

Crime prevention by an attitude toward preventing criminological teachings

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Abstract

Delinquency is a social phenomenon to which communities were faced since past time. Currently following to social transformations and the emergence of new components in social life and increasingly advances in communities and, consequently, their more vulnerability, it is not fruitful only to use qualitative (reaction) tools to curb delinquency. To the same reason, each dominant theory or school in criminology clarifies the crime and its reasons and immediately explains guidelines to curb or prevent it either implicitly or explicitly in a separated discussion. In other words, each theory of criminology has at least two types: one to clarify the crime and another to clarify how to control, prevent or curb the crime. Prevention is an achievement of criminology adopted out of criminal system. So, it is not hostile that it includes social and situational prevention. In present paper, while studying prevention in criminological theories, we can template on the basics and principles of social and situational prevention.

Key words: crime, situational prevention, social prevention, preventive criminology

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Introduction

Alongside natural catastrophes, one of the dangers always challenged human life has been crime deviation from social rules (Rahiminejad, 2009: 104). To curb crime phenomenon, human has resorted different solutions. One of the oldest ways has been penal response to a criminal phenomenon (Mehrpour, 2001; 26). During human civilization history, penal response to crime has been different in terms of traditions, ceremonies, cultures and the latitude of thoughts by different societies. Such response to criminal phenomenon is mainly characterized by using penalty tools in contrary to other responses that are based on prevention and treatment are too unofficial (Mehrpur, 2001: 27). In our age, unprecedented increase in crimes and inefficiency of punishments in fighting against crimes has revealed increasingly propensity to use the results of criminological researches and findings in crime prevention; to the same reason, studying the principles and basics of preventive criminological theories could be an efficient step toward promoting criminal justice system. Preventive criminological findings address active initiatives before crime attempt and/or even reactive initiatives upon criminal behaviors. These initiatives are pursued by criminal policy agents in two national transnational levels. Principally, such initiatives have criminal description (Najafi Abrandabadi, 2003). Thus, crime prevention is sometimes based on the necessity to change and modify the personality of delinquent and social condition as called "social prevention". Sometimes, preventing crime re-commission or re-attempt (including deviation and crime) requires involvement and changes in a special ambience or status as called "situational prevention (Gessen, 2006: 220). Thus, in present paper, we initially study prevention in criminological theories and legal schools and then we contemplate on social and situational prevention as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

Prevention in criminological theories

Criminology is a discipline of combined sciences. Therefore, it has both theoretical and applied aspects. In terms of application, as we know, criminology has three branches: clinical, legal and preventive. Each dominating theory or school in criminology clarifies crime and its reasons and it immediately raises guidelines to curb or prevent it both implicitly and explicitly in a separated chapter. In other words, criminology has at least two parts: one is to clarify the crime and another one is to clarify how to control, prevent and curb the crime. Preventive guidelines are divided into two groups: prevention by criminalization, punishment, criminal convictions and implementing criminal conviction called general (deterrent) and special (crime relapse prevention) crime prevention. The second type is due the achievements of criminology adopted and implemented out of criminal system. Therefore, it includes social and situational prevention. Undoubtedly, each type of crime prevention and different ways to implement them are facing with scientific, legal and material barriers and limitations which encircle impact and efficiency of them. Situational prevention which is seen as the commonest types of prevention in today world and has proved its efficiency to some extent is also facing with barriers and limitations.

The possibility of prevention in criminology theories

The possibility of resorting to prevention is not agreed by all criminology theories. Criminology schools which deny the possibility of effective crime prevention explicitly are, more or less, paramount.

Prevention in positivism and crime rationality theory

Criminology is inspired by positivism which believes in determinism and asserts that the reason of delinquency is humans' biological - mental - social organization (NUVOLONE, 1977, 283). In such attitude, some individuals with certain biological - mental traits are convicted to commit crimes who have explicit differences with ordinary people due to paramount physical signs and psychological behaviors namely the are survivals of early human in

an advanced civilization who cannot be adapted to surrounding environment and, consequently, they remain incompatible (Cossen, 2006: 64).

