

# CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND ITS MOTIVATIONS

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## **Abstract**

*Criminal behaviour should be followed under all its aspects, the process of raising and educating the individuals playing a dynamic part within the whole criminal-related structure. One cannot put aside the nature or the on-going development of the individual under all its psychological social and cultural aspects. The role of the family, governed by the educational process, is very important, the family environment thus being able to create prototypes for the society, subject to the cultural transformations and to the social and economic changes.*

**Keywords:** *criminal behaviour, dominant social environment, personality, motivations, criminogenic factors, unique circumstances.*

## **Introduction**

All along his/her life, the individual develops more or less normally as a reaction to external stimuli. During the development process that starts at birth, at the same time with the growing process, the individual becomes normal or deviant, he/she can be marginalized or subjected to the inferiority complex. The trajectory of such a process is influenced at the same extent by the family, social, educational and cultural environment, the individual acquiring both the capacity of adaptability to rapid changes of the society and also the capacity of immunization to its actions. On its way to adulthood, education plays the main part in the development of the individual, in creating values and models for society, but his/her behaviour manifests itself by relating to the other members of the society, thus giving birth to a social style of the group. The individual's manifestations are not self-subsistent, but they take place within the group in which the individual is inserted, being exposed to the pressures of the dominant environment in which he/she finds him/herself.

## **The criminal behaviour in relation with the dominant social environment**

Not only the biological constitution of the individual prevails over the individual's criminal manifestations, but also his/her whole life experience, experiences he/she had had during their lives, including the social context in which he/she finds his/herself at a

certain moment. The individual manifests differently as a reaction to external stimuli, an important part being played by the sources of the impulse and of control. The interruption and inhibition of normal growth or the occurrence of some unavoidable conflicts along the adulthood process can determine deviant or criminal behaviours, the most inclined to that being the impulsive individuals, those having a disorganised, chaotic, futureless way of life. As a paradigm, though, their criminal manifestations are well organised, also showing wisdom and astuteness in their organisation. These individuals adopt such behaviour regularly and monotonously, without being scared in any way by failures or by eventual sanctions applied. Sometimes, they act impulsively, such impulse being based on the tendency of deviation which is innate and not acquired. Beyond this, it is true that social factors, therefore social relationships, and also the culture of the environment and of the group, have an influence on behaviour.

In other words, the personality of the offender who commits the offence is favoured by the social conditions influencing the criminal actions or the moment of arriving to such action. Any criminal act should be approached in terms of control which includes social dynamics [1]. The criminal behaviour occurs as a result of the confrontation between society, on one hand, organised socially and legally, and its subjects, on the other hand, organised on categories and social groups. Nevertheless, criminal manifestations appear as a result of continuous interactions [2], in terms of the way in which the interpersonal behaviours are perceived. We have to notice, however, if the individual finds him/herself in front of an interaction which is not a priority.

The antisocial act cannot be interpreted outside the dominant environment, in which objective and subjective causes and factors subscribe, having an impact on abnormal behaviour. Each behaviour includes its own story. That is why, what is automatically perceivable or similar to another behaviour found is not characteristic to that situation. Each event is of interest partially, taking into account the specificity of the conditions in which it is manifested, and also the reaction of "that individual" to such environment. All these are supported by the fact that at present the man does no longer live isolated, but in a specific environment, with particular situations and biological, psychological and social characteristics. The society now is organised so that the individual is liable for his/her own actions. Hence the interactions taking place between

individuals, based on arguments related to ideas, principles, rules, values, feelings and attitudes.

### **The source of criminal behaviour. Determinants and motivations**

The study of criminal-related act is closely related to the inherent, psychopathological analysis of the wrongdoer. We talk about an abnormal individual from the psycho-pathological point of view, who can have a normal or abnormal behaviour, in relation with the concrete situations in which it takes place. Such manifestation can be influenced by a series of factors related to somatization, temperament, attitudes, psychology, society and culture. All these factors create pressure and give birth, by their mutual action, to antisocial behaviours which manifest persistently in time. The predisposition to delinquency is especially met to those with excessive energy, itching for adventure, impulsive, aggressive, and destructive or to those having an authoritarian, hostile, spiteful temperament; regarding them we have the so-called criminal potential. The antisocial act occurs as a result of the combination of the criminal potential with the circumstantial factors [3].

