The social sciences in the recent past have become quite specialized in terms of the problems and responses covered in their purview. The origin of Criminology as a specialized branch of learning was a part of a similar process. Early Criminology, better known as classical criminology, emerged as part of protest against the prejudiced and discriminating legal practices that were prevalent in the contemporary society of the early eighteenth century. The leaders of criminal justice reforms were Baccaria and Bentham who demanded the reforms in the law and procedure. Afterwards Criminology has grown to be an advanced field of learning and practice. Emphasis in Criminology, in the interpretation of crime and criminality, has been changing over a period of time. The schools of thoughts in Criminology have been moving from classical to physiological, environmental to psychological, and sociological to interactionist approaches and so on.

Criminology has been defined as the study of crime, the causes of crime (etiology), the meaning of crime in terms of law, and community reaction to crime. Not too long ago, criminology separated from its mother discipline, sociology, and although there are some historical continuities, it has since developed habits and methods of thinking about crime and criminal behavior that are uniquely its own. Criminology is hence perceived as a most inclusive concept. Criminology involves the inputs from all basic disciplines in social and behavioural sciences in explaining the problem of and response to crime (Jatar, 1979).

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With the perceptible changes in society, social relationships and social process, the nature and extent of crime became even more complex. New forms of crime have posed problems to the formal agents of control. Consistently spreading new forms of crime have particularly highlighted the need to develop a special understanding of these criminal processes. And perhaps, this paved the way for the development of a specialized discipline in the form of criminology.

**Early Efforts:**

The UNESCO Report in 1957 on teaching of Criminology provided required impetus to introduce this subject worldwide. This Report advocated the need of Criminology in reducing crime and develop theoretical understanding about crime not merely as judicial abstraction but as human act, a natural and social fact. The Canadian Committee Report (1956) is also considered a major initiative that endorsed the need to develop a professional understanding and practice in controlling crime.

Many international fora, time and again, have been recommending the introduction of Criminology in the teaching framework of universities. Particularly, the International Penitentiary Congress (1890, 1925), International Congress on Penal Law, First International Congress on Criminology have stressed the need for developing Criminology as teaching discipline. Resultantly, Criminology as subject was started in various leading universities of the world. The researches in Criminology in these countries have been greatly utilized for policy purposes. Drastic changes have been planned on the basis of applied researches carried out in these countries.

**Indian Context:**

The international initiatives concerning criminology reached to India as
well. The University Grants Commission and various eminent criminal justice officials showed interest in this direction.

The University of Saugar became the first University in the country to have established the very first full-fledged Department of Criminology and Forensic Science in the year 1959. The University now boasts to have enrolled the highest number of students at any level. The Department of Criminology and Forensic Science has produced the highest number of doctoral students in the country. It comes to nearly one hundred. The founders of this Department had a definite vision for Criminology. The initial idea of setting up this Department came from K F Rustamji, the then IGP of Madhaya Pradesh and very well known intellectual on police matters. It was entirely due to the initiative and foresight of Sh D P Mishra, the then Vice Chancellor of the University that the University of Saugar became the pioneer in the teaching of Criminology in this country. The legal luminary of the stature of Sh G P Bhutt (former Chief Justice, MP) took over in the Department as the first Professor and Head of Criminology in the country. He is credited to have set the tone of beginning of Criminology in the country (Bhutt, 1963). Having assumed the Vive Chancellorship of this University by G P Bhutt, Dr D P Jatar took over as the Head of the Department. Under his dynamic leadership spanning over four decades, the Department reached to its pinnacle. The cult of Criminology has been since nurtured and maintained by a galaxy of criminologists like Late Prof S S Srivastatav, Prof M Z Khan and Prof S C Tewari who have been associated with this Department for a long time as Faculty members. Number of Criminologists from this Department have worked and have working in all major criminological foundations in the country and abroad.

Though in a limited form, the teaching of Criminology had started in the late 30's. The teaching of Criminology started in 1940 at the Jail Officers Training School at Lucknow and thereafter many institutes/universities like Christian College, Indore (1950), Madras School of Social Work (1952, 1962) Tata Institute of Social Sciences Bombay (1954), Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur (1956), Institute of Social Sciences, Agra (1957), University of
Saugar, Sagar (1959), Kashi Vidya Peeth, (started in 1963 and discontinued now), Madras University, Chennai (1965), Karnataka University, Dharwad, (1970), Mysore University (college level) and so on have introduced the teaching of Criminology at various levels. Later, University of Lucknow, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Bundelkhand University, Jhansi (2002), M S University, Thirunelveli (2003) and the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic science, Delhi in affiliation to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi (2004) have introduced post graduate level teaching in Criminology and Forensic Science. Amity, a private University in New Delhi, is also reported to have started teaching in criminology and Forensic science. The details are, however, not known. Besides these institutions, teaching of Criminology, at a very limited level (in the form of a special paper), was also being conducted in various departments of Law/Psychology/Sociology/Social Work/Anthropology etc. in many universities.