However, the basic assumption of rational selection theory is in contrary to Lombroso's determinism and it believes that a delinquent's act is a rational one and a way and a tool to achieve the goal. Therefore, he/she uses the situations and opportunities and conduct necessary contingencies to avoid excessive dangers (Safari, 2011: 292). On this basis, one can predict possible reaction by potential delinquents who intend to commit crimes in certain situations. Thus, situational prevention is shaped by accumulation of empirical and theoretical considerations on criminal act rationality. The practical result is that one can impact on potential delinquents' decision through initiatives in such situations. Situational prevention is to change certain situations in which crime commission is too likely in order to de-fascinate and to make it hard and dangerous for those ones who intend to commit a crime (Gessen, 1997: 628). Such prevention strategy emanated from such thinking that many potential delinquents are not acting fully illegal and are not unable to adapt to positions and situations (FAGET, 2002, 140-160). As a result of changes in situations close to crime, they have to accept the fact that the interests of not committing a crime in new situation are higher than crime commission. In fact, in addition to investment on pre-readiness of delinquent, one can eclipse delinquents' decisions by certain initiatives such as intervention in situations. Therefore, situational prevention is based on six items:

1. Rational selection of crimes is the result of selecting the situations (CASSON, 2005, 147). They adapt to situations and use tool and methods more easily to achieve their goals or to resolve (Mirkhalili, 2004: 62). Undoubtedly, lack of time and information as well as limitations which prevent any human achieving maximum utility would also prevent that they think and act rationally.

2. On the one hand, most men doubt on selecting to commit or not to commit a crime. Human weakness exists in most men. On the other hand, chronological delinquents do not commit crimes like an automatic machine; rather, they are opportunistic and use the opportunities. They react to stimulants and are influenced by situations. Therefore, they also select even though their selection is excessively influenced by immediate data and they have acted irrespective of the results of their long term actions. Briefly, situational prevention can effect on the minority of chronological delinquents as same as majority ones.

3. Pre-criminal situations also impact on committing or non-committing crimes since in such situation; it expresses a very varied perspective of interests, difficulties and dangers. Cost – benefit calculation plays role in the reason of criminal act (crime). To the same reason, the frequency of a crime type relates to its commission opportunities directly. Concerning crimes on ownership, when potential delinquent is against an attractive and vulnerable target, it is seen as a proper situation. Variables which shape a proper situation for crime commission include: (1) the features of victim (negligence, stimulation, vulnerability); (2) targets (attractive, available, vulnerable and portable objects); (3) facilitators (weapon, alcohol, illicit drugs, car and other devices); (4) physical environment (darkness).

4. Macro factors in a certain environment such as (1) attractive targets (car, money, video recorder); (2) people's lifestyles and their contingencies (habits by adults and youngsters to leave the home daily to go to work or school by which many homes are exposed by stealing); (3) location, time and physical environment (more crimes in dark streets) and availability of facilitators namely tools which facilitate crime commission.

5. Crime commission requires time and place homogeneity for a motivated delinquent and an attractive and vulnerable target (victim). Such homogeneity creates an opportunity.

6. Serious crimes are often the result of continuance in committing minor crimes. Those relations which link minor and serious crimes are recognized in criminology:

- A person who is get used to commit burglary may be tended toward more serious crimes incrementally.
- Perpetrators are often unstable and commit various crimes.
- Due to their habits, thefts have a kind of lifestyle in which illicit drugs and violence have high status.

