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Table with 2 columns: Crime type and Page number. Includes items like 'විකට් අයිටින් ගේ - වෙර රැවින' (p. 12), 'වි ඩි කුරුපු ගේ' (p. 20), 'ආර්ථිකය' (p. 20), etc.

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Dr Jaya Pinikahana

Human society is basically ill. It suffers from a range of ailments such as homicide, suicide, thefts, rapes, vandalism, fraud, drug smuggling, delinquency, gang warfare and now terrorism. The definition of crime is fairly clear. It is generally accepted that a crime is an act which breaks the criminal law. However, the criminal law is not fixed or static, it varies over time, from area to area and from country to country.

Why do people commit these crimes? Most people have their own notions or theories as to why people commit crimes. Genetic defects, lack of discipline at home, poverty, association with criminal elements (wrong sort) have all been proposed as causes of criminality.

At some time or another, we all end up committing a crime. Now, why do some people intentionally commit crime? Social environment, to some extent forces some people to commit crimes. They might involve in a robbery to feed their family when all other avenues closed to them have failed.

because they have allowed their emotions to take charge of their actions. Many who commit crime either have not thought of the consequences of their actions or think that they can easily get away with it.

No single factor or variable has been associated with criminality but sociologists, more specifically criminologists have identified some major factors that are associated with criminal behaviour.



society. No one has enough money, no one has enough cars, no one has enough girlfriends! Parents, family, job or peer group can be a source of stress which may lead to a crime.

Biological explanations of criminality are based on the notion that some individuals are predisposed to criminal behaviour because of their genetic

females. (d) criminal intelligence; most research indicate a negative correlation between intelligence(IQ) and criminal behaviour, that is the lower the IQ, the greater the likelihood of involving in a crime.

Biological explanations of criminality are based on the notion that some individuals are predisposed to criminal behaviour because of their genetic make-up. They are 'born criminals' according to Cesare Lombros who wrote a book titled L'Uomo Delinquente.

was based on people in prison in Italy. With regard to the links between criminal behaviour and inherited characteristics, there have been a number of theoretical explanations suggesting an association between criminality and particular personality characteristics.

Many psychological theories refer to faulty parent-child relationships, such

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as abnormal experiences in early childhood having lasting effect and influence on personality. Some studies show that too strict or too lax parenting increases the risk of criminality further down the track.

Criminal is a particular type of person, apart from the rest of society and with a special predisposition toward criminal behaviour. While there are predispositions toward criminal behaviour and clearly certain characteristics are inherited, most sociologists reject these biological theories which lack convincing supporting evidence.

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