



## UNDERSTANDING CRIME AND PREVENTION: FROM PRISON TO REDEMPTION

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This article is all about the roots of the crimes and reasons for an increase in crime, and ways to reduce the crime rate, and old vs new societies. Factors such as poverty, corruption, psychological distress, inadequate legal enforcement, and social instability, crime is a persistent global issue that affects societies on multiple levels. This article examines the root causes of crime, highlighting influences such as peer pressure, self-satisfaction, weak punishments, and systemic failures. It further explores how modern societies struggle to control crime rates, contrasting present-day challenges with the stronger communal bonds and social support systems seen in the past. Additionally, the discussion delves into international crime trends, providing case studies from high-crime regions like Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, and Afghanistan, as well as low-crime nations such as Iceland, Japan, Norway, and Singapore, which have successfully curbed crime through strict law enforcement, social reforms, and rehabilitative justice systems. The article also proposes solutions to reduce crime, emphasising the role of education, employment opportunities, improved penal provisions, strengthened community interactions, and faster justice systems. By understanding these aspects, policymakers and individuals can work toward creating a safer, more just society. Ultimately, addressing crime requires a collaborative effort between governments, communities, and individuals to implement preventive measures and ethical education while ensuring that legal systems uphold justice effectively.*

**Keywords:** Crime, Prison, Redemption, Employment.

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## **INTRODUCTION: REASONS BEHIND CRIME**

The reasons behind someone committing a crime, based on my research and discussions with others, the main reasons people commit crimes are as follows:

- The person may be unaware that their actions constitute a crime (lack of knowledge).
- A person knows it is a crime, but he commits it due to no other option left for him.

Few people know it is a crime and know it works out without committing it, but still do it due to the following:

- For self-satisfaction for their pleasure,
- Due to peer pressure,
- Due to a sort of mental issues, like anger, trauma, deficiencies,
- Due to less serious punishments,
- Due to corruption.

Personal pleasure in the sense that they commit a crime just to tell everyone I can do anything I want to, and doing a crime makes them proud of themselves and makes them happy. So, they just keep on doing so.

Peer pressure—people know it's wrong, but they still do it due to the encouragement of those around them. They can't handle the consequences of stepping back, such as mocking or bullying, so the innocent one follows whatever their peer group tells them to do.

Mental issues, like anger, trauma, and negativity, stem from a lack of a good diet or a lack of good mental care. These people are good, but what happened to them during their childhood still affects them, and they think everyone should suffer and know the pain they suffered or Another reason may be that they are not able to overcome negativity and think extremely deeply and find that crime is the only way they can be satisfied.

## **THE INCREASING CRIME RATE: WHY ARE WE STRUGGLING TO REDUCE IT?**

Due to lenient punishments, I feel individuals are encouraged to commit crimes without any fear. You can see countries like Saudi Arabia, Dubai have a very low crime rate due to the implementation of strict punishments in their country. Recently, during the period of my internship, one of the clients who recently came out of jail was telling me that life in jail was

so good that there was no worry from day to night, they provide you with proper food, a place to sleep, proper health care, etc. I was just stunned listening to his words, he was telling me my life outside the jail is terrible. Need to work hard to earn for myself and my family as well. As soon as the day starts, so does the struggle.

I read somewhere that people who earn less are the people who are less in number who commit the crime, but the people who are well off commit a huge number of crimes, as they can escape from the punishments due to the existence of corruption.

The crime rate is increasing day by day and is not decreasing. I read a few other articles and got to know that one of the reasons for the increase in the crime rate is:

- Population and
- One of the reasons that there were fewer crimes in the past was due to the people's interactions and
- The bonding that used to be maintained by almost everyone as neighbours, as a friend in a colony, as elders of a particular area..
- Everyone used to discuss problems and solve them, and used to respect and help each other, but now it's not so.
- No one has time for anyone, even for loved ones. People are less willing to help or intervene. Everyone is busy in their lives, and nobody wants to get into others' matters and help them or support them.
- This is also one of the reasons the person is becoming helpless, hopeless, and finds a way to commit a crime and get his work done.

### **LIVE EXAMPLES ARE AS FOLLOWS**

The report says the reasons behind the crimes in Venezuela are due to government corruption, a flawed judiciary system, and the breakdown of the Rule of Law. The country called Papua New Guinea is also known for crimes such as drug and human trafficking, mainly due to rapid social, economic, and political changes. Most of the people who commit crimes are members with little education and few employment opportunities. One of the reasons for organised crime in the form of corruption is common in cities, which largely contributes to the high crime rate.