1. Social prevention features and basics

Along with this theory that the reasons of crime are social ones, another attitude is grown increasingly focused on socio economic reasons and crime opportunities. For instance, since the second half of 1960s, Chicago School devised and implemented plans on crime social prevention in Chicago (Social Crime Prevention Fact Sheet, 2007, 1). According to the philosophy of this approach, all people would commit a crime if they are put in special conditions and have the opportunity for crime commission. Such attitude believes that collaboration among welfare and social security organizations, government and civil society and supporting potential delinquents is necessary for prevention success. In such attitude, crime normality (i.e. imaging the crime as a normal issue in the society) is admired (in contrary to a group which considers delinquents as patients who violate social norms) (Palmary, 2001: 2). Recent international researches indicate that even very limited risk factors play role in many crimes. The most important ones include poverty and underdevelopment due to social deprivation especially for adolescents; scattered families; family violence and disputes; the establishment of delinquency culture in the society; the existence of crime commission facilitating tools such as warm weapons and illicit drugs; discrimination and deprivation by gender, race and other injustice forms; the problems in suburbs and social borders; and insufficient supervision on places and availability of assets that their movement and sales is too easy (ibid: 3). These factors indicate two important points. First, children and adolescents should be the subjects of prevention crime focus. Many factors which lead into to crime are those ones which demand childhood interventions. Second, artificial environment (against natural one) can effect on crime and can be modified in order to decrease crime levels. Social crime prevention approach is to foster social networks, to increase the level of social unofficial control and to deter crime commission by potential and de facto delinquents. Social crime

prevention is focused on those ones exposed by delinquency risk and has lower integration feeling with society. A plan like neighborhood supervision can be used to foster informal defense in the society to stop crimes and to improve monitoring (Social Crime Prevention Fact Sheet, 2007, p1). Modern social crime prevention strategy is a professional and civil movement established and supported by government and improves social defense capacity. Social crime prevention is a set of targets to curb the effects of crime reasons, to mitigate the risk of victimization, to improve social security and to improve life quality and human rights. Accordingly, social prevention strategy aids economic development, safe business and mitigation of ethical and material losses of the crimes. The costs of crime prevention initiatives should be seen as investment and return of such investment (Ministry of Justice of Hungary, 2003, p 3) can be manifested through public security improvement. Social crime prevention strategy is effective if it can be implemented as part of a local social policy. Local effective responses to crime challenges should be established in local and regional levels. "Social crime prevention" can be used for all plans which attempt to change behavioral paradigms or conditions, values or self – discipline to decrease crime attempt possibility. Some social crime prevention initiatives include: plan to support parents financially, training from childhood, special aids to deprived children, campaigns to change men's tendency to exert violence in families, etc. (The Crime Prevention Digest II, p 11).

1.1. Social prevention aspects

Considering different attitudes toward crime social factors, different categorizations are provided on social crime prevention. In one aspect, social crime prevention is divided into five categories:

1. Childhood prevention or growth – oriented prevention;
2. Prevention through social development approach;
3. Prevention through focusing on such entities as schools or jobs rather than on individuals;
4. Prevention through deriving the path of exposed delinquency groups;
5. Prevention through changing social values by printed and non-printed media.

According to article 6 of crime prevention act submitted to Parliament for ratification, three specialized crime prevention commissions will be established under the supervision of Crime Prevention Higher council. One commission is social prevention commission suggested to be run under the supervision of the first Vice President attended by representatives from relevant organizations. Under article 7, the functions of social prevention commission are mentioned; the most important ones include:

- a. Coordination among relevant entities on curbing crime social factors including inequality in enjoying material and spiritual opportunities and facilities, unprecedented emigrations, poverty, unemployment, school leaving, divorce, etc.
- b. Efforts to fasten families, supporting families without supervisor or with bad supervisor exposed by social harms;
- c. Planning on mental health and physical health of adolescents and youngsters
- d. Attempts to establish a proper ambience to growth ethical virtues and to foster religious beliefs and to disseminate crime prevention culture through family, school, scientific and religious centers and mass media by using their capabilities and capacities
- e. Taking proper initiatives to mitigate material, spiritual and affective losses from crimes and helping those victims who need special aids
- f. Aids to establish and foster NGOs, associations and forums on crime prevention
- g. Developing contributive prevention culture and attracting people's contribution to invest on crime prevention and security. Social development through targeting such problems as incompatible and neglectful parents, behave as a bully and school escape would mitigate crime. Attempts on social development would improve total society and its economy in addition to crime prevention (ibid: 11).

