

# CORRELATION BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICTS AND CRIME

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**Abstract:** The origin of one's action lies in his thoughts. Wherever there is an action, there is a thought behind it that triggers it though directly or indirectly. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to highlight how one's mental conflict can lead to criminal actions. Conflicts are related to a mental process while crime belongs to the domain of actions. The present paper proposes a new approach in understanding the relation between one's mental process and the crime one commits out of it. Here, conflict theories have been discussed those work as a cause for unsought and invalid actions.

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**Keywords:** imprints, unconscious, repression, perception, personal construct.

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## INTRODUCTION:

The importance of the topic can be understood from the number of areas and fields, it has been attempted so far. Let it be the field of criminology, medical science, clinical science, neurology, psychology, sociology or literature itself, the topic is widespread everywhere. Just as we take the living people as a sample in all the above fields, characters of literature also prove to be beneficial and applicable for case study as it is the evident fact that literature depicts life and lively characters through it. The characters from different circumstances and different situations would be quite helpful in getting us to the concluding point. There are various facets and many theories also those have been formed after assessing the above topic. Three of the main theories have been discussed here in the paper to bring out the correlation between one's psyche and the criminal action one gets engaged into as a result of it.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The topic has a special importance nowadays not only as a part of the research body but as a part of day to day human life also. The significant thing about the topic is that it can be seen and treated with the world we are living with and

1. The study of the topic releases before us the variegated forms of human psyche and its existing importance.
2. It equips people with the visions to understand the mental condition of the people around us.
3. It creates awareness among people how to deal with the people having traces of some conflicts and help them resolve their conflicts in the most possible manner.
4. The welfare of every society includes 'I', with the study of the above topic, people will develop a better understanding in themselves and in this way can assist in the welfare of the society.
5. Crimes and criminality as a result of mental conflicts can be decreased at a great extent when there comes a mediator who knows how to motivate the person in a positive way.

## METHODOLOGY:

When it comes to the investigation of the correlation between psychological conflicts and crime, there are various factors those prove to be the landmark in the study. The methodology used here follows some steps.

1. Data collection and evaluation
2. Review of literature
3. Conducting some personal and group interview with the people stranding on some wrong path.
4. Collecting responses from the families of delinquents about their backgrounds and changed behaviours.
5. To make a systematic framework of the whole research.
6. To draw conclusions from the overall study.

**I. BEHAVIOURAL THEORY:** Behavioural theory is like absorbing an essence from one's behaviour. It is marked when the behavioural actions of one person influences in that particular way. Some basic principles are imbibed on one's mind through another person's actions and behaviour. And so on the validity and invalidity of actions are taken for granted thus leading to the formation of behaviour. "Behaviourists view crime as learned responses to life's situations." (Criminal Justice)

According to Albert Bandura, a well-known theorist, no one is born with certain negative violent behaviour but is moulded into that after he experiences the situations around him. As if shouting at women is an ordinary thing for people in some families. So the unequal and subordinate status of women is automatically taken for granted by the child who grows up in that family. It's not at all a strange thing for him if he finds any woman being derogated or oppressed in that way. Because the imprints that he has got from his family, he too willingly will form the condition as a valid one. So in that way, it naturally becomes an ordinary matter for him as he has taken it for granted and so finds nothing wrong in that kind of act. And so as his family treats it as normally, he too moulds his mind to take it all as a normal and valid act.

One more thing that was pointed out by Albert Bandura about human behaviour is, that human tendency is to stick to the actions which lead to laudable and praiseworthy outcomes. On the other hand the actions leading towards or exploring at contemptuous and punishable consequences (reactions) are normally withdrawn.

**II. PSYCHODYNAMIC THEORY:** Psychodynamic theory which has its roots in the theory of Sigmund Freud prominently talks about one's unconscious self. As a matter of fact, human actions and behaviour basically operated by his mind. For a better understanding of the concept, Sigmund Freud has categorised his concept into three main parts of human psychology. In his theory of 'repression' he has talked about some hidden desires and wishes of human being those due to its invalidity remain unfulfilled by the time. But as is the fact, human being is always a creature who cannot be detached from desires and wishes and so always keeps aspiring for the things that allure him. Though he himself find his wishes eccentric and beyond from the concept of fulfilment of its thought but somewhere in the hidden area of his mind these ideas so exist. Even if the person denies it and doesn't remember it, it still co-exists with his inner self, though not visibly. As Sigmund Freud has prominently talked about the division of human psyche as: id, ego and superego and their roles in human life, it becomes pretty easy to work on human thoughts.

