



The Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2024

Editor-in-Chief – Dr. Muktai Deb Chavan; Publisher – Alden Vas; ISSN: 2583-9896

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium provided the original work is properly cited.

Name:- Tannu

B.A.LLB 5th year

College:- BPSMV, Sonipat

Email:- tanumadal95@gmail.com

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF CRIMINOLOGISTS IN INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

Introduction:- In recent years, the field of criminology has gained significant recognition and importance in the Indian legal system. It has been said that Indian legal system changes according to the needs of the society. Criminologists play a vital role in understanding the causes of crime, analyzing criminal behavior, making good policies, identify root causes and developing effective strategies to prevent and combat crime. Their expert advice contributes to the fair administration of justice, ensuring that the legal system functions efficiently and promotes a safer society. In this blog, we will understand and throw light on the essential role played by criminologists in the Indian legal system, their work, contribution and other essential things done by the Criminologists.¹

Understanding Criminology:-

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system. It examines the causes, patterns, and consequences of criminal behavior. The word Criminology, coined in 1890, derived from 'crime' in Latin and 'logia' in Greek, meaning the scientific study of crime, why people commit crimes, and how we deal with criminals and prisons. Criminology is a multidisciplinary field and branch of behavioural science that focuses on the study of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system.² It involves understanding the causes, patterns, and consequences of crime, with developing strategies to prevent and control criminal behavior.

Role of Criminologists in Indian legal system:-

Criminologists play a pivotal role in shaping legal systems and guiding the judiciary, as viewed by ancient India Dharmashashtra scholars. These early criminologists provided valuable insights into

criminal behavior, causation, and rehabilitation. Judges and law enforcement officials likely relied on their expertise to maintain order and provide justice to all.³

1. **Understanding Criminal Behavior:-** One of the main role of criminologists is their ability to understand criminal behavior. Through extensive research and analysis, criminologists delve into the psychological, sociological, and environmental factors that contribute to criminal tendencies. By studying patterns, trends, and motivations behind criminal activities. By examining patterns and reasons behind criminal actions, they give us useful clues. These clues help police and policymakers make smart plans to stop crime before it happens.
2. **Crime Prevention and Intervention:-** Criminologists in India are working on ways to stop crime before it happens and to help people who have committed crimes change their behavior. They team up with police, lawmakers, and community groups to create plans and policies based on research that aim to lower crime rates and help offenders become law-abiding citizens again. They target areas and groups most at risk, focusing on issues like poverty, drug abuse, and limited education. Their goal is to make society safer by reducing repeat offenses and helping offenders turn their lives around.
3. **Research and Data analysis:-** Criminologists help make laws in India by studying crime, analyzing data, and suggesting changes to existing laws based on their research. They work to ensure that laws reflect the needs of society and promote fairness and justice. They also use data to understand crime trends, create better policies, and see if the things done to prevent crime are working. Basically, they use numbers and facts to understand and improve how we deal with crime.
4. **Technology and forensic Science:-** Criminologists helps with the way of forensic science . Criminologists in India are using advanced technology and forensic science tools like DNA analysis, fingerprinting, and cybercrime investigation to better understand and solve crimes. These tools help them gather evidence and catch criminals. They also specialize in areas like digital forensics and cyber criminology to keep up with modern crime methods.
5. **Education and training:-** Criminologists also play a crucial role in educating and training future professionals in the field of criminal justice. Criminologists sharing their knowledge about crime theories, research methods, and practical skills. They help prepare the next generation of criminologists who will make a difference in the Indian legal system.
6. **Policy Development and Advocacy:-** Criminologists in India help make laws and push for changes in the legal system . They study existing laws, identify problems, and suggest improvements to ensure that laws meet the needs of society and promote fairness and justice. They also advocate for reforms in the criminal justice system, providing expert opinions and recommendations to policymakers. Essentially, they work to make sure that the laws and policies related to crime are effective and fair.
7. **Victimology and Rehabilitation:-** Criminologists are now giving more attention to victims of crime. They also recognize the significance of restorative justice, which aims to heal the harm caused by crime through dialogue, reconciliation, and holding offenders

accountable. Restorative justice practices are being considered as alternatives to traditional punishment-based methods.⁴

Conclusion:- Criminologists are important in the Indian legal system. They help understand why people commit crimes, stop crime from happening, help the police, and make fair rules based on evidence. Their expertise makes society safer and more secure. As criminology changes and gets better, it's important to see and value the important role criminologists play in the Indian legal system. By using what they know and applying it in real situations, they help make a society that is fair and safe for everyone.

Footnotes/ References:-

1. Prof.(Dr.) K. Jaishankar, Criminology Simplified- Prof.(Dr.) K. Jaishankar-Simplified Series 6, LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/criminology-simplified-prof-k-jaishankar-series-6-k-jaishankar-ukblc/>, last visited March 31, 2024, 11:09 PM.
2. Skakran, Criminal justice system through years, Legal Services India, <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-7357-criminal-justice-system-through-years.html>, last visited March 31, 2024, 11:15PM.
3. Mary Kate Weaver, what is a criminologist?, Excelsior.edu, <https://www.excelsior.edu/article/career-spotlight-criminologist/>, last visited March 31, 2024, 11: 21 PM.
4. Admin, The Roots of Criminologist work and their work in modern india, Legal Vidhiya, <https://legalvidhiya.com/the-roots-of-criminologist-work-and-their-work-in-modern-india/?amp=1>, last visited March 31, 2024, 11:24PM.