However, one should note that no risk factor or environmental opportunity lead into a criminal act directly; rather, the collective interaction of risk facts yield to crime rising. It shows us that all crime prevention programs are not fully successful even if they target certain crimes. Besides, there are varied cases which impact on the effectiveness of preventive initiatives (via different risk factors related to different crimes). For instance, poverty and social injustice are predictable on violence stronger than other crime. Crime prevention strategy in South Africa refers to this point rightly: "crime is not one thing but it is a lot of things. There are various kinds of crimes. There are also different interests for delinquents' motivations so there are varied reasons and solutions for such multidimensional problem. The main reason of rapes and sexual abuses of children differs from the reasons of bribery and white – collar crimes while the reasons of both groups differ from vehicle stealing" (Palmary, 2001: 3). According to decision by EC on May 28, 2001, crime prevention covers all initiatives that their intention or result is to mitigate crime quantitatively, to improve the quality of security feeling by citizens either through crime commission reduction or through mitigating the opportunity of crime or preventing victimization. Executive plans can lead into durable and profitable results if initiatives on removing the reasons of crime and the impacts on victimization and crime opportunity reduction in any society are all executed simultaneously. Ignorance in coordinating these three tools would destroy their balance and leads into short term and tempering results (e.g. crime prevention reduction plans in public places can cause brilliant results in short term while experience shows that such initiatives causes transferring the crimes to other places). Hence, EU and EC have emphasized on comprehensive crime prevention in recent years and in relevant documents (Hungarian Ministry of Justice, 2003, p 4).

1.2. Social prevention evaluation

1.2.1. Strengths

1. In contrary to situational prevention, social prevention measures are looking for crime prevention through social transformation instead of changes in physical environment. Social prevention initiatives provide the society with tools to mitigate criminal behaviors through changing social conditions. Its aim is to foster public arrangements, to improve social control level and, as a result, preventing potential or de facto delinquency. Social crime prevention measures can focus on those ones exposed by delinquency so that they can find feeling of more integration with the society. Thus, social prevention measures can be used to foster unofficial defense in the society to curb the crime. As an example, the aim of neighborhood supervision plans is to improve self – defense against crime. By such supervisions, social arrangements are fostered and monitoring is increased. Finally, it is revealed that marginalization, discrimination and social deprivation are often in the center of criminal behaviors (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2002, p7).

2. Social crime prevention initiatives can bring “dissemination of interests” similar to situational prevention. For instance, encouraging teen eagers to continue their education would yield into their further compatibility with school and establishing supporting networks consisting of school friends (Palmary, 2001: 3).

3. Replacement phenomenon is less happened in crime prevention. Noteworthy, social crime prevention measures may lead into replacement like situational prevention although the focus of situational crime prevention is more general than social prevention and it does not consider why people commit crimes. Social crime prevention attacks the heart of crime problem. In such case, replacement (at least theoretically) is seen in social prevention less than situational one since crime is not cashiered as an unavoidable outcome of social organization. In contrary, crime is the product of a tyrant, inefficient and scattered society which social prevention actively looks for mitigating it (Previous, p 8).

1.2.2. weaknesses

1. Social crime prevention is conducted to mitigate crimes committed by citizens directly and endanger society. Also, social crime prevention does not involve all coordinated and objective actions against certain kinds of crimes (i.e. organized crimes or certain kind of offences related to international emigration. In October 29, 2000; European Commission Crime Prevention Plan required the implementation of different crime prevention system. It asserts that the effectiveness of social and society – oriented crime prevention is proved against daily crimes which directly impact on public security feeling while it is no so efficient against new challenges from organized crimes, international organized crimes and terrorism and member states should consider the priority of developing professional skills by police as well national and international collaboration (Ministry of Justice of Hungary, 2003, p 4).

2. Although social crime prevention is more radical, observing its results and effects needs a more or less long time (Shaftoe, 2002, p. 3). It causes that by changing the governments, social crime prevention policies are damages and many plans are left without any clear ramification by different excuses. Likewise, movement toward social crime prevention approach will be faced with resistance. In many cases, governments continue effective crime control campaigns through a criminal justice system. Often, it relates to public pressure which looks for more intensive penalties against delinquents and believes that crime prevention is the exclusive responsibility of government. Some governments have found that emphasis on social or even situational prevention is dangerous politically. It has led into paramount disputes between conservatives and liberals. In their propaganda, conservatives point out “crime curbing” while liberals are looking for social crime prevention (and rehabilitation or modification in the cases that imprisonment is necessary). When there is more fear of crimes in the society, “crime curbing” overcomes crime prevention attitude (Palmary, 2001, p. 3).

