

## TEACHING OF CRIMINOLOGY IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

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1.- The subject of Criminology would include all that is necessary to understand and prevent crime, as well as matters that are concerned with Law Enforcement, by way of Detection, Prosecution and Punishment and Correction. Modern Criminology, as we envisage it in India, would therefore cover, as it probably does universally, the following:

- (i) The causation of Crime and Delinquency as well as the etiology of Criminal behaviour,
- (ii) Nature and extent of Crime and Delinquency, Crime statistics and possible forecasting,
- (iii) Societal Reaction to the Crime Problem, with special reference to the Criminal Justice System and its sub-systems, of the Police, Judiciary and Correctional agencies,
- (iv) Prevention of Crime and Victimization as well as Social Defence in general.

2.- This makes it obvious that Criminology is a multidisciplinary social science. Not that it does not have a substantial original content; it does, and more is being built up day by day by painstaking research, largely in U.S.A. and elsewhere in the West: But there is no gainsaying the fact that the subject leans heavily on Behavioural Sciences like Psychology and Sociology, and also Law, not to speak of Anthropology

and Geography, and, in actual practice, would involve Police Sciences and Correctional Administration to a considerable extent. That is probably the reason why, in the initial stages, the subject of Criminology tended to develop, in different areas of the world under different umbrellas. In Europe, the subject grew mainly in the shadow of law, although sociologists and psychologists contributed substantially to its development. In U.S.A. the Sociologists took the lead, and much of the development of Criminology in the New World has been connected with the various departments of Sociology. In India, the emergence of Criminology came much later; even so, the development took place under different protective umbrellas in various parts of the country.

3.- It may be recalled that, as a result of a survey on the teaching of Criminology in ten different countries, the UNESCO declared that in most countries of the World, public opinion demanded a relevant and purposeful transformation of the police, the judicial and penal systems, and when the concerned authorities attempted renovation, they encountered a great poverty of precedents and guiding standards. India was one of the Countries, that listened to this finding and acted on the call of the UNESCO, to establish scientific teaching of Criminology, so that the efforts of the progressive elements in the Criminal Justice System and in the community as a whole, may be guided in the right direction. It is also pertinent to record, in this context, that it was one of the more important user-agencies, the National Conference of Inspectors General of Police of India (1959), that echoed UNESCO's sentiments, and moved some of the Indian Universities to introduce Criminology as a subject of study. This Organisation also took steps to establish at National level, an Institute Criminology and Forensic Science in the late 60's and of, the Institute is doing very good work in both areas.

4.- It is true that, even before 1959, in some universities like Karnataka in Dharwar, Kasthi Vidyapeeth and Lucknow University in Uttar Pradesh, they had introduced a paper or two in Criminology as optional in their degree and post-graduate courses in Sociology. Many Law Colleges in India, as far distant as Madras and Jammu, had criminology as one of the options in their Master of Law degree course. Schools of Social Work in Delhi and elsewhere too did the same. Some time after 1951-52, however, when Dr. Walter Reckless visited India as U.N. Expert on Prisons and Corrections and gave his report, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Bombay, which is a Deemed University, introduced a Master's degree programme in Criminology and Correctional Administration. Many correctional administrators of India have benefitted considerably by undergoing this Course. But the very first University in the Country to introduce Criminology in 1959, as a major subject of study, in a separate full-fledged department, was Sagar University in Madhya Pradesh. But they did this, as a cross between Humanities and Sciences, as a Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, catering to study and research in both. It still continues that way, probably to meet the needs of the Police Departments and other connected Organisations. Many Criminologists and Forensic Scientists of India today are alumni of that University. In the next year 1960, the University of Madras started a one-year Diploma Course, also in Criminology and Forensic Science, to start with,

for serving Criminal Justice professionals, on the initiative of the then Inspector General of Police, Madras.

