

CRIME AND PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS
PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL STUDY

An essay

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

" وَقُلْ رَبِّهِمْ كُنُوزٌ عِلْمٌ "

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



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INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Introduction

The relationship between mental disorder and crime , remains a complex and controversial issue . It is even more so , when attempts are made to associate specific psychiatric disorders with specific crimes . **(Kunjukrishnan , 1992)** .

Dietz (1992) , in his study reported that more than half of the people in jail and prison have at least one demonstrable mental disorder . Among those who are both mentally disordered and criminal five possible patterns can be observed : In pattern 1 , crime is in response to psychotic symptoms ; pattern 2 : crime takes place to gratify compulsive desires ; pattern 3 : crime reflects personality disorder ; pattern 4 : the association between crime and mental disorder is coincidental ; and pattern 5 : mental disorder whether true or feigned is in response to crime .

The relationship between mental disorder and crime varies from case to case **(Dietz,1992)** . Criminal behaviors are more likely to occur in patients with personality problems , social problems , mental handicap and addiction , **(Kunjukrishnan .1992)** . These behaviors are less common in patients with disinhibitory factors such as brain damage or major mental illness . **(Pollock , 1989)**

Aim of the work : -

The aim of this work is to review the literature concerning the different relations between crime and psychiatric disorders highlighting on :-

- 1- the psychiatric disorders associated with crime.
- 2- the psychopathology of criminal behavior .
- 3- the predictors of criminal behavior in psychiatric ill patients .

Definition of crime :-

According to **Lewis (1990)**, Crime is a state of breaking rules by individuals, groups or organizations. It is not a static concept, as broken rules may be well accepted by society for many years or new rules are devised as society changes and sometimes new crimes are created and other crimes are removed. **Bowden (1990)** described crime as a behavior which is in violation of the law and is punishable. Criminology is the science studying causes of crime as a social phenomenon through observing the general movement of criminality and the changes occurring due to variation in time and place, besides studying all criminals' personality patterns and circumstances around them. (**Ramadan, 1990**).

Prevalence :-

It is very difficult indeed to compare the rate of criminal offending of the mentally ill with that of the general population. (**Robertson 1988**). The rate of offending among psychiatric patients compared with that of the general population is not known with any certainty. (**Chiswick, 1988**).

Some authors believe that there is no difference between subjects with psychiatric disorders and the general population in committing crimes; **Hafner and Boker (1973)** studied 533 mentally disordered violent offenders in Germany over a 10-year period and concluded that the rate of violence was quantitatively similar to that for the population at large. Others believe that mentally disordered patients are committing more crimes than general population; **Bird and Harrison (1987)** stated that 50% of murderers have psychiatric disorders particularly severe personality disorder. **Bluglass (1989)** noticed that in U. K. the risk of assault on fellow patients or on staff by psychotics has increased due to increased legal constraints on the criteria for

admitting patients resulting in more disturbed psychotic hospital population .

Shore et al (1990) concluded that psychiatric patients in general are probably no more likely than a segment of the general population to commit violent crimes . However , it would appear that some relatively small subgroups of mental patients may be dangerous yet the other subgroups are less dangerous than the general population .

Age Lanzkron (1962) , examined 150 - homicides admitted to Matteawan State Hospital and found that the subjects were most commonly in their 4th decade . In Hong Kong , **Wong and Singer (1973)** studied 70 mentally disordered among 821 offenders including 29 committed suicide . They found a decade older in the mentally disordered murderers than the non mentally disordered murderers . **Bowden , (1990)** called that the mentally disordered Killers tend to be older than the nonmentally disordered killers .

Sex : Lanzkron (1962) , found that the male / female ratio was 4 / 1 . **Hafner and Boker (1973)** in their study of 533 mentally disordered offenders found that men were overrepresented in both mentally disordered offenders (ratio 3/1) and nonmentally disordered offenders . Psychotic women predominated among violent offenders because of involving children in their own suicide .

Types of crimes related to psychiatry .