It is necessary that social crime prevention can be understood in its real concept and as an activity that at least a part of it is the responsibility of local offices. To assure right prioritization in social crime prevention, it is necessary that social prevention is intertwined with urban development strategic plans and sufficient budget is allocated to its implementation (Palmary, 2001, p3).

Urban affair administrators would be aware that urban policymaking is only one aspect of crime prevention and budgets should be allocated to more social aspects of crime prevention. There should be a balance between law execution and social crime prevention and it is necessary that such balance can be established by full investigations on the nature of committed crimes (ibid: 23).

3. The basics of situational crime prevention

Situational or situation – oriented prevention theorists believe that the aim of social prevention is to eliminate crime risk factors which make people apt for delinquency or victimization. In practice, however, one cannot achieve conditions in which all social prevention measure can yield to results and no new delinquent or victims is added to the society. Also, one cannot modify all current delinquents. Therefore, we have logically no choice that accept the fact that social prevention is deficit alone and other preventive initiatives should be taken in order to prevent any spatial and temporal symmetric opportunity between delinquents and crime targets if we assume that there are stimulated delinquents and potential victims.

The practical implications and methods of situational crime prevention had been existed for a long time before reputed by such title. All measures taken to nullify thefts’ actions and to increase public places supervision as well as creating monitoring groups by Police and Judiciary are fully consistent with what called by Clark as situational crime prevention. In other words, situational crime prevention is a new title for what called *crime prevention* by police or ordinary people.

Situational prevention is drawn by preventive measures on the conditions in which crimes may be occurred. Or, more clearly, situational prevention includes noncriminal measures aimed that preventing activating criminal thought by changing certain conditions in which a hierarchy of similar crimes are or may by committed.

The aim of situational prevention is to threat crime commission situations. Put it differently, the sim of this approach is to mitigate criminals' opportunities for crime commission usually through such plans as law enforcement, penalties and financial/personal security. Also, it refers to harden the target. In its widest meaning, it involves broad assistance by which social victims can be supported through mitigating their vulnerability by converting them into unhittable targets or using private services on crime protection. It is a better method than counting on police or changing the behavior of potential delinquents. George Picca defines situational prevention in this way: "situational prevention is to limit crime commission opportunities or the realization of such opportunity for potential criminals." In other words, situational prevention can be practiced by mitigating criminal opportunities or crime commission chances. This approach aims at increasing public security and mitigating crime attempt fear by spatial designing and managing physical environment of building, residential places and commercial zones (Lashani Parsa, 2008: 68).

3.1. *Situational prevention strategies*

According to Clark, situational crime prevention is a term coined by research department in a British ministry. Clark has provided several methods for designers of broad crime prevention and has put each one in the format of three groups: "increasing needed initiatives for crime commission; increasing crime commission risks; and mitigating attraction of targets":

1. Increasing needed initiatives for crime commission: the intention of a series of strategies is to impact the needed efforts and measures to commit a crime by offenders. Techniques to support and protect targets attempt to limit the actions of potential criminals by creating proper physical barriers. Locking the doors, using in steering - lock vehicles, safes and anti-bullet armor-plated glasses are examples of targets protection. Controlling measures would make it difficult for potential offenders to enter into physical or virtual places. In designing urban environments, accessibility controls are widely used to prevent the entrance strangers to certain locations (e.g. blocking the streets to prevent the entrance of strange vehicles to a certain neighborhood). Likewise, this technique can be used in building (e.g. putting a reception table in public or private places in order to control entrances and exits). Electronic baking passwords or codes would limit accessibility to files in online systems) are examples of accessibility control. Some situational crime prevention methods plan to deviate criminal so that they attempt to prevent potential delinquents confront with crime commission situations or opportunities. Another example is designing and constructing football stadiums are in a manner that rival speculators are separated which mitigates the chance of violence.