Thus scenario remains that only eight Universities/deemed Universities/Institutes of the country have post graduate teaching in Criminology. However, there are only seven Universities/ deemed Universities/Institutes which have independent departments of Criminology. These are Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, MP, University of Karntaka, Dharwad, University of Madres, Chennai, and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (deemed University), Bundel Khand University, Jhansi, M S University, Thirunelveli and National Institute of criminology and Forensic science, Delhi. In the remaining Universities the courses are being organized by the departments of sociology, social work and the like. Going little further, the teaching courses at University of Lucknow, BundelKhand University and Banaras Hindu University are of self-financing in nature. These courses are mostly conducted by the part time faculty or faculty hired from parallel disciplines.

The teaching of Criminology, in many cases, is also annexed (in the form of special paper) with various disciplines of social sciences and Humanities. It emerges prominently that Criminology could not develop as an independent
discipline in this country. Even where the teaching of Criminology is continuing as a separate discipline, various structural confusions regarding the scope of the subject, conceptual boundaries, thrust areas, methodology, applications are plaguing the development of this discipline.

To display the growth and development in teaching in criminology, in nutshell, the present Report adopts the Shukla’s (1981) classification with due modifications and additions in the subsequent years. The teaching of criminology is available at two levels in India: (I) Academic Institutions (II) Training Institutions

(I) There are five levels of teaching in criminology in India:

(a) Independent departments of criminology: They are - Department of Criminology and Correctional Administration, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (1954); Department of Criminology, University of Madras, Chennai (1965) Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, M S University, Thirunelveli (2003). There is another category where the postgraduate courses in Criminology are conducted by other social sciences departments. The Department of Sociology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Department of Social Work, University of Lucknow are such departments.

(b) Joint departments of criminology and Forensic Science: Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Dr Harising Gour University (formerly University of Saugar), Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Institute of Forensic Science and Criminology, Bundelkhand University and the National Institute of criminology and Forensic Science, Delhi

(c) Diploma Courses: Faculty of Law, University of Lucknow, Jaipur Law College, University of Rajasthan have these courses. More recently departments of law in Utkal University, Manipur University, Aligarh Muslim University, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Panjabi University, Patiala, University of Jammu, Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur
have introduced diploma courses in Criminology.

(d) **Criminology as special paper:** The post graduate departments of sociology, social work, psychology, law and National Law Universities in the country also have the subject of Criminology as a paper in the curriculum.

(e) **Distance education courses:** There are correspondence courses in Criminology. The Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Dr Harising Gour University (formerly University of Saugar) conducts a Post Graduate Diploma in Criminology and Police Administration. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration, M S University also has a correspondence course in criminology and police science.

(II) **Criminology in training institutions:** There are specific training institutions where criminology forms a part of the training programmes for the functionaries of criminal justice administration. They include: National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, New Delhi, National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad, State police academies, training colleges and schools, jail training schools and regional correctional institutes also have a fairly wide coverage of criminology.

### Growth

Panakel (1973) Gupta (1974), Menon (1978), Jatar (1979, 1980), Shukla (1981) and Khan (1984), Diaz (1990), Pande (1991), Srivastava(1995) have studied factors affecting the growth of Criminology in India. Shukla (1985) conducted a survey of researches in Sociology of Deviance. Besides documenting important research works this Report reflected upon various factors affecting the quantum and quality of research in this discipline. This publication also dealt with certain other issues significant in the development of this discipline.

Several factors may be referred to while tracing the growth of criminology in India. Firstly, criminology is yet to emerge as a major independent discipline, though the subject is more than fifty years strong in this country. Secondly, the subject initially grew as an adjunct to major social science discipline, even later it remained dependent on the academicians hailing from other parallel
disciplines. Thirdly, the subject could not be started in many universities. Resultantly, trained manpower and students in this area were very few and far between. Fourthly, this position has also restricted the possible employment avenues in this discipline. The vicious circle, hence, continued. Fifthly, as Shukla also noted, the teachers/faculty, who was initially instrumental in the teaching and research in this area, brought with them the concepts and methodology of their parent disciplines. They invariably utilized their background training in criminology. There were hardly any efforts to evolve basic and foundational criminology with its own methodology. Sixthly, the syllabi of this subject in different institutions do not follow a standard pattern.

