reality as it is, but only as formed and determined by his own inner processes. He either does not react to the world outside, or if he does, reacts not in terms of its reality, but only in terms of his own processes of thought and feeling. Narcissism is the opposite pole to objectivity, reason and love.

The fact that utter failure to relate oneself to the world is insanity, points to the other fact that some form of relatedness is the condition for any kind of sane living. But among the various forms of relatedness only the productive one, love, fulfills the condition of allowing one to retain ones freedom and integrity while being, at the same time, united with ones fellow man. The attainment of a non-judgemental understanding can lower aggressiveness or do away with it altogether; it depends on the degree to which a person has overcome his own insecurity greed and narcissism.
Group narcissism: - Group narcissism is one of the most important sources of human aggression. This like, all other forms of defensive aggression, is a reaction to an attack on vital interests. It differs from other forms of defensive aggression in that intense narcissism in itself is a semi-pathological phenomenon. Fanaticism is a characteristic quality of group narcissism. In considering the causes and the function of bloody and cruel mass massacres as they occurred between Hindus and Muslims in some part of Kerala, group narcissism plays a considerable role.

Theories of rape: - Ellis has identified three theories of rape- They are:-

(a) The feminist theory, emphasising rape as a pseudo sexual act of male domination and exploitation of women.

(b) The social learning theory, suggesting that sexual aggression is learned through observation and limitation.

(c) The evolutionary theory holding that natural selection favours men who use forced sexual behaviour.

Notes and references

