

**Some people think that there should be fixed punishments for each type of crime. Others, however, argue that the circumstances of an individual crime, and the motivation for committing it, should always be taken into account when deciding on the punishment. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion**

Some people argue that the nature and severity of a crime being same, there should be a fixed punishment irrespective of the circumstances of the crime. On the other hand, some argue that various aggravating factors should also have a bearing on the quantum of punishment being awarded and different punishments may be awarded for same type of crime in different circumstances. I agree with the statement that circumstances should be kept in mind before awarding the punishment. This essay will discuss both points of view, followed by a reasoned conclusion.

Those subscribing to the first view opine that principle of equality and equal protection of law suggests uniformity in punitive measure corresponding to similarity in severity and nature of crime. For instance, a cold blooded murder planned in advance or a murder in a fit of rage belongs to the same category, and must be awarded with same punishment say death penalty or life long imprisonment.

The contrarian view suggest that certain mitigating factors, such as a compromised woman killing her blackmailer can made for reduction in severity of a sentence or certain aggravating factors such as a man raping and killing a child should warrant the maximum possible sentence of capital punishment.

In my view while uniformity and predictability of laws is important, too much rigidity and absence of humanitarian perspective can result in a failure in dealing with the intricacies of a nuanced issue.

Hence, it is better we incorporate mitigating circumstances of each and every case while deciding on the quantum of punishment in crimes of similar nature. At the same time we have to guard against dealing with disproportionate or unjustified punishment with respect to the nature of the crime.

**Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to apply longer prison sentences; other people think that there are better ways to reduce crime rates. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Many people consider that awarding a longer sentence to a criminal will lessen the crime rate. However, some people think that there could be other efficient ways to reduce crime. In my opinion, it is always better to keep psychologically unstable criminals behind the bars. However, those guilty people who reflect on their mistakes should be treated differently.

Firstly, all the criminals should be regularly examined by a psychologist to understand their mental behaviour. The criminals with a tendency to commit repeated crimes should get a life long sentence. These people are a threat to the society and even to themselves, as they are bound to commit the crime again, if released early. For instance, I recently read in the news that a rapist, who was released early, committed the same crime again within 24 hours of the release.

However, a few people who commit crimes by mistake, and realize their wrong doing, should be given an opportunity to reform themselves. There are many ways to punish people for their crime, depending on the severity of the crime. For example, community service could be one of the options, which has widely been used in western countries, as punishment for various crimes. Moreover, making guilty people work towards the betterment of the mankind is better for the society as well as for the person.

In the end, I would strongly say that the criminals with a negative criminal history and an unstable mind frame should be held longer in the prison. But at the same time, people who commit minor crimes and possess good behaviour should be penalized in different ways, so that they can live a respectful life later and give something back to the community.

**There seems to be an increasing number of serious crimes being committed each year. While some think that the best way is to use the death penalty as a deterrent, many people believe that other measures will be needed. Discuss both sides of view**

Over the years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of serious crimes being committed. While some people are of the opinion that capital punishment is the best way to tackle this problem, others disagree. In other opinion, other measures are required to reduce the crime rates. This essay will discuss both sides of the argument in detail.

Capital punishment will certainly deter at least some people from committing heinous crimes. For example, a study in the US found that the rate of serious crimes in states that implement capital punishment is considerably lower than the crime rate in states that do not have capital punishment. This is clearly an indication that people are afraid of getting executed and that fear helps to reduce the crime rate.

However, capital punishment alone will not reduce the crime rates. If that was the case, then most countries should be free of serious crimes now because death penalty is still given in the majority of developed and

developing countries. Therefore, the argument that other measures are also required to reduce crime certainly holds water.

One of the main reasons of increasing crime rates is the easy access to firearms. For example, many countries have liberal laws that allow almost everyone to own firearms. Crime rates are certainly high in countries like the United States in spite of the fact that they have an efficient penal system. If the US restricted the possession of guns, perhaps that alone would reduce the crime rates in that country. The government also needs to investigate the factors that compel people to commit crimes. In poor and developing nations poverty and unemployment are the main causes of increasing crime rates. If the government creates more jobs, the crime rate will automatically reduce.

In conclusion, there are several reasons behind increasing crime rates. Although some people insist that death penalty is the best way to tackle the problem, I agree with the argument that other measures are also required.

**In many countries, the amount of crime is increasing. What do you think are the main causes of crime? How can we deal with those causes? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.**

Many nations are witnessing a drastic rise in crime rates. I think this is attributable to multiple reasons such as lack of education, unemployment, an inefficient judicial system, to name a few.

Firstly, education plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's character. It is education that makes us capable of differentiating right and wrong early in our childhood. Lack of basic education is one amongst the primary causes for increasing crimes. For example, in my country India, a vast majority of population is illiterate. This has a deleterious impact on the society as a whole because people turn to crime without any thought, they cannot comprehend what's right and wrong. To deal with this issue, primary education should be made available to everyone without any fees and government should take serious measures to make this mandatory for everybody.

Furthermore, the other main cause of the spike in crime rates is unemployment. As it is rightly said "An empty mind is a devil's workshop." When people cannot find work, they have all the free time in the world. They think of crime as a shortcut to obtaining and possessing the riches of life, without any hard work. To tackle this

problem, authorities should focus on increasing jobs and also introducing some compensation for unemployed people. In lieu of such compensation, they should be made to do social and community work.

