

Victimology

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Victimology

The branch of criminology which scientifically studies the relationship between and harmed party and an offender that examines the causes and the causes and the nature of the consequent suffering is victimology (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 1). Victimology focuses on the causes of why a particular someone or something was a target which can includes friends, family members, and sometimes inmates (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 1). When it comes to victimology, there are multiples things that is taken in consideration such as the economic, social, and political statuses. (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 1). In the 1940s and 50s victimology first emerged when criminologist studied and examined criminals and the victim's interactions (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 2). Victimology has centered its focus multiple types of victimization such as stalking, date rape, and carjacking. Researchers has challenged why victimization risks vary from group to group, age, gender, ethnicity, social class, etc (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 2). Victimology origin in the mid-1900s which meant prior to this discovery, victims were being victimized way before. Prior to and following up until the Middle Ages when something or someone was damaged or harmed the family of that victim seek justice (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 2). The justice system during that time operated under the conditions of eye for and eye (Principals of *lex talionis*). Code of Hammurabi- basis for order, which meant equality between the offender and victim (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 1).

When measuring victimization there are importance and limitations of behind the descriptive research. (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 2). Why certain people are victims, was recognized in the book *The Criminal and His Victim: Studies in the Sociobiology of Crime*” by Hans von Hentig (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3). The importance of Han von Hentig is the factors of what makes a victim a victim. (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3). What attracts or draw a

criminal to that victim. He considered looking at the criminal-victim in studying victimization and attempted to identify the victim's characteristics that may have affected the increase of being a risk of a criminal (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3). Hans argued that crime victims cannot be inside 13 categories that's propensity for victimization based which includes: Young, Old, Immigrants, Females, depressed, mentally defective, the acquisitive, dull normal etc. Why certain people are victims, was recognized in the book *The Criminal and His Victim: Studies in the Sociobiology of Crime* by Hans von Hentig. He considered investigating just the criminal but the victim also (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3).

It very important to understand that Von Hentig's approach when discussing, comparing and contrasting the relationship between a suspect and a victim is more appropriate to be used for the analysis of any case because of what is being proposed by general framework in discussing situations in which it's possible to speak about victim precipitation. (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 4). The theory of Von Hentig's allow a conclusion about the possibility to prevent familiar crimes in the future while modifying or examining the behavior of potential victims (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 4).

The study of victims, dates back to the early 1940s, when Von Hentig established the first breakdown between what was the criminal and what was the victim. Hentig's theory was that his victim was the blame and the guilty (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3). As I mentioned earlier in most cases, eleven types of victim crossing created for victims, and psychologically challenged by young people, the elderly, women, migrants, minorities, mental illness or mental illness, lonely and victims of other victims etc. (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 3). In 1960, Benjamin Mendelson, who was coined to being the first person to investigate a victim case, tackled relationships with rape victims and attacks (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg. 4). Von

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Hetig did not understand or knew the full possibility of becoming a victim yet he developed the type of victim which included the innocence of a victim. Mendelson created a classification on victims which entitles: 1. Complete innocent victim: a victim who bears no responsibility at all for victimization; victimized simply because of his or her nature, such as being a child, 2. Victim with minor guilt: a victim who is victimized due to ignorance; a victim who inadvertently places himself or herself in harms way, 3. Victim as guilty as offender/voluntary victim: a victim who instigates or provokes his or her own victimization, 4. Victim more guilty than offender: a victim who is victimized during the perception of a crime or as a result of crime, 6. Simulating or imaginary victim who is not victimized at all but, instead, fabricates a victimization event (*Introduction to Victimology*, pg 4).

When investigators look at victimology it requires violence and violence to be used to use reliable sources of crime. In conclusion, victimology is significant to enlighten and bring knowledge to citizens about behaviors that place them at risk for becoming victims, in addition to helping the individuals working in criminal justice, law enforcement and mental health better assist victims. With the help of understanding the psychological effects criminal acts have on each victim, the members of the criminal justice system are equipped to assist them through the heavy process of prosecuting offenders.

Reference:

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