



A STRATEGY FOR CRIME PREVENTION. By J.S. Sirohi. 1977. University Book House, Delhi. Pp. xiv+288. Rs. 30.00.

THE PROCESS of crime commission and control is a never ending one and any research or work in the field is apt to be warmly received. The same is true to Sirohi's book under review.<sup>1</sup>

The book is divided into eight chapters dealing with various aspects of crime commission and its control and prevention. The first chapter is introductory and deals mainly with the magnitude of the problem, giving a statistical account of various countries. The author also touches upon the factors that lead to the commission of crime. Refuting the theory that criminality is the result of economic insecurity and poverty, the author opines that: "hunger and poverty do not normally drive a man to crime, it is his emotional instability which prepares him to take to crime."<sup>2</sup> However, this reviewer is of the view that hunger and poverty do contribute to the emotional instability and thus eventually to crime.

In chapter two, the author has attempted to trace the historical development of the concept of crime prevention right from the *Vedic* period to the present time. The whole discussion, however, is confined only to the role of police in crime control. A reference has also been made to international developments in this field.

In chapter three, a detailed analysis of the patrol system has been made. Different methods of patrol, surveillance and supervision, with their merits and demerits, have been discussed. A study of the practical working of these in other countries as well as in the various states in India has been made too. Besides, the author has made various useful suggestions.

In the next chapter which deals with disorders and riots, Sirohi discusses in great detail the statutory provisions in India and also the various methods employed and which could be employed to control the situation. A study of the riot control techniques in other countries, *e.g.*, the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom has been made which is very informative and makes an interesting reading.

Chapter five is a detailed discussion about juvenile delinquency and immoral traffic. Juvenile delinquency being the greatest gateway to adult crime, it is most urgent that, in order to prevent criminal population, juveniles should be kept away from deviant and delinquent behaviour. The problem has been a cause of concern to the society since long back, but these days, with the loosening of the joint family structure, the speedier means of communication, rapid industrialisation and urbanization, the problem has assumed a much larger proportion. Sirohi, in the book

---

1. J.S. Sirohi, *A Strategy for Crime Prevention* (hereinafter referred to as Sirohi).

2. *Id.* at 2.



under review, has dealt with the various statutory provisions to protect children. He has rightly emphasised the role of the police and the need for special police units in the rehabilitation of children. According to him, "it is essential that the police reorient their outlook and attitude towards this problem."<sup>3</sup> The author has given a detailed account of the working of the police units in the various states in India as well as in other countries. A grave lacuna in the (central) Children Act, under which all categories of children, while in remand, are detained in a common institution has been pointed out by the author. In fact, it is most undesirable that children who have been apprehended for parental neglect or victimisation as well as those who have been apprehended for serious offences, should be huddled together in the same place. At this impressionable age, the innocent children are vulnerable and can easily pick up deviant habits. This reviewer, however, is unable to reconcile with Sirohi's suggestion<sup>4</sup> of treating uncontrollable children at par with the delinquent ones. If that is done, the former would drift to delinquency in no time. Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that the uncontrollable children may have baneful effect on the behaviour of neglected children if a close watch is not kept.

Later, in the same chapter, the salient features of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1961 have been discussed and various preventive measures have been suggested too. At the end, the author has pointed out the drawbacks of the Act.

The chapter that follows discusses the offences relating to motor vehicles or, in other words, traffic offences. The author has devoted over sixty pages to this chapter but the discussion on the legal aspect is negligible. It is more a study on the causes of road accidents and the means for controlling the same. Statistical data of the traffic offences in India as well as in other countries has been given. On the basis of the systems existing in other countries, the author has suggested various devices to prevent and control such accidents. Though the study is detailed and interesting, one wonders how all these materials fit in, in a study as this is supposed to be. Most of the materials could have been easily dispensed with.

Chapter seven deals with a very important aspect of criminology, *viz.*, social, economic and other property crimes. In fact, socio-economic offences are more serious in nature than the other crimes. The former or the white-collar crimes affect innumerable persons whereas the latter, or the blue collar crimes affect only a particular individual or group. Corruption is a vice which afflicts almost every set-up. Sirohi has suggested measures to check this vice. Amongst others, he suggests the appointment of the *Lok Pal* and *Lok Ayukta* which is a very popular idea these days. It is hoped that the time is not far when the whole country will be equipped with the machinery for the redress of grievances.

---

3. *Id.* at 140.

4. *Id.* at 158.



Commenting on food adulteration, the author has pointed out the causes for defective enforcement of statutory provisions. This, however, is based on the 47th Report of the Law Commission of India and the author does not add much to it.

In conclusion, the author has suggested measures to deal with the complex problem of crime. He has rightly emphasised the need for strict enforcement of the laws rather than punishment.<sup>5</sup>

At the end there is an appendix giving the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974. The reviewer does not find any justification or convincing reasons for the inclusion of this particular Act in the appendix. The author could have well made a mention of the relevant provisions of the Act in the chapter dealing with social, economic and property offences.

As very aptly pointed out by Upendra Baxi in the foreword to the book under review, "undoubtedly, Mr. Sirohi's work bears the mark of being a first main endeavour at legal writing." Besides, the author has huddled up unrelated subjects under the same title. As pointed out earlier, considerable portions in various chapters have little relevance in a study like the present one. In chapter four on "Disorders and Riots" a discussion of the scope of the right of private defence is not very relevant. At places, Sirohi is very vague and abrupt. At page 247, while discussing the question of "preparation and attempt" to commit certain social and economic offences, he suddenly brings in the Russian Penal Code. He refers to article 156 of the said Code, and unless one turns to the pages giving the references to the footnotes, one is at a loss to know what statute he is referring to. Neither before nor after this has any reference to the Russian system been made. The use of capital letters has been made indiscriminately and without reason. Spelling mistakes are innumerable and some of them are rather serious such as Hely, Radzionowicz, loss Angeless.<sup>6</sup> At some places one comes across very unhappy phrases such as "in order to nip the evil into the bud."<sup>7</sup> It is hoped that the same are not repeated in the revised edition. On the whole the book is informative and makes an interesting reading.

*Kusum\**

---

5. *Id.* at 278.

6. *Id.* at 133, 274 and 275 respectively.

7. *Id.* at 240; see also p. 265

\* M.A., LL.M., Research Associate, the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.