In addition, an inefficient judicial system is equally to be blamed. Failing to punish the criminals in time is yet another reason why people are not afraid of committing crime. To exemplify, India reported the most cruel and inhuman gang rape case a few years ago. It got global attention, there was mass protest, people demanded immediate justice. In spite of such a movement, it took over three years to come out with a judgement and yet the criminals have still not been executed. In such cases, it is the slow and laid-back judicial system which is responsible for many rape cases being reported every single day. I think, if the government imposes severe implications on violating laws, crime rates will definitely see a rapid fall.

To conclude, there is a urgent need for the governments to focus on addressing illiteracy and unemployment problems, which attribute to the rise of crime rates. At the same time it demands for strengthening the judicial system so people fear the repercussions of committing a crime.

**Many criminals commit further crime as soon as they are released from prison. What do you think are the causes of this? What possible solutions can you suggest?**

Crime rate has increased manifold these days. In spite of the punishment, many convicts tend to repeat crimes once they get released from jail. I think there are several reasons for this behaviour. In my opinion, it is the responsibility of the government and the society to solve this problem.

There are many reasons that encourage criminals to commit crimes again. The most important ones are social stigma, lack of emotional support and poor job opportunities. Criminal background drastically decreases job opportunities as no employer prefers to appoint an employee with criminal record. This leaves them with no career options and thus no financial support. Many times, these criminals are not accepted by their own families and this makes them lonely and homeless. In addition to this, people don't want ex-convicts to reside in their communities and treat them with suspicion. All these factors lead to hopelessness and directly or indirectly promote violence.

However, these problems can be avoided to a large extent by government's intervention as well as changes in people's outlook towards these culprits. Jail inmates should be taught about the best possible ways to handle life in the most difficult situations and this will prevent them from committing crimes again. The government should organise schemes that provide financial assistance and train them in useful jobs. Constant

psychological counselling is necessary for the criminals and their families to rebuild personal relationships. The society should also change their mindset and attitude towards prisoners and provide them with the necessary emotional support to become responsible individuals.

To conclude, though there are quite a number of factors which encourage criminals to commit crimes again, I am of the opinion that the government and the society should take the responsibility to rehabilitate ex-criminals so as to prevent them from committing further crimes.

**Crime is a big problem in the world; many believe that nothing can be done to prevent it. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion**

Crime is unquestionably one of the most prevailing and worrying aspects in any society, and its prevention should be taken seriously. Crime prevention can be executed in various ways, firstly through a sustained honest presence in the community and secondly through international cooperation.

A local presence by incorruptible law enforcement authorities may be costly, however, the long-term investment would pay dividends in the future. A safer region would encourage trade, investment and set an invaluable example for younger generations. For example, crime has dramatically been reduced in the Favelas around Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This was achieved largely through the government committing large funds of money to stationing police headquarters in and around the slums. These financial expenditures greatly benefited the community.

Secondly, due to the large-scale severity and the global impact that crime has in some areas of the world, global cooperation is critical. Operating in a different way would incur significant financial losses and render any expenditure futile. For example, Somalian pirates in Africa have reigned terror amongst many ocean transport companies in the area. Only through large-scale international cooperation was policing the area possible. Therefore, crime reduction can be attributed to a joint effort between countries.

To conclude, illegal activities are a costly and dangerous fact in the present global economy; however, through large-scale government investment prevention is an attainable goal. Also, spreading the expense through international cooperation the resources invested can be significantly more effective in reducing criminals' effectiveness abroad.

**Levels of youth crime are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world. What are the reasons for this, and what solutions can be suggested? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.**

Exponential rise is observed in the number of crimes committed by youngsters, especially in the cities. The desire to make quick money and substance addiction are the main causes of this problem. Providing better education and creating awareness are the most effective solutions.

Many youngsters fall prey to the notion that only money can provide them a quality lifestyle, and to achieve it they get involved in crimes such as pick-pocketing, extortion and even kidnapping. Several others get addicted to drugs and to sustain their addiction they take to the path of crime. As per the recent statistical survey conducted by the Survey Institute of India, crimes such as pick-pocketing and extortion have increased by about forty-seven percentage and involvement of youngsters in such crimes has risen by about twenty-five percentage as compared to last year's data. In-depth analysis revealed that every third young criminal is addicted to some sort of drugs showcasing the strong correlation between crime, substance addiction and age.

The responsibility for correcting these youngsters falls on the shoulders of the Government. Making education available to these young lads at an affordable cost should be of utmost priority. Also, the administration should take initiatives to increase awareness about health hazards and social problems created by substance abuse. For instance, crime rate has decreased by about twenty percent and the number of drug addicts has decreased by about thirty-five percent as per the study conducted by Human Right Association of India in the region of Delhi, after the local governing body launched anti addiction campaigns and provided free education to them. In addition, the involvement of youngsters has decreased by nearly sixty-five percentage in these crimes. Thus, it is possible to eliminate the causes of youth crime by incorporating appropriate measures.

In conclusion, drug abuse and the desire to become rich overnight are the factors that encourage young people to get into crime. Creating employment opportunities and launching anti-addiction programmes will solve this problem to a great extent.