2. Increasing crime commission risks: another group of explained techniques by Clark attempts to increase crime commission risks for potential offenders. Enter/exit controls aim at making difficult to enter or exit some objects in certain regions. For instance, metal finders in airports would increase the risk of arresting those ones who intend to take weapons or explosives inside aircrafts. Alarming systems in shops like bookstores are mounted to prevent stealing the books or other items. Official supervision may be the most famous situational crime prevention technique. It includes using uniformed officers or controlling devices to frighten potential offenders. Security cameras and other electronic security devices would improve and expand supervision by police; technological development would continue the expansion of current supervision formats. Ticket sellers in underground stations, hotel guards and others can improve their supervision in their workplace neighborhoods and mitigated crime attempt risk. Natural supervision includes a set of methods to improve the capability of humans or machines to care a region. Street lights would make it possible for residents or passengers to monitor and observe all activities happened in the street sufficiently. Removing watching barriers in front of homes may increase the visibility of homes for potential thefts which needs more care by passengers.

3. Mitigating the attraction of targets: the aim of final set of situational prevention techniques discussed by Clark is to mitigate crime commission profit. Eliminating the targets would put potential benefits far from the accessibility of potential offenders. The examples include tickets instead of money to pay public vehicles (so that drivers have no access to cash money), using time lockable safes in 24/7 shops in order to mitigate their cash money and mitigating the possibility of accounting stealing. By marking the assets more targeted by thefts, one can reduce potential interests. Plans to mark assets and animals and to register car plates or other parts of vehicles are, *inter alia*, measures to identify assets. Likewise, one can mitigate benefits by eliminating the attractions for offenders. The final technique mentioned by Clark as a social crime prevention method is to adopt special rules which attempts to confront potential offenders with this reality that they should pay heavy price if the commit a forbidden action. Adopting rules by organizations and institutes on sexual harassment of women would cause that potential offenders avoid such behavior.

3.2. *Situational prevention evaluation*

Opponents and proponents of situational crime prevention have introduced different advantages and disadvantages. Here, we review advantages and disadvantages of situational prevention briefly.

3.2.1. *Situational prevention strengths*

Situational prevention proponents have provided below advantages and strengths for situational prevention:

3.2.1.1. *Easy design and implementation*

In contrary to social prevention measures that their designing and implementation require recognizing social complicated factors in crime evolution, precise planning and the contribution of different entities, situational prevention measures can be designed and implemented easily and any person or entity can implement them alone.

3.2.1.2. *Rapid return of situational prevention techniques*

One of the characteristics of situational crime prevention is its focus on crime direct factors and avoiding mental reasons and mediating factors. Such features cause rapid return of any investment on situational prevention. Mounting an iron protection would should its preventive impacts since the time of mounting or printed labors on assets would immediately mitigated crime benefits and delinquent's renunciation.

3.1.2.3. *Being applied and pragmatic*

Social prevention plans to dry to roots of crimes and social deviations and it targets the roots of crime factors and is more based on sociological theories. Obviously, observing and measuring its impact needs time passage and even by evaluating, determining the success of such measures is too complicated because of the diversity of crime factors and reasons whereas situational prevention strategies are involved in long terms delinquency factors . to the same reason, the domain of seeking crime reasons and factors in situational prevention is more limited than social prevention and it is typically more applied and functional.

3.1.2.4. *Social prevention supplementation*

Even strong fans of social prevention admire that social prevention cannot resolve all crime problems because of its inner characteristics and there are always cases in which another prescription except than prevention is more fruitful. Naturally, situational prevention guidelines would help to fill the gap in such cases. They consider social prevention as a healing medicine and situational prevention as a tranquilizer while the existence of both of them is necessary in a prescription.

3.1.2.5. *Dissemination of interests*

Conducted studies indicate that the effectiveness of situational prevention goes beyond equipped targets and even puts the targets of ordinary crimes in its preventive initiatives scope. This phenomenon is called *dissemination of interests*. For instance, applying alarming devices in several homes of a neighborhood may mitigate the figures of stealing in total neighborhood. Dissemination of interests is a situational prevention feature while social preventions lack such impact.

