FROM THEORY TO PRATICE: A VIEW ON SERIAL KILLING THROUGHT THE LENS OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

A STUDY ON "BUTCHER OF DELHI"

SUB-THEME: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

AUTHOR (1):

ROHINDH S

2ND YEAR STUDENT

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE,

CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Phone: +91 8667493015

Email: rohindhs070@gmaill.com

AUTHOR (2):

SMIRTHY R

2ND YEAR STUDENT

BACHELOR OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCE,

DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE,

CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Phone: +91 9150747981

Email: smirthyraghunathan@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The "Butcher of Delhi" case, involving brutal killings and mutilations, shocked Delhi and the nation, igniting debates on the immediate consequences of such crimes and the behavioral factors leading to them. This paper examines how sociological theories can shed light on the social and environmental factors influencing crime prevention in the 21st century, using the case of Chandrakant Jha, known as the "Butcher of Delhi," as a focal point.

Although Jha was convicted in only three cases with concentrate evidence, his case highlights the importance of addressing mental health issues from a dual perspective's: from offenders perspectives and social scientists perspectives linked to social isolation, urban alienation. Our research investigates these factors within a sociological framework and explores prevention strategies such as neighborhood watch programs and youth initiatives.

Primary data for this study was gathered using snowball sampling, starting with sociologists and expanding to include social scientists and individuals who have committed severe crimes. This data was analyzed alongside secondary data from qualitative research on the "Chandrakant Jha vs. State of Delhi" case. The study aims to uncover hidden aspects of serial killing behavior and develop effective crime prevention strategies by understanding the unseen causes and environmental factors involved.

Keywords: Social Scientists, Social Isolation, The Butcher of Delhi, Prevention Strategies, three sociological theories.

INTRODUCTION:

The concept of crime extends beyond mere antisocial behavior that violates the law. Our study focuses on the societal and psychological factors that drive individuals to commit such offenses. Often, society demands severe punishments, such as the death penalty, particularly in cases of heinous crimes like rape. While the severity of these crimes cannot be understated, it is important to question whether execution is the most effective solution. Just as we seek medical treatment for an injured hand rather than amputating it, we should consider rehabilitative measures for offenders instead of resorting solely to punitive actions like execution.

This research explores crime prevention and offender rehabilitation from a sociological perspective, emphasizing reformative measures. Specifically, we delve into the phenomenon of serial killing through the lens of the "Chandrakant Jha vs. State of Delhi" case. This case has been selected for its multidimensional aspects, including petty crimes, revenge, and the influence of cultural norms on Jha's actions. Our study examines how institutional failures during Jha's childhood and adulthood contributed to his criminal behavior.

The research draws upon three sociological theories: social disorganization theory, broken windows theory, and looking-glass self theory, to frame preventive strategies that could be applied broadly to various crimes in contemporary society. By analyzing Jha's case, we aim to understand the underlying factors that lead to such extreme behavior and propose preventive measures that address the root causes of crime rather than just its symptoms. People often focus only on the symptoms and their treatment instead of addressing the primary factors that caused those symptoms. Our research paper addresses this by analyzing primary data through a case study of the "Butcher of Delhi" case.

---

1. Chandrakant Jha case: https://www.opindia.com/2023/08/delhi-hc-grants-90-day-parole-to-convicted-serial-killer-chandrakant-jha-citing-satisfactory-behaviour/
2. Sociological theories: https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-crime-and-its-theories/#:~:text=than%20Biological%20Factors.-,Sociological%20theory,%2C%20peer%20groups%2C%20and%20Family.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Social Scientist & sociologist: A social scientist is a professional who employs the scientific method to study human society and the relationships between individuals. Sociologists, a subset of social scientists, specifically focus on the interactions of people within a society.

Sociological Perspectives from the Chandrakant Jha Case: Although Chandrakant Jha was born into a relatively well-to-do family, his mother's aggressive nature and demanding job limited the time she could spend with him during his childhood. This situation highlights the evidence of institutional failure in his upbringing.