5.- But even after 30 long years today, the number of Universities that teach Criminology in India can be counted on one's fingers, apart of course from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, as already mentioned, and a few universities, some Law Colleges and Social Work Institutes, which teach the subject either as a single special programme or as optional papers in other programmes. The Universities of Lucknow, Rajasthan and Jammu offer diploma courses in Criminology now, in addition to providing Criminology as optionals in their Sociology or Law programmes. Indore and Mysore Universities provide Bachelor's degree Courses in the subject. Karnataka University, Dharwar, offers both Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Criminology. In Madras, while the Diploma Course in Criminology and Forensic Science, started in 1960 in the Madras Medical College, continued its chequered career, a full-fledged Master's degree programme commenced later in 1965, also in Criminology and Forensic Science. At a certain stage, realisation dawned that it was not appropriate to have a course, which was neither 'fish nor fowl'. Accordingly, steps were taken to organise two separate Master's degree programmes: one leading to an M.A. degree in Criminology, conducted in the University of Madras under the auspices of the Department of Psychology, and the other a programme of M.Sc., in Forensic Science, organised in the Forensic Science Laboratory of Madras. The author personally had the privilege of being in sole charge of the former, as Hon. Professor of Criminology at the University of Madras (1977-1983), and also of organising a new Department of Criminology, which ultimately started functioning from 1983 as an independent entity.

6.- Even earlier, as Head of the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Branches of State Police, the author had been associated with teaching some relevant subjects to the Diploma course and Master's programme. But, when he was Director of the National Police Academy, Hyderabad, it so happened that the University Grants Commission invited him to be a member of the Inspection Commission, entrusted with the task of deciding whether the University of Madras should raise a separate Department of Criminology. The Commission decided in the affirmative. And a peculiar feature in this context was that, unlike other Commissions, which recommend things to be done, leaving it for others to implement, the author, on retirement from Police service, had the unique privilege of himself having to implement the recommendations of the Commission. In the result some difficult negotiations between the University and the State Government fell to his lot, as also the task of drawing up the syllabi for the various courses, fixing up Examination patterns, and compiling a suitable agenda as well as guidelines for research. The final stage of the process was laying down the organisational chart for staffing, with job descriptions for each position, and recruiting the required and suitable faculty. All this was done, while doing the bulk of the teaching work too for the Master's Programme in Criminology, with the assistance of Guest Faculty from various departments, particularly the Department of Psychology, to which the programme was attached in the interim period. When the faculty were all recruited and placed in position, the author handed over charge and withdrew, though he is still associated with the department as Visiting



Professor, in which capacity he is also connected with the Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, New Delhi.

7.- Since then, the course direction and syllabi have been altered and updated more than once. The last occasion was after a meaningful All-India Workshop, organised for this specific purpose at the instance of the University Grants Commission. The two-year Master's degree programme in Criminology was then restructured as regards course content and scheme of Examinations as below, with appropriate updated syllabi for the various subjects, as arrived at by consensus in the Workshop. The findings of the Workshop were adopted with only marginal changes, by all Universities having M.A. degree courses in India.

*First Year*

Part I	Module	Subject	Marks
	1.-	Criminology & Penology	100
	2.-	Sociology of Crime & Delinquency	100
	3.-	Psychology of Crime & Delinquency	100
	4.-	Criminological Research & Statistical Methods	100
	5.-	Practical I - Lab & Field Work	100
Part. II			
	6.-	Criminal Justice System	100
	7.-	Criminal Law, Procedure & Evidence-Social Legislations	100
	8.-	Police Administration & Investigation	100
	9.-	Correctional Administration	100
	10.-	Practical II - Dissertation	100
Total			1.000

The total number of students admitted for the Master's Programme was not to exceed 15, and each student had to work under the supervision of a teacher duly assigned. The Supervisor's help would be particularly availed of by the student in respect of the Practicals.

