

Crime, mind and modern criminality crime beyond technology: A conceptual study on the egoistic mind, criminal intelligence, and psychological roots of modern criminality

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Abstract

In the contemporary era, crime has evolved beyond conventional boundaries, increasingly surpassing technological safeguards due to the heightened intelligence, adaptability, and hyper-perturbed psychological states of perpetrators. Despite the rapid advancement of technology and the continuous expansion of criminal justice systems, criminal behavior continues to grow in complexity and frequency. Paradoxically, the more crime-control mechanisms and surveillance technologies are developed, the more sophisticated and intelligent criminals emerge. This conceptual research paper examines crime as a psychological and cognitive phenomenon (Andrews C Bonta, 2010), emphasizing the role of the human mind as the central administrator of behavior. It explores how egoistic tendencies, materialistic desires, emotional instability, and uncontrolled mental processes contribute to both criminality and victimization. The paper argues that without strengthening psychological regulation, ethical consciousness, and value-based understanding (Kohlberg, 1981), technological advancement alone cannot effectively prevent crime (Bartol C Bartol, 2015).

Keywords: *Criminal behaviour, crime and technology, criminal psychology, causes of crime, crime prevention, crime control, criminology.*

1. Introduction

Crime is not merely a legal violation but a complex psychological and social phenomenon shaped by the functioning of the human mind [1]. In modern societies, significant investments have been made in technological innovation, digital surveillance, forensic science, and advanced criminal justice mechanisms to prevent and control crime. However, crime continues to increase rather than decline. A critical concern in contemporary criminology is that criminal intelligence often surpasses technological advancement. Modern perpetrators operate with highly developed cognitive skills, strategic planning abilities, and psychological manipulation techniques, enabling them to outpace technological safeguards [2].

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At the same time, as criminal justice processes become more sophisticated and institutionalized, the number of criminals and the complexity of criminal activities also increase. This paradox highlights the limitations of technology-centric crime control approaches and underscores the necessity of understanding crime from a psychological and cognitive perspective.

2. Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present conceptual study are

- To examine crime as a psychological process rooted in the functioning of the human mind.
- To analyze how criminal intelligence increasingly surpasses technological advancements in crime control.

- To understand the role of egoistic tendencies in the emergence of criminal behaviour and victimization.
- To emphasize the importance of mental regulation and value-based consciousness in crime prevention.

3. Research methodology

This study adopts a conceptual and qualitative research methodology. It is based on theoretical analysis, psychological interpretation, and criminological perspectives drawn from existing literature [3]. No empirical data or statistical tools are employed. The research relies on critical reasoning and conceptual synthesis to explain the psychological roots of criminal behaviour and the limitations of technology-based crime control [4].

4. Scope of the study

The scope of this study is limited to the conceptual analysis of crime from psychological and criminological perspectives. It focuses on understanding the role of the human mind, egoistic tendencies, and criminal intelligence in modern criminal behaviour. The study does not include empirical surveys or case-based analysis [5].

4.1. Crime, Technology, and the Emerging Criminal Mind

Modern technology has significantly improved crime detection, surveillance, and investigation. Tools such as digital monitoring, cyber forensics and artificial intelligence are widely used to control crime [6]. However, crime has not decreased; instead, it has become more complex and intelligent. In many cases, criminal behaviour surpasses technological advancement because perpetrators use higher levels of intelligence, planning skills, and psychological manipulation. Criminals quickly learn how to misuse or bypass technological systems [7]. As a result, technology alone is unable to fully control crime. At the same time, the continuous development of criminal justice systems has not reduced criminality. On the contrary, as new laws, institutions, and control mechanisms emerge, criminals evolve and increase in number.

This situation highlights an important fact: crime is not only a technological or legal problem, but primarily a psychological one rooted in the functioning of the human mind [8].

4.2. The Mind as the Administrator of Criminal Behaviour

The human mind functions as the primary administrator of all actions, using the body as an instrumental tool. Whether an act results in social harmony or criminal harm depends largely on mental regulation and psychological orientation [9]. When the mind is dominated by egoistic tendencies such as greed, pride, jealousy, anger, or resentment, individuals become vulnerable to provocation and manipulation. Under such conditions, an individual may transition into criminal behaviour or become susceptible to victimization [10]. Thus, any individual can become either a criminal or a victim depending on their ability to regulate internal impulses and external influences [11].

4.3. Victimization in a Materialistic and Ego-Driven Society

In a society increasingly driven by material success, social comparison, and external validation, individuals are frequently exposed to psychological manipulation. Many crimes occur not solely due to malicious intent but because individuals are emotionally provoked, brainwashed, deceived, or influenced by others [12]. Since most individuals operate under similar egoistic and materialistic pressures, everyone exists within the same psychological vulnerability zone, making victimization a universal Possibility [13].

5. Results and discussion

While technology is indispensable for crime detection and investigation, it remains insufficient without psychological transformation. Technological tools operate externally, whereas crime originates internally within the mind [14]. Effective crime prevention must therefore integrate psychological self-regulation, emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, and value-based education [15].

6. Conclusion

Crime in the modern era reflects a complex interaction between technological advancement and evolving criminal intelligence. As crime-control systems become more advanced, criminals simultaneously become more sophisticated, often surpassing technological safeguards through hyper-perturbed cognitive strategies. Without regulating the human mind and addressing egoistic and materialistic tendencies, crime will continue to evolve regardless of technological progress. Sustainable crime prevention requires a balanced integration of technology, psychology, and value-based consciousness.

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Ethical approval statement: This research is purely conceptual in nature and does not involve human participants, animals, interviews, surveys, experiments, or sensitive personal data. Therefore, ethical approval from an institutional ethics committee was not required.

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