The Hindu - December 06, 2018 - Age-Crime Curve in Sociology: This concept, first identified by American criminologists Travis Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson, observes that the tendency to commit crimes often begins in early adolescence. This tendency may be influenced by observing individuals who have already committed crimes or by residing in areas that mainstream society has labeled as prone to criminal activity.

"Eye For An Eye Will Turn The Whole World Blind" (Manupatra, August 29, 2011) - Focuses on reformative measures that can be applied to both criminals and the institutions responsible for their rehabilitation. The article argues that when we collectively endorse such punitive measures, we fail to recognize the broader impact on numerous families, including those of the criminal. Instead, the article advocates for a more humane approach, suggesting that reform and rehabilitation are essential for preventing further harm to all parties involved.

---

3. **Social scientist & sociologist:** https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/social-scientist-vs-sociologist#:~:text=A%20social%20scientist%20is%20a,choose%20to%20study%20multiple%20aspects.
4. **Age – crime curve in sociology:** https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-age-crime-curve-in-sociology/article25673202.ece
5. **Article : Mnupatra:** https://articles.manupatra.com/article-details/an-Eye-For-An-Eye-Will-Turn-The-Whole-World-Blind-In-Special-Context-To-Reformative-Theory-Of-Punishment

CHANDRAKANT JHA VS DELHI (THE BUTCHER OF DELHI)

Chandrakant Jha, also known as "The Butcher of Delhi," was 55 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with brown eyes and black hair, as mentioned in the FIR of Hari Nagar Police Station. He had five siblings, one of whom worked at the Central Reserve Police Force, and another worked in the Bihar State Police. Jha married Mamata as his second wife and had five children. He was born into a well-to-do family; however, his mother's aggressive nature and demanding job led to her inability to spend much time with Jha during his childhood. Jha worked as a vegetable seller in a sabzi mandi. Additionally, he worked as a plastic hawker and owned a cycle rickshaw with a motor installed in it.

Crime Pattern: Jha would cut off the heads, limbs, and genitals from the bodies and dispose of them at different locations in Delhi. He challenged the police by leaving notes with the bodies that he threw outside Tihar Jail Gate Number 3. He believed that throwing the heads of the victims into the Yamuna River would provide him with moksha.

FIR NO	VICTIMS'S NAME	REASON	SENTENCE IMPOSED
609/2006	ANIL MANDAL	Being a womaniser	**Death sentence** with fine of 10,000 under IPC 302 & 201
246/2007	UPENDER	For having affair with one of his daughters	**Death sentence** with fine of 10,000 under IPC 302 & 201
249/2007	UNIDENTIFIED	For eating non-veg and smoking and betraying him	**Life imprisonment** with fine of 10,000 under IPC 302 & 201

Table 01: Recorded killings of JHA as on FIR with evidence given by police

Targets: Jha targeted migrants from his own village and the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He would offer them accommodation in his locality, but due to his short-tempered and aggressive nature, even minor issues would lead him to kill them.

Statement of the Case: In his early years in Delhi, Jha was once attacked by a local goon. In 1998, Jha decided to take action against his union leader, known as Pandit in that area. During the confrontation, Pandit was injured and filed a complaint at the local police station. Subsequently, a police officer named Balbir Singh arrested Jha, who was beaten and stripped naked in front of other prisoners. This humiliation occurred because Jha was merely a laborer from a lower caste. This incident triggered Jha's desire for revenge against Balbir Singh, marking the beginning of his path to becoming a serial killer.

After Jha's arrest for the case mentioned above, his second wife confessed that they had not been living apart from the family. She stated, "According to you people, the victims were all his associates, but if there were people coming from his villages to stay with him, I would have known about it, and we never rented the room." This indicates that Jha had a public and private life as a serial killer, revealing how societal and environmental factors influenced his actions. Even petty issues could drive him to commit crimes, likely due to the lack of parental love during his childhood.

