

PREFACE

This is a modest study on a subject which is likely to have considerable practical importance in the near future. In any civilised society, the employment of the sanctions of the criminal law against the citizens of the country must remain a matter of deep and abiding interest. Labelling a conduct as "criminal" has serious social, moral, psychological and other implications. Measures adopted by the society in this sphere, therefore, need to be reviewed from time to time. Such a review must necessarily require a theoretical framework which devoted itself to the basic issues.

Besides this, there is growing awareness that the institutional framework concerned with criminal justice is so overworked that there should be some thinking about conduct that should be adjudicated in the criminal justice system. The present study seeks to discuss in brief the concept of decriminalisation and allied concepts, the criteria to be taken into account in bringing or maintaining within the fold of criminal law certain types of conduct and allied matters. The study is not claimed to be exhaustive; but it is hoped that it may be found useful, at least in certain respects.

1st January 1994

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