**Teaching, Research and Practice:**

Some discernible features in this regard can be summarized as below:

1. The extent of criminologists with basic orientation in terms of degree and affiliation in criminology is extremely low. A good amount of researches in criminological issues are conducted by sociologists, psychologists and legal scholars. This position has been both facilitating and impeding for the growth of this subject. On the one hand, the process resulted in making this subject a dynamic discipline with an interdisciplinary orientation and, on the other hand, criminology suffered in creating its own identity as independent and mainstream discipline, as happened in the west. The researches conducted by the scholars of the parallel subjects have invariably failed to connect their research with prevailing criminological theories and concepts. Resultantly, they did not contribute to the theories in the subject. Besides, these scholars hardly have any direct academic commitment to criminology as they have been vacillating conveniently between criminology and their parent discipline.

2. Researchers did not have much financial encouragement for research in criminology. Later, UGC and ICSSR have, however, started financing doctoral works/research projects in this area.

3. Until the advent of Indian Society of Criminology in 1970 and Indian Society
of Victimology in 1994, there were almost no national fora in this area. Recently (2003), a forum as RC 18 on ‘Sociology of Crime and Deviance’ has been constituted under the auspices of the Indian Sociological Society.

4. Researchers in criminology had considerable discouragement due to difficult and daunting data collection conditions involving contacting of criminals, prisoners, visiting jails, police and other problem areas and persons.

Criminology as Interdisciplinary Discipline: The basic character of Criminology is of interdisciplinary nature. Crime as phenomenon can be approached by several disciplinary standpoints. Even in the pioneering Departments at Saugar or Mumbai, the faculty members had sociology or social work orientation and criminology was nurtured as an interdisciplinary subject. In the early years, sociologists specially belonging to Lucknow school led by Prof Shushil Chandra did several sociological studies on deviance and delinquency. Subsequently, many departments of sociology in the northern and western India have made scores of works in this area. Particularly, Prof J J Panakal provided much impetus to criminology in the western India. A social work perspective was added to criminology during this period. Influenced by studies in psychology of crime in the west, psychologists in India have attracted to this area and resultantly many studies in criminal psychology were conducted in the southern India (led by Prof T E Shanmugam) and in rest of the country.

In a research project on the subject being conducted by the author, it was reveled that most works having an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary stance were in the form of doctoral dissertations. Sociological concepts and theories especially social disorganization, social change, social structure, stratification, sociometry etc. were immensely applied in such works. Social work researchers were mainly confined to prison issues and drug related problems. Psychologists studied personality characteristics and related correlates in criminality. Many studies in criminology in the country were conducted by geographers and they have added a spatial and temporal dimension in this subject. Ecological studies, now better known as Environmental criminology, are also mentionable here.
Assessment:

So far there have been three efforts, in the frame of ICSSR Survey Reports in Sociology and Social Anthropology, to document criminological studies. The first trend report was part of ‘Social Work Research’ (Ranade, 1974) undertaken in the first ICSSR Survey in Sociology and Social Anthropology. The second effort was a trend report on ‘Sociology of Deviant Behaviour’ (1985) by K S Shukla undertaken in the second survey in Sociology and Social Anthropology. The third effort was a report on ‘Crime, Delinquency and Correctional Methods’ undertaken as part of the third survey in Sociology and Social Anthropology by D R Singh (2000).

The three survey reports, as mentioned above, have covered the works conducted in criminology till 1994. The present report intends to cover the post 1994 period in criminological studies. A brief recapitulation of the last two surveys will be in order.

The Second Survey Report on ‘Sociology of Deviant Behaviour’ covered the period 1969-79. This report presented not only an extensive range of works in criminology but also developed insightful arguments and observation unfolding the development of teaching and research in this area. This report brought forth the issues and areas affecting the growth of this subject in India. The scheme of classification of topics in this work was: deviance among men, women, juveniles, suicide, and de-notified communities, drug addiction, youth unrest, correction. The report noted the dearth of doctoral and post doctoral works in criminology (ibid: 223), lack of sociological interpretation of the phenomena hindering the growth of this discipline and over reliance on foreign tool and techniques lacking indigenous methodologies (ibid: 224) as some of the factors affecting the development of criminology and sociology of deviance. The report, inter alia, suggested that crime and deviance need to be linked and seen in broader sociological frame work connecting with mainstream sociological thinking. Social structural, functional, social change related
perspectives should be used in the interpretation of crime and deviance. Longitudinal and interdisciplinary studies were also recommended to be undertaken in this area.