It's not only about thoughts and desires that he talks about. The process of 'repression' consists in itself the childhood fears also that co-exists with the growing personality. Many such fears though have been made obscure with time, but as a matter of fact, do not totally vanish with time. They have been made blur by repressing them. But they do not die. As Sigmund Freud says,

"The underlying assumption is that when some wish, fear, memory or desire is difficult to face we may try to cope with it by repressing it, that is, eliminating it from the conscious mind. But this doesn't make it go away: it remains alive in the unconscious, like radioactive matter buried beneath the ocean, and constantly seeks a way back into the conscious mind, . . . ." (Peter Barry, 95-96)

As is quoted by Sigmund Freud "There is always a return of the repressed". (Peter Barry, 96) This return of the repressed matter may sometimes by harmful as it comes out through an invalid channel. This return of the repressed can in this way be a basis for leading one towards criminal actions.

Another thing that is worth discussing here is the inability and powerlessness of a person that leads the matter towards repression. As a child, one is having neither power nor sovereignty to put forth his thoughts and fulfil it emphatically. All that he can do, is to bow down before the circumstances and agree. The desires and the fears that he has are all repressed due to inability to act against it. In the later life, when he comes in a position and gains some power, all his repressed thoughts seeks an outlet. Now the person has two choices, either to validate his actions or to seek a revenge regardless of the outcomes and validity of his actions. This is where begins the criminality, when the person blurs out all the boundaries of reason and thought and goes on to indulge in his actions.

**III. COGNITIVE THEORY:** Cognitive theory of personality becomes a key figure when one is going through to study human personality and outcomes. Cognitive theory has its basis on self- perception. In simple words, we can better call it a self-assessment of the external actions. Ever since with the formation of this world and humanity, we get to see that people live in chains and so they develop well in chain as well. They imitate each other. But the real impact occurs when they evaluate others and reflect on them. This reflection is not just that same reflection which comes out by the external observation. But the kind of reflection which has something been added to from the person who is reflecting. If we avoid the roundabout way, we can directly say, in this cognitive theory one takes in the glances of external actions thus adding something more in it from his own intellect. The addition of external action and then modification to it by one's own, genuine internal perception is what the cognitive theory.

Now we all know that a person without thoughts and feelings is like a body without a soul. It's all about the thoughts and the feelings that makes a person. So while discussing about one's personality, one cannot not neglect to consider his thought process and his inner perception.

One of the key concepts that is worth discussing here about cognitive theory is, 'personal construct theory' founded by one of the greatest and well-known American psychologist, George Kelly. As per this 'personal construct theory' by George Kelly, human beings are more inclined toward constructing assumptions for certain things and then work in that particular way. The already made hypotheses are what make people think differently. There is a well-known quote from one of the greatest English poet John Keats we have been hearing for a long time which says, "Beauty lies in the eyes of beholder". The quote itself is self-evident in clarifying the above concept of construct theory by George Kelly. The beauty of the thing largely depends on the perception of the person and his thoughts. In the world where people are fighting and making distinction on the basis of colour and races and asserting white superiority, there are still people who talk on the concept of black beauty. This is the hypothesis that Kelly talks about. People make their own concepts and hypotheses and then see the world with that particular vision. The things

and actions those we observe are largely neutral while the perception is variable. And that is the reason that the same thing makes different impressions upon different personalities. The actions remain same but the channels through which it is reached is different and that makes the real difference. The same things might be treated with different ways either positively or negatively depending on the mental construct.

#### CONCLUSION:

It's not only in literature but in all the areas that one get a connection with the above topic as the existence of human being is a central concern for everyone. Throughout the above theories, the faintest idea has been brought about that the relationship between mental conflicts and criminology is reciprocal and puts a great effect upon each other. The above theories are quite eloquent in making one understand the hidden links that one's psyche has with his actions.

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