However, Jha confessed to a different story, claiming he had killed 45 people, though only 8 were known to police records. Finally, the police filed FIRs against Jha for only 3 cases, which are detailed in Table 1, along with his punishments.

Parole: The High Court granted a 90-day parole to serial killer Chandrakant Jha, who is serving a life term after being convicted in three murder cases. Jha sought parole, stating that he needed to finalize a suitable groom for his eldest daughter. Despite opposition, the court granted parole, citing that Jha had spent more than 15 years in jail and that his conduct behind bars had been satisfactory.

6. **Case Judgment:**
    https://www.casemine.com/judgement/in/56ea8876607dba371ebca70a
7. **Parole:** https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/court-grants-90-day-parole-to-serial-killer-chandrakhant-jha/article67205694.ece#:~:text=The%20High%20Court%20has%20granted,convicted%20in%20three%20murder%20cases.

THEORETICAL ANALYSIS:

Social Disorganization Theory: This theory posits that the structural characteristics of a community can influence crime rates, particularly when social structures are weakened or when there is a breakdown in the community's ability to maintain social norms. Additionally, the perception and labeling of an individual by the community or the area in which they live may contribute to their likelihood of committing a crime.

Broken Windows Theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of maintaining public order to prevent crime. By addressing minor issues within a community, it is possible to prevent the escalation of these problems into more serious, large-scale criminal activities.

Looking Glass Self Theory: This theory explains three key aspects of self-perception: how we believe others perceive us, how we think others judge us, and how we develop our self-concept based on these perceptions. When applied to crime, this theory suggests that an individual's behavior and identity are shaped by how they are viewed by others in their community. If people in their environment see them as potential criminals, they may be more likely to act in ways that fulfill that expectation.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

1. To explore the social and environmental factors that contribute to the development of extreme criminal behavior.
2. To analyze how sociological theories explain the criminal actions of individuals.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, such as neighborhood watch programs and youth initiatives, in addressing the root causes of crime, rather than merely treating its symptoms.
4. To investigate the role of institutional failures during childhood and adulthood in the development of criminal behavior.

---

8. Looking glass self theory: https://study.com/academy/lesson/charles-horton-cooley-theory-microsociology.html

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Primary Data Analysis:
Our research employed a mixed-methods approach, starting with primary data collection using the Snowball Sampling Method. We initially selected 20 sociologists (10 males and 10 females) and then expanded the sample to include 10 scholars (5 males and 5 females) with research experience, such as committee members who suggest project ideas to private and government sectors, and 5 offenders with backgrounds in petty and serious crimes. This sampling strategy aimed to explore the connection between offenders and society, examining how societal factors trigger criminal behavior. We analyzed the primary data to identify preventive measures that address the root causes of crime, rather than just its symptoms.

Secondary Data Analysis:
The primary data was further enriched by secondary data analysis using qualitative and theoretical research tools. We examined the case of Chandrakant Jha vs. State of Delhi, gaining insights into the dual perspectives of offenses through psychological and sociological approaches. This helped us understand the complex factors contributing to criminal behavior.

9.
Comparative Analysis and Suggestions:
By comparing primary and secondary data, we developed suggestions and preventive measures to address crime from a sociological perspective. Our research provides a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between offenders and society, highlighting the need for treatment addressing root causes rather than just symptoms.

10.
Ethical consideration:
The study's information was disclosed to victims before the interview, and informed consent was obtained. There was no payment for the interviewee's participation, as it was entirely voluntary. The confidentiality of the study, the victims' freedom to withdraw at any moment during the trial, were explained to them.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Criminal behavior in sociology should be examined from both perspectives: understanding why the offender committed the crime and what factors led them to such heinous acts. Our research study addresses both aspects by analyzing five serial killing cases, including the Butcher of Delhi, Auto Shankar, Raman Raghav, and the Nithari killings, among others. Of these, the Butcher of Delhi case is highlighted as our primary case study. These sociological perspectives are not limited to serial killings but also encompass a broader range of criminal activities, from petty offenses to the most severe crimes. While a significant portion of our study focused on serial killings, these perspectives were further developed to propose prevention strategies based on sociological approaches.