Hodgins (1992) , divided the offences into seven categories :

- 1 - " Violent crimes " , includes all offences involving the use or threat of physical violence , for example , (a) Assault which is defined as an attack which inflicts severe wounding and physical illness to the victim . (b) Robbery which the theft , or attempted theft of property or money directly from another person , and where the theft is accompanied by the use of physical force or the threat of physical harm . (**Howells and Hollin ; 1989**) .

(c) Rape. (d) Unlawful threat and molestation which is giving trouble to a person or touching in order to harm him. (**West and Endicott, 1978**) .

2- Theft " includes all types of stealing other than robbery as well as receiving stolen goods.

3- Fraud including embezzlement which is using for oneself money entrusted to one for some other purpose. (**West and Endicott, 1978**).

4- Crime related to depts, which is crime related to government and business. (**West and Endicott, 1978**) .

5- Crime of falsification .

6- Traffic crime does not include minor offences such as speeding. Drunken driving and driving without a license are the most frequent offences in this category .

7- The category " other " is very heterogeneous, including offences such as defamation, sexual crimes other than rape; perjury which is the act of breaking a promise, or act of saying, in the name of God, things which are not true. (**West and Endicott, 1978**) ; gambling, which is playing cards or other games for money. (**West and Endicott, 1978**); bribery which is giving money to cause another to do what is wrong, smuggling which is taking goods secretly into a country without paying money to the government. (**West and Endicott, 1978**); absence from military without leave and tax evasion .

Okasha (1988) classified the crimes related to psychiatry into violent crimes and non violent crimes.

1- Violent crimes include :-

A-Murder:-

1- Neonicide which is killing of neonate on the day of birth.

- 2 - Murder , which is unlawful killing (Malice of forethought) .
- 3 - Man slaughter , which is unlawful killing without malice of forethought .
- 4 - Infanticide which is unlawful killing of a child of less than 1 year by child's mother .
- 5 - Homicide , which is the killing of one person by another . (**Bourget and Labelle 1992**) .

B - Rape , which is sexual intercourse with a woman who does not consent , the man knowing that she did not consent or being reckless as to whether or not she consented . (**Okasha , 1988**) .

C - Arson , which is without lawful excuse , to damage or destroy any property by fire . (**Geller , 1992**) .

D - Non accidental injury to child " Battered Baby Syndrome " term introduced by Kempe in 1962 , which is killing or physical violence towards or , persistent abuse of a child by those in charge of the child .

II - Non violent crimes include :

Shoplifting which is the crime of stealing goods privately out of shops and ware houses . (**Bluglass 1990**) .

Paedophilia which is erotic attraction to young children and can be classified into heterosexual , usually girls of 6 - 11 years , homosexual usually boys of 12 - 15 years and indiscriminate , usually children of 6 - 11 years .

Incest , which is defined as any sexual contact or behavior for the purpose of sexual stimulation , between an adult and child related within family structure (**Cole , 1992**) . There are three types of incestuous fathers : endogamic , confining all his sexual and social activities to his family , often yearning for sexually inaccessible persons ; paedophilic , attracted to daughters ; promiscuous , ignores sexual taboos , part of general hedonism .

Transvestism, disturbance of gender role behavior , i. e . cross dressing ,

not itself an offence , though may be charged with behavior likely to cause a breach of the peace ' or with theft of women's underwear .

Transsexualism , disturbance of core gender identity , usually a biological male who is convinced that he is female . Not itself an offence , may be charged with " Breach of the peace " .

Abel and Osborn (1992) classified the sexual crimes into :-

- a) Exhibitionism :- Exposure of one's genitals to a stranger .
- b) Public masturbation :- Masturbation while watching strangers .
- c) Fetishism :- Use of non living object for sexual gratification .
- d) Frotteurism :- Touching or rubbing against a non consenting person usually in crowded places .
- e) Paedophilia :- Sexual activity with a prepubescent child (<14 years old)
- f) Sexual masochism :- Act of being humiliated , beaten, or made to suffer is sexually exciting .
- g) Sexual sadism :-Act in which the psychological or physical suffering of the victim is sexually exciting .
- h) Transvestism :- Dressing in clothing of opposite gender is sexually exciting .

THE PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIME

- psychiatric diagnoses among the offenders
- Some psychiatric disorders which are considered as crime