3.2.2. *Weaknesses*

Opponents have expressed below disadvantages for situational prevention:

Tool – orientation instead of human – orientation

It seems that social prevention pays special attention to delinquents and victims by addressing crime reasons, factors and roots. In fact, social prevention looks for growing and evolving positive attributes and self – esteem by addressing potential delinquents' needs. Social prevention is not indifferent to the situation and fate of potential delinquent and looks for shaping a win – win game between potential delinquent and society whereas situational prevention does not look for drying crime roots inside the potential delinquent and it has no agenda for their permanent modification and only attempts to create barriers in path of crime implementation. To the same reason, it seems that social prevention is more humanistic than situation prevention.

3.2.1. *Temporal preventive impacts*

Situational prevention performance deters crime through agitation in decision making or deviations and renunciations in transition from criminal thinking to practice, it has typically temporal impact, considers a certain situation, never creates a depth transformation in the thinking of delinquent person and his delinquency tendencies, it is not clear that delinquent's temporal deprivation could transform his behavioral patterns and after removing crime barriers, he may attempt to practice his criminal though since his criminal thinking is replaced by nothing and his tendencies are only curbed temporally while social prevention has sustainable and durable deterrent impact.

3.2.3. *Conflict with citizenship rights*

Some believe that the expansion of situational prevention measures would change cities and neighborhoods to a stronghold. Although it may mitigate crimes, its paid price is too high. Citizenship rights and privacies are intensively controlled by governments in the excuse of crime prevention. Increases in types of official supervisions, closed – circuit cameras and varied physical barriers would limit citizens' freedom rights more and more and it seems that excessiveness damages in implementing such measures are not less that crime damages.

3.2.4. *Fear feeling in the society*

Another concern on situational crime prevention is to increase fears in the society due to adopting different situational prevention measures. Scogan has gathered evidences on the impact of physical environment (iron gates) in increasing fear of crime. In their initial studies on a stealing prevention programs, Rosenbaum and Beckman found that the fear of preventive service receivers is increased by controlling initiatives improvement. Intervention in environment in order to mitigate crime is considered as a notification to potential criminal but it may transmit this message to citizens that their life environment is dangerous. Enhancing explicit security measures would cause that ordinary citizens leave their homes less because of fear of victimization (Rosenbaum, Lourisu and Davis, 2000: 125).

3.2.5. *Injustice expansion*

In many cases, situational prevention mechanisms are costly and require using expensive equipment. Obviously, all classes cannot pay such costs. As a result, delinquents go to easier crime targets that are more accessible and the danger of their arrest and punishment is lower. It would cause that the cost of victimization is limited to a certain class of population. It would case injustice expansion in the society. Additionally, although Clark asserts that situational crime prevention is a phenomenon emerged from society, some situational prevention measures such as closed – circuit cameras in public places need huge investments by government.

3.2.6. *Crime replacement*

The most radical criticism against situational prevention is crime replacement. It is due to the nature of situational prevention since situational prevention does not look for eliminating delinquency phenomenon roots; rather, it attempts to create a barrier in transition from criminal thought to criminal act. Delinquents' reactions to such barriers can be imagined in several categories:

One group ignores it and commits the crime. Situational prevention measures cannot withdraw this group from crime commission. If a set of situational prevention measures are comprehensively designed and implemented, it would be too likely that such people fail in crime commission. However, the possibility of their success is not too far from reality. Certainly, the cases of situational prevention measure failures will be used in their evaluations and modifications. Most members of this group are emotional criminals.

The second group withdraws crime commission permanently. Such renunciation may be due to the expansion of preventive measures or to minimize the success in crime commission. This group is most constituted by unprofessional offenders who commit simple and riskless offences. The third group which consists of most professional criminals withdraws crime commission temporally in facing with situational preventive measures but they plan to commit the crime in first favorable opportunity. Crime replacement phenomenon is true for this group. They can be divided into some subgroups:

1. Due to deterrents, some may postpone crime commission to another time in future when supervision factors are mitigated, crime commission is easier and arrestment risk is lower. The example is a theft who intends to steal car in the street but he leaves the area and postpones in to another time in future by watching a police patrol. It is called "crime replacement in time."