➤ **Urbanization and Anomie:**

This is an era of urbanization, a complex process driven by both push and pull factors. Individuals are drawn to urban areas by employment opportunities and good infrastructure while being pushed out of rural areas by similar factors. This dynamic often contributes to increased crime rates. The root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of education, are frequently linked to urbanization.

Anomie, on the other hand, refers to a state in which society or individuals experience a lack of clear social values, norms, and regulations. Urbanization can be understood in two ways: firstly, as an area with high population density, and secondly, as an area with limited connectivity and community engagement. The latter scenario can lead to community fear and decreased surveillance, making it challenging for officials to maintain law and order.

9. **Urbanization and trends in India: https://www.statista.com/statistics/621507/rural-and-urban-population-india/**
10. **Noida serial crimes: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Noida_serial_murders**

➢ Alienation on Offender:

Karl Marx's definition of alienation in the context of crime suggests that alienation is not just a subjective feeling but an objective reality experienced by offenders in a capitalist society. This applies to offenders who face ongoing alienation or marginalization, as they might turn to crime to express their frustration or meet their needs, especially if they believe society is not providing fair opportunities. As more individuals feel alienated, the likelihood of crime increases, contributing to a higher overall crime rate. This process of social isolation can restrict the offender and their family from accessing neighborhood resources. Consequently, this limitation can hinder the offender's next generation from receiving proper education. Even if they do manage to access education, societal stigma and cultural labeling, which associate them with the crime of their parent, create a negative impression and further disadvantage them. Over time, this perpetuates a cycle of alienation and criminal behavior within families.

➢ Institutional failure:

The institutional failure perspective examines the breakdown of both primary and secondary social institutions. Within this framework, the failure of primary institutions, such as the family, is crucial because it is often where the initial motives for criminal behavior originate. Many crimes can trace their roots back to the offender's family environment before any formal evidence emerges. The family plays a significant role in shaping an individual's behavior, and this can be explained by the difference between primary and adult socialization. In primary socialization, the family molds the individual to adopt its norms and values unquestioningly, even if these norms may be harmful or unsuitable for the individual. During adult socialization, however, the individual begins to critically evaluate these norms and values, adopting only those that align with their personal beliefs and circumstances.

---

11. **Types of socialization:**
    https://www.apsmcollege.ac.in/glassimg/thumb_album/1602048668-42.pdf

The failure of secondary institutions, such as the police and judiciary, can also be linked to criminal behavior. For instance, custodial violence is a prominent issue, and its roots can be traced back to the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, when the British colonial government labeled certain tribal communities as habitual criminals. This legacy persists, as police often arrest tribal individuals without sufficient evidence if a crime occurs near their communities. This, in turn, leads to discrimination against their children, who may face prejudice at school or in broader society. Additionally, consider a scenario where an individual is sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and is frequently attacked by the victim's family members or others in prison. The imprisoned individual's child, witnessing their parent as a prisoner, may develop resentment toward the police or those who testified against their parent, potentially following in their footsteps toward criminal behavior. These two perspectives—primary and secondary institutional failures—highlight the systemic issues that contribute to criminality. In the following sections of this research, we propose several safeguarding mechanisms to address these institutional failures.