The third-highest crime rate can be seen in Afghanistan. Crimes which are present in different forms, including corruption, assassinations/contract killings, drug trafficking, kidnapping, and

money laundering., Crimes such as robbery and assault are also added to the list due to the widespread unemployment in the country, which is acting as a fuel for the increasing crime. South Africa has one of the highest crime rates. It has a notably high rate of assaults, rape, homicides, and other violent crimes. This is due to several factors, including high levels of poverty, inequality, unemployment, social exclusion, and the normalisation of violence. South Africa has one of the highest rape rates in the world. More than 1 in 4 men surveyed by the South African Medical Research Council admitted to committing rape.

### **FINDING SOLUTIONS: HOW CAN WE REDUCE CRIME?**

Now it's high time we need to figure out where we are lagging. First of all, we need to provide jobs for the jobless, whoever they may be. Some policy or organisation must come into existence so that all the unemployed can work so that they don't need to commit a crime for their livelihood, and their work may lead to the betterment of the country and themselves, as the manpower comes into action and gives tremendous results. Secondly, the knowledge of law regarding crimes usually committed must be known to everyone, and the implementation of severe punishment must come into existence so that no one should feel like committing them. And should have a fear of committing a crime.

Thirdly, there must be a change in the education system. Students and younger generations must be taught how to live and everything essential for livelihood, rather than just memorising answers, passing exams, and getting scores that determine their jobs. Students are not receiving proper knowledge regarding ethics and moral values, leading to their deteriorating behaviour toward teachers, parents, and elders. This lack of moral education makes them more susceptible to criminal influences. Schools must create an atmosphere where students learn how to live happily while doing good for others.

The real-world examples that support the above solutions are as follows:

The first position in global safety rankings has been consistently held by the country named Iceland:

- With a small population and a close-knit community.
- The country has minimal violent crime and strong societal bonds.
- The police are unarmed, reflecting the nation's trust in its citizens.
- High levels of education, strong social trust, and effective law enforcement.

The second position in global safety rankings has been constantly held by New Zealand:

- Due to progressive social policies and a strong judicial system.
- New Zealand offers a peaceful environment with its welcoming culture.
- Low levels of corruption.
- Community-oriented policing and a proactive justice system contribute significantly to safety.

The third position is taken by Japan in the global safety rankings:

- Cultural emphasis on respect, strict gun control, and advanced technology in crime prevention.
- Japan's crime rates are among the lowest globally, particularly for violent crimes.
- A collective societal mindset that values harmony and respect plays a significant role.

The fourth position is held by Norway in the global safety index due to the presence of the following.

- Strong welfare systems, low unemployment, and rehabilitative justice.
- Norway's approach to crime is prevention-focused.
- The justice system that prioritises rehabilitation over punishment results in a society with low recidivism and high trust in institutions.

The fifth is Singapore, which has an extremely low crime rate, with the presence of the following:

- Rigorous law enforcement, strict penalties, and a clean, structured urban environment.
- Singapore is renowned for its efficient policing and strong legal framework.
- Harsh penalties act as effective deterrents, ensuring a safe and orderly society.

## **SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Creation of jobs:** The government should start some job-providing companies or create work opportunities for the unemployed people, so that they don't take any steps towards any criminal activities

**Rehabilitation over the punishment:** Many a time, innocent people get caught in criminal traps and get into jails, which is no less than a house of criminals, which leads to an increase

the criminality. This can even affect the minds of innocent people and may lead to the formation of new criminals. So, the best chance we can give a first-time offender is sending them to a rehabilitation centre, which will lead them to become a good person.

**Changes in the penal provisions:** The lesser the punishment, the more the crimes. We can witness this in real-world examples such as Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, and Afghanistan, which have the highest crime rates with the crime index of 83.76, 80.79, 75.4, and 78.3, respectively.

**Fastening the justice system:** Implementing the fast justice process will erase the feeling of offenders that they will enjoy freedom till they are found guilty. This will also be one of the reasons to reduce the crime rate. Implementation of societal gatherings, as it was one of the reasons in previous times for the lower crime rate in India. When I asked my elders got to know about the facts that were prevailing earlier and which were one of the reasons for preventing the crimes.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, tackling crime requires a multifaceted approach involving education, stricter enforcement, mental health support, and stronger community ties. By learning from global models and fostering empathy and accountability, societies can build safer and more just environments for future generations. The points I would like to conclude are that the main roots of crime are poor education, i.e, illiteracy, unemployment, lenient punishments, lack of proper societal bonds, etc. The main steps we need to take to curb the crime rate in the country are: changes in the penal provisions, improvement in the societal bonds, providing proper moral education, and working on maintaining the proper population rates. The government and people of society shall make proper initiatives as soon as possible, as the crime rate has been increasing like a wildfire, which would take no time to top the list of high crime rates.

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