While the focus in the third survey report was on deviance, the fourth survey report by D R Singh focused on crime, delinquency and correctional methods. This report covered the works undertaken between 1979 and 1994. The set of problems and, as shown in this report, was quite changed as compared to the earlier report. Therefore several new areas like victimology, collective violence, organized criminality etc. were brought into this publication. Compared to the earlier survey report, this report refrained from specifically commenting or critically analyzing the general scenario concerning teaching, research and practice of criminology. The report in the closing paragraphs (ibid: 51), however, concluded that ‘-- the researches in the area of crime, delinquency and correctional methods are almost sketchy’. The report found the absence of theory building, monitoring and evaluation studies, time series and prediction studies in criminology. Lack of proper utilization of research in policy purposes was also noted in this work.

**Issues and Perspectives:**

Despite tremendous promise and considerable potential, Criminology as a subject in this country is in a state of avoidable neglect and apathy. This section intends to elucidate as to where the things have gone wring with it and what could be the ways and means to rectify the situation.

**Trends:**

1. Teaching of criminology at degree and post degree level is not extensively available as there are only a very few institutions providing teaching, research or practices in criminology. The situation has resulted in many untoward outcomes. For instance, the academic openings and a broad network of academicians in criminology could not grow in India.
2. Criminology in India has not been able to foster a clear cut beneficiary base. Linkages between practice and profession in criminology are obscure and unexplored.

3. On account of being mainly associated with their parent disciplines, the researchers who made commendable contributions to criminology remained indifferent to the development of criminology in India.

4. The basic researches in criminology India leading to the development of theories explaining the major problems of criminality in this country have been almost non existent. Nor do the criminologists, in most cases, have been able to prescribe polices and programmes oriented research findings.

5. Criminology in India also lacked international focus and recognition.

6. Combined together, criminology is largely perceived as discipline with restricted avenues and limited vertical mobility in career advancement in India.

**Research Priorities: Futuristic Vision**

Research priorities in academic discipline are relative and time specific. These need to be seen at two levels: one, at the international level to understand the trends and emphasis in research. This is significant from the standpoint of academic growth of the subject in the international context. Second, the discipline ought to address the problems of contemporary nature with possible contribution in policy and planning. Going by this, it would be logical to suggest that the research priorities in criminology must be guided by the gaps in research suggested in the preceding section. Following areas are worth considering as priorities in criminological researches.

1. Basic research contributing to indigenous understanding of major forms criminality
2. Evolving data base and information based on non government sources
3. Areas like victims of kidnapping, terrorism, organized crimes involving secondary victimization, restitution, restorative justice, system as victim, political criminology unraveling nexuses, vulnerability of political processes for criminalization, radical criminology, action criminology, pragmatic criminology, social tolerance of deviance, decriminalization, economics of crime and justice, impact of imprisonment, forensic psychology, Environmental criminology including crime profiling, GIS applications and crime mapping, situational crime prevention, alternatives to imprisonment, community sentence, continuum of criminal justice process, fear of crime, victimization survey, risk of victimization are in need of systematic research attention and form priorities in research in criminology in the times ahead.
4. Need is also to make the criminological literature produced in India available on the Internet.
5. A look at the performance of criminology and concerned institutions abroad (viz., U.S., UK, Australia) can provide the needed insight in developing this subject in India as a vibrant discipline with amazing potential.
6. To grow and sustain, teaching and research in criminology need to be made widely available like any other social science subject.

**Looking Ahead:**

To develop and sustain Criminology as a discipline of learning and applications, there is need to work on the gaps and problems identified in the research survey. The UGC, ICSSR and the Institutions already working in this area are required to display greater concern for this subject. The UGC can think of establishing centers for excellence in criminology. The matter can also be taken up with the Government agencies and organization for considering the subject in their recruitment process. The need is also to take up the matter with the UPSC for its inclusion in the Civil Services. The UGC or Ministry of Human Resource Development can do the needful into this matter. The bodies like
Indian Society of Criminology must act in this direction. The UGC and ICSSR may consider of greater and separate funds allocation for researchers in Criminology. The developing of standard syllabi in criminology may also be given attention to.

In nutshell, criminology in India is surely coming of age. Quality and quantity of research in criminology has shown improvement. Criminology in India has grown to be a multi disciplinary subject in true sense. Despite shortcomings found and expressed in the present Report, Criminology as a subject of learning and research has tremendous promise and potential for a country like India. If nurtured and developed in a correct way and direction, it can contribute to the larger objective of safe living and order in the society.

References