SAFEGUARDING MECHANISMS:

➕ **From Petty Crimes to Safe Cities: Lens of Broken Windows Theory:** Just as small drops of water eventually form an ocean, a similar approach should be adopted in addressing crime. Instead of focusing solely on heinous crimes, officials should prioritize addressing petty crimes. Tackling these minor offenses can gradually transform a city into a zero-crime zone. This concept is derived from the "broken windows theory," which has proven effective in New York City. In the 1990s, the city implemented urban policing strategies that emphasized cracking down on minor offenses. This approach contributed to a significant reduction in crime rates, fostering a zero-tolerance environment.

12. Criminal tribal act 1871: https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/criminal-tribes-act-1871/
13. New York city-urban policing strategies: https://ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/policing-new-york-city-1990s-strategy-community-policing#:~:text=The%20strategy%20for%20policing%20New,work%20at%20the%20neighborhood%20level

♣ Breaking the Cycle : From disorganized to organized society:

Disorganized areas are often isolated and viewed as a threat by mainstream society, which may influence some individuals to engage in deviant activities. To address this issue, safeguarding methods are needed, such as involving residents in societal activities to promote inclusion and engagement. Community-based initiatives, such as volunteering in local development projects, can be beneficial. Development efforts should focus on improving individuals' socio-economic status, with the government providing skill development programs that ensure job placement in both the public and private sectors. The media plays a dual role in the labeling of disorganized areas; while it often highlights the struggles, it tends to emphasize the negative aspects. If the media were to focus more on positive achievements and efforts, it could help change the stereotypes associated with these areas. These observations are consistent with the historical perspectives of social disorganization theory.

♣ Bridging the Divide: Rebuilding Trust between the Police and Communities.

Institutional failures can be clearly understood through the lens of the looking-glass self theory, where individuals internalize how others perceive them. For instance, when people encounter the police, even in non-confrontational situations, they may feel fear and view themselves as criminals due to how they perceive the police's gaze. This dynamic has contributed to the breakdown in police-public relations, often widening the gap between the two and, in some cases, fostering criminal behavior. To address this, it is crucial to build strong relationships between the police and the public. Neighborhood watch programs, where police conduct regular community meetings to discuss concerns and build trust, could be beneficial. Youth engagement initiatives, organized by the police, can also help in creating positive interactions. Additionally, in high-crime areas, police should collaborate with local organizations to ensure safety, by addressing community concerns and priorities. Moreover, special attention should be given to the families of offenders. The children of offenders, influenced by societal stigmatization or negative interactions with law

enforcement, may be at risk of following the same path. However, by providing support and guidance to these families, it may be possible to prevent such outcomes, helping these individuals avoid repeating their parents' mistakes.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, our research effectively bridges the exploration of criminal behavior with sociological theories and practical crime prevention strategies. By examining key cases, such as the Butcher of Delhi, we identified how urbanization, alienation, and institutional failures significantly contribute to extreme criminal acts. These perspectives were developed through the analysis of various serial killing cases, informed by inputs from social scientists, emerging sociologists, and individuals who have committed serious crimes. Urbanization, with its dual pull and push factors, plays a critical role in increasing crime rates. The initial allure of urban opportunities often leads to disillusionment and frustration, causing individuals who struggle to adapt to exhibit antisocial behaviors, which can escalate into criminal activities, as described by criminologists.

Our analysis aligns with the research objectives by revealing that root social and environmental factors, such as societal disorganization, lack of social norms, and institutional breakdowns, contribute to a cycle of criminality. Moreover, the study evaluates the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, including neighborhood watch programs and youth engagement initiatives, which address these root causes and can help mitigate issues, especially in high-crime areas. Recognizing the impact of institutional failures during both childhood and adulthood is essential for breaking the generational cycle of crime and developing effective safeguards for at-risk communities.

14. **Rehabilitation of first-time petty offenders:** https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/over-2900-pass-programme-for-first-time-offenders/article36409707.ece
15. **Friends of Police in Tamil Nadu:** https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-news-analysis/friends-of-police-in-tamil-nadu#:~:text=The%20FOP%20is%20a%20Community,in%20the%20working%20of%20police.