2. Another group may observe that a certain geographical location is not proper for their criminal intentions and focus on other unprotected regions. The example is home thefts' renunciation of stealing locations with collective guards by residents or regular police patrols and their tendency to steal in neighborhoods with weaker supervision by residents or police. It is called "crime geographical replacement".

3. Another group may withdraw previous crime in facing with situational prevention measures and select a new target. For instance, after facing with intensive security measures in a bank branch to which they intend an armed robbery, they may select another branch which is defenseless against armed robbery as their new target.

4. Another group may change their previous *modus operandi* and select a new method. In facing with increases in the security of banks safes, they may select armed robbery through direct confrontation with cashiers. It called tactical replacement.

5. It is likely that some delinquents change their offence type. Due to using special steering - locks in vehicles, it is too difficult to steal a car while thefts have resorted to vehicle parts and components or stealing from shops and homes. It is called "crime type replacement".

3.2.7. Social control weakening

Fostering and reviving social control is a guideline recommended by criminologists and sociologists to control crimes in the society. Lower rate of crimes in small communities and the societies where people have positive sensitivity toward each other and consider high value for their social life proves this claim. In contrary, social control weakening would cause citizens' indifference in exerting deterrent power. In terms of attracting or negating social control, situational prevention is facing with internal contradictory. Although official control fostering and unofficial monitoring are situational prevention techniques, other situational prevention techniques would remove public sensitivities toward promoting social control and would make citizens indifferent toward social alert and control such as mounting closed - circuit cameras in certain parts which mitigate the alertness of citizens and even local officers in controlling the situation (Rosenbaum, Lourisu and Davis, 2000: 128).

Situational prevention approaches prevent crime attempt though scattering crime factors chain and in their short term application, they have achieve remarkable successes. Situational prevention fans have proved that opportunity mitigation can be useful in threatening delinquents and deterring crimes (irrespective of main reasons of crime and without any need to reconstruct lost collective wisdom). Also, they claim that nullified chances do not necessarily lead into replacement. Although one cannot deny situational prevention advantages and strengths, the necessity to use social prevention sustainable methods is another reality which should not be ignored. To the same reason, today human experience has emphasized the integration of both prevention techniques to achieve short, medium and long term results (ibid: 131).

Conclusion

One of the important social problems is delinquency to which societies are always looking for finding a solution to combat. Inefficiency of criminal reaction in recent century has revealed the necessity to pay attention to criminology achievements and to adopt preventive measures before or after crimes in order to control delinquency as a criminal policy tool in our age; it has caused more attention to the reasons of delinquency and to recognize delinquents' personality since it accepted in any logic or school that prevention is prior to treatment and fighting against crimes and punishing criminals are, in fact, a kind of treating and mitigating the pains of victims and damages posed against society. As mentioned, sometimes crime prevention is based on the necessity of creating changes and mitigating the personality of delinquents and social conditions as called "social prevention"; sometimes, preventing the occurrence or relapse a criminal phenomenon (including crime and deviation) requires changing a special environment or situation called "situational prevention". In present paper, we studied each kind of prevention and mentioned their strengths and weaknesses. It seems that an efficient criminal policy needs to pay attention to criminological achievements since social crime prevention is conducted to reduce those crimes that endanger citizens and societies directly. In the meantime, such kind of prevention does

not involve all coordinated and objection actions against certain types of crimes. Therefore, social prevention cannot resolve all crime problems because of its inner characteristics and there are always cases in which another prescription except than prevention is more fruitful. Naturally, situational prevention guidelines would help to fill the gap in such cases. On the other hand, situational prevention mechanisms are costly and require using expensive equipment. Obviously, all classes cannot pay such costs. As a result, delinquents go to easier crime targets that are more accessible and the danger of their arrest and punishment is lower. It would cause that the cost of victimization is limited to a certain class of population. It would cause injustice expansion in the society. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of prevention in legal and judicial processes, it is necessary to pay attention to their functional aspects simultaneously since social prevention as a healing medicine and situational prevention as a tranquilizer while the existence of both of them is necessary in a prescription.

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