Each wrongdoer should be related to the offence he/she commits. For the same social situation, human reactions are different, each of them being driven by a unique motivation [4]. The antisocial behaviour occurs as a cognitive expression over the conditions of the social life and reality. The biological and psychological side interferes with the social one, which explains the diversity of human reactions to the same given situation [5]. The role of the family is a primary one within the structure of the individual's personality and within the construction of a normal and balanced character. The first stages in the character development identify with the need of affection, understanding, protection and safety on the parents' behalf, the parents fulfilling the role of guides and road openers for the future adult. The lack of such landmarks or the shortcomings registered within the family nucleus have repercussions in the individual's psychopathic and disharmonic personality. The frustrations, tensions, feelings of emotional instability or of emotional conflict, experienced since childhood, can develop the predisposition to delinquency, especially if we related to a disorganised cultural environment, present in the urban disadvantaged areas [6]. Therefore, temperament,

intelligence, and level of energy, practically all the aspects of personality, are in close connection with the social and environmental situations. The evolution of the human being and his/her behaviour are always closely connected to the hereditary and environmental factors. The psychic factors have impact on the whole body, being present at the level of each cell from the human body. At the same extent, in researching the causes of the offences, they start from the idea that the wrongdoer is not an isolated individual, but the product of the society in which he/she lives, involving also the responsibility of the society.

### **The criminal personality and the criminal tendencies**

There is a variety of deviant or criminal behaviours, extremely different one from another, and what is of interest is the totality of the deeds which determine the behaviour of an individual at a certain moment. It is unquestionable that the biological factors are the basis of personality itself, respectively the basis of criminality. Alcoholism, physical diseases, mental illnesses, suicide, as well as other negative characteristics of the predecessors, represent the luggage of a direct genetic inheritance of mental weakness. The behaviour is not the one which is transmitted, but there can be some significant „patterns”, easy to place in a certain context and at a certain moment, where it is necessary that the individual adapt to the pressures exerted on him/her. Practically, when analysing criminality, we have to take into consideration the correlation between the *disposition of personality* and the *environment* in which it develops.

Personality and actions should be regarded from a dynamic perspective, so that each human behaviour has to be prevalently assessed according to personality and environment, and then according to deeds. Thus, the following aspects are of equal interest: disposition of the individual, his/her condition of development, events from his/her life and from the past, and also the external influences which determine the action. Franz Exner, in his researches on the person of the wrongdoer, reached the conclusion that the formation of personality is also determined by the surrounding environment, and the offence represents a reaction to the environment impressions. It is a combination of influences, dispositions and environment [7].

All behaviours are different, according to their dynamics, they have to be analysed within a certain time unit and in a given situation. The professional thief, the wrongdoer associated in a criminal organisation, the dishonest public servant, cannot share the same values, and their thinking and wishes lead to different motivations. That is why, in order to understand deviance, we have to analyse the individual in his/her biological, psychological and social complexity, he/she being constantly in different and complex circumstances. Practically, the deviant behaviour supposes an active participation of the individual, who acts according to his/her own feelings, as a response of his/her personality to the need to feel similar or different from the others.

### **Criminogenic factors in juvenile delinquency**

The teenage period represents a favourable ground for violent and aggressive behaviours, where a rapid psychological and physical transformation takes place, in which the need of his/her own identity is felt [8]. An early antisocial debut shows a higher probability regarding the criminal-related career of a person. Understanding the criminal and violent behaviour starts from the establishment of neuronal correlations which are the basis of the cognitive and effective processes guiding the daily antisocial behaviour. Therefore, at the basis of the criminal behaviour there are both social-environmental influences and simply neuronal factors. Thus, both age and the development stage in which the individual finds him/herself, can explain how adolescence can involve an aggressive or criminal behaviour risk. The brain activity is correlated with the mental functions and the behaviour of an individual, in different moments of development [9]. It was emphasized that the eventual dysfunctions at the medial frontal orbital cortex level are associated with a lower capacity to reflect on his/her actions and to manage the aggressive actions toward a violent behaviour

When explaining criminal juvenile activity, the minor should be placed within the context of his/her life and observed through the combination of all biological, psychological and sociological aspects. A progressive analysis of his/her biography is necessary, in order to individualize his/her own personality, and for that you need to effectively place yourself into his/her world. This implies a thorough study his/her way of being, within the whole psychological and evolutionary path, and listening to the subject

regarding his/her inner resonances, interpersonal and environment relationships. We have to analyse the experiences lived directly by him/her and which make up his/her life history, paying attention to the way in which they are told and also to the shapes he/she gives to his/her own stories, as it is extremely important to see the most profound and authentic core of the story. We can see from here the fundamental meaning of his/her choices and we can distinguish the motivation of the minor's illegal behaviour as an expression of his/her actions during his/her life. Such behaviour should not be reduced to a particular neuropsychological functioning, but an analysis is imposed, analysis of the individual in his/her complexity, in relation to his/her psychological needs, values, his/her priorities at a certain moment, respectively to everything contributing to the construction of his/her life, his/her lifestyle, his/her relationship with himself/herself and with the world around him/her.

## Conclusions

A criminal behaviour begins in his/her defect, disharmonic, psychopathic personality. The antisocial act should be presented from a multilateral perspective, in terms of all circumstantial causes and conditions. The individual places himself/herself willingly in the conflict zone, being an active participant, as a result of his/her defective affective and social structure. The more significant a deficiency is, the higher his/her social inadequacy level is, and the more frequent and powerful the antisocial manifestations are.

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