

INTRODUCTION AND BRANCHES OF VICTIMOLOGY.

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1. WHAT IS VICTIMOLOGY:-

- ***Just as criminology deals with the study of criminals -- What they do, why they do it, how they do it and how the Criminal justice system responds to it – Victimology deals With the study of victims.***
- ***Victimology is the scientific study of Victimization, Its consequences, how the criminal justice system accommodates and assists the victim, and how other elements of society, such as media, deals with the crime victims.***
- ***The term “Victimology” is constructed out of two different words:***
 - 1. ‘VICTIMA’ – a Latin word meaning Victim***
 - 2. ‘LOGOS’ – a Greek word meaning Study of something***

2. ROLE OF VICTIM IN CRIME :-

Although the field of victimology has largely moved away from simply investigating how much a victim contributes to his/her self victimization, first forays into the study of crime victims were centered on such investigations. In this way, the first studies of crime victims did not portray victims as innocents who were wronged at the hands of a offender. From these investigations the following concepts were born.

- **Victim Precipitation –**

- **It is defined as the extent of to which a victim is responsible for his/her own victimization.**
- **Its concept is rooted in the notion that, although some victims are not at all responsible for their victimization, but others are.**
- **Identifying victim precipitation does not necessarily lead to negative outcomes. It is problematic, however, when it is used to blame the victim while ignoring the offender.**

- ***Victim facilitation :-***

- ***It occurs when a victim unintentionally makes it easier for an offender to commit a crime.***
- ***A victim may, in this way, be a catalyst for victimization.***
- ***For example, a person left his keys in the car when he went shopping. By doing so, the person inadvertently made it easier for the offender to steal his car, thus precipitating his victim.***



- ***Victim Provocation :-***

- ***It occurs when a person does some thing that incites another person to commit an illegal act.***
- ***Provocation suggests that without the victim`s behavior, the crime would not have occurred. Provocation, then, most certainly connotes blamed.***
- ***In fact, the offender can`t be blamed or responsible for the act completely.***
- ***An example of victim provocation would be if a person attempted to mug a person who was walking home from his office and the man, instead of willingly giving the offender his wallet, pulled out his gun and shot the mugger. The offender in this scenario is ultimately the victim, but he would not have been shot if not for attempting to mug the shooter.***

3. BENJAMIN MENDELSON :-

- ***Known as the father of Victimology.***
- ***He coined the term for this area of study in mid 1940s.***
- ***As an attorney, he became interested in the relationship between the victims and offenders often knew each other and had some kind of existing relationship.***
- ***He then created a classification of victims based on their culpability, or the degree of the victim's blame.***
- ***His classification entailed the following :***
 - i. Completely innocent victim***
 - ii. Victim with minor guilt***
 - iii. Victim as guilty as offender/Voluntary victim***
 - iv. Victims were guilty than offender***
 - v. Most guilty victim***
 - vi. Simulating or imaginary victim***

4. VICTIMOLOGY TODAY:-

Today, the field of victimology covers a wide range of topics, including crime victims, causes of victimization, consequences of victimization, interaction of victims with the criminal justice system, interaction of victims with other social service agencies and programs, and prevention of victimization.

5. BRANCHES OF VICTIMOLOGY;-

Victimology is divided into four branches. They are as follows :-

- General Victimology;***
- Theoretical Victimology;***
- Panel Victimology;***
- Critical Victimology.***

□ **General Victimology :-**

General victimology is the study of social behavior of victims for which it suffers.

It is categorized into 5 types. They are :-

- ***Criminal;***
- ***Self; [i.e. how a victim harms himself/herself]***
- ***Social; [i.e. how a victim is affected socially or how a victim is being assaulted socially]***
- ***Technology; [i.e. when a victim gets frustrated due to technology]***
- ***Natural; [i.e. when a victim gets affected from the accident or when the victim recreate in its mind naturally after seeing an accident]***

□ ***Theoretical Victimology :-***

Theoretical victimology is the link between a victim and a criminal which gives the information of geographical state of the victim to understand the behavior of the victim or a criminal with respect to the theories having a motive to commit a crime.

□ ***Panel Victimology :-***

Panel victimology is the victimology which describes the role of victim in relation to social forces that lead u to and follow criminal acts that are defined by criminal laws.

□ ***Criminal Victimology-***

Criminal victimology is the study that relates the incidence of victimization with social groups in society and seeks to point out how some social groups are structurally more at risk of crime.

THANK YOU