8.- Being a multi-disciplinary subject, and substantially practice-oriented in its approach, guest faculty from the concerned Government Departments, like the Police and Corrections, are systematically invited to speak to the students. Where necessary and appropriate the students are sent to the concerned Institutions. This is particularly done in respect of the Forensic Science Laboratory and Forensic Medicine Department

of the Medical College, even though the coverage of these subjects in the present programme is minimal. Apart from this, several visits are arranged to Institutions like Police Stations, Police Control Room, Courts including Juvenile Courts and Welfare Boards, Prisons and other Correctional Institutions, and finally the Juvenile Guidance Bureau. But the bulk of the lectures are handled by the regularly recruited and positioned faculty of the Criminology department. However, in order to emphasise its interdisciplinary character and also to expose them to the thinking of leaders in other connected disciplines, senior faculty from Psychology, Sociology and Law as well as leaders of thought in the Justice delivery area, are also invited to deliver a few lectures.

9.- As soon as the new Department was formed with its own faculty in 1983, a few students were admitted to the preparatory research programme of Master of Philosophy. A couple of years later, students were registered also for the Ph. D. Programme, and some of them have completed their work now. The themes for research chosen were largely application-oriented. The fact that the Department had established continuing rapport with the various Government departments, connected with the Criminal Justice System and with other University departments concerned, has helped considerably in the execution of the research work. Further, some informal utilisation of the research findings has also been possible. But a major tie-up between research findings and policy-making bodies, at the State and Union of India level, has not yet formally materialised, though some of us have been members of advisory bodies at the State and Central level. Personally, the author was able to contribute his mite, as Member of the Prison Reforms Commission of Tamilnadu, many of whose recommendations have been accepted and implemented, and as Member of the National Advisory Board for Social Defence, whose efforts resulted in the new Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. Further, it was a fortunate coincidence that the author was asked to lead the official Indian delegation to the U.N. Congress of August-September 1985, and could contribute substantially to the smooth passage of the U.N. declaration on Victims Rights. But the fact remains that it has not yet been possible for the Criminologists of India, to establish a formal linkage between Researches in the University and Policy-making by the Government.

10.- One of the issues that the Governments and the University Grants Commission have been frequently raising, when approaches are made to them for grants, is the range of employment opportunities available to the persons, who pass through the portals of the Departments of Criminology in India, with post-graduate or even research degrees. The reply generally is that the Master's Programme in Criminology and the related research qualifications are not really job-oriented courses, though they do open up avenues in certain specialist areas, both with the Government and in higher level academic Institutions. In thi respect, the openings available to them are wider than for other academic disciplines. In fact, being a broad-based and multi-disciplinary course of academic training, the students who have done well in criminology programmes, have been able consistently to acquit themselves creditably in interviews, for diverse higher level positions in public and private sector organisations in competition with others, appearing with equivalent qualifications in traditional subjects. Further, some of the State Public Service Commissions hae

ruled that, for recruitment to positions as Criminal Justice professionals, other qualifications being equal, preference would be given to Criminology-trained candidates. The Indian Society of Criminology has also been systematically making representations to the Union Public Service Commission to include Criminology as one of the subjects of study for their higher level competitive examinations. When this materialises, and the Public Service Commissions of the other States also decide to give preference for Criminology students in the recruitment of Criminal Justice professionals, the employment opportunities for them are bound to improve. This will be in addition to the opportunities, for teaching and research positions, when more and more of them opt for starting programmes in Criminology.

11.- Crime and prevention of Crime as well as the treatment of delinquents and criminals have always been matters of grave concern for the people. Recent studies in many parts of the world have shown that this concern is growing beyond bounds, quite legitimately, because of the abnormal increase in the crime rate all over the world, including India, and also because of the alarming trends in the nature of crime towards violence and heavy frauds. The situation, therefore, warrants intelligent and application oriented study and research in the en-larging field of Criminology, so that it may be possible to take concerted steps effectively towards prevention of crime, and where this is not possible to detect the crimes that have taken place and to follow them up with measures to correct the offenders and re-integrate them mean in gully into society. In the final analysis, that would be the real contribution that society would expect from Criminologists and their widening circle of associates and students.