

Modern Trends in Victimology: A Victim-Centered Perspectives

Abstract

This research article examines the evolution of victimology from a limited study of crime victims to a broader interdisciplinary field addressing various forms of victimization and social harm. It highlights major theoretical developments, contemporary issues, and emerging challenges such as cybercrime, human trafficking, terrorism, and environmental victimization. The study emphasizes the importance of victim rights, restorative justice, victim support services, and policy reforms in strengthening the criminal justice system. It further explores the role of technology, international legal frameworks, and interdisciplinary approaches in promoting a more victim-centered response to victims' needs. By analyzing modern trends and developments, the article advocates for a comprehensive and inclusive framework to address the changing nature of victimization in contemporary society.

Keywords: *Victimology, Victim Rights, Restorative Justice, Victim Support, Cybercrime, Human Trafficking, Criminal Justice*

Introduction

Victimology, introduced by French attorney Benjamin Mendelsohn in 1947, focuses on understanding crime from the victims' perspectives, emphasizing their experiences, rights, and the dynamics between victims and offenders. While relatively new to legal studies, it encompasses diverse topics and faces ongoing debates regarding its boundaries, with discussions on the definition of a "victim" and its scope beyond traditional crime victims.¹

Throughout history, societies have recognized the rights of crime victims, leading to the creation of support systems and legal frameworks. The United Nations has significantly advanced victims' rights globally, notably through the "UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power" in 1985, which outlined victims' entitlements and marked a pivotal milestone in the recognition of victimhood.² A fundamental theme within Victimology revolves around the profound psychological repercussions that often accompany victimization. These repercussions encompass conditions like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

¹Ravi Amitoz, Victimology Emerging Trends, *available at*: https://www.academia.edu/25340943/VICTIMOLOGY_EMERGING_TRENDS, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

²Victimology – A Separate Field?, *available at*: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/victimology-separate-field/>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

(PTSD), anxiety, depression, guilt, and anger, all of which can profoundly affect the well-being of individuals who have undergone various forms of trauma, abuse, or victimization.³

The impact of crime reaches beyond victims to affect their families and society at large. Crimes like child abduction and human trafficking cause significant emotional and psychological harm, requiring specialized support services for both victims and their families. Victimology emphasizes the historical context, the role of international organizations, and the profound psychological consequences of victimization, advocating for a victim-centric approach to address their needs and the broader societal impacts of crime.⁴

. This comprehensive analysis seeks to deepen the understanding of the multifaceted impacts and consequences of victimization. By illuminating these issues, it aims to foster a compassionate and informed approach to addressing victimization and its lasting aftermath. Ultimately, this analysis aspires to contribute to the development of more effective policies and interventions to reduce victimization and support the healing and recovery of those affected.⁵

Objectives

- To trace the historical development of victimology, examining its foundational theories and how they have shaped the field's evolution.
- To analyze the shift in victimology towards a victim-centered approach, focusing on the roles of victim rights, advocacy, and support mechanisms within criminal justice systems.
- To explore the impact of globalization and technological advancements on victimization patterns, including cybercrime, human trafficking, and other emerging forms of victimization.
- To assess interdisciplinary contributions to victimology, highlighting how psychology, law, sociology, and technology intersect to address complex victim needs.
- To identify new frontiers and challenges in victimology, recommending policy and practice shifts to enhance victim support, prevent victimization, and promote restorative justice.

³ Victimology, *available at*: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victimology#:~:text=Victimology%20is%20the%20study%20of%20victimization%2C%20including%20the,such%20as%20the%20media%2C%20businesses%2C%20and%20social%20movements.,> (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

⁴ Aron Blesch, *Impacts and Consequences of Victimization*, *available at*: *Impacts and Consequences of Victimization A Comprehensive Analysis*,.pdf, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

⁵*Ibid*

Research Problem

The research problem in “Evolution and Progression of Victimology: Exploring New Frontiers” in the centers on understanding the evolution and current progression of victimology as it adapts to address emerging forms of victimization and increasingly complex victim needs. Traditional victimology primarily focused on victim-offender dynamics, often overlooking broader social, psychological, and technological influences on victims. However, with the rise of issues like cybercrime, human trafficking, and digital harassment, victimology must expand to provide comprehensive support and protection. This research seeks to identify the limitations of traditional victimological frameworks and explore how interdisciplinary approaches, policy shifts, and victim-centered practices can address new forms of victimization effectively. It also examines how criminal justice systems and social support networks can evolve to better serve diverse victim populations in a globalized world.

Review of Literature

- **P. K. Agrawal, *Land reforms in India: constitutional and legal approach*, (MD New, Delhi, 1993)**

In *Land Reforms in India: Constitutional and Legal Approach* (1993), P. K. Agrawal provides an in-depth examination of India's land reform policies, analyzing their constitutional and legal underpinnings. Agrawal discusses the legislative history and complexities of land reform, focusing on how Indian laws have sought to address inequalities in land ownership. He highlights the challenges posed by constitutional limitations, such as property rights and judicial interpretations, that influenced reform implementation. The book critically assesses the effectiveness of these reforms, especially in alleviating poverty and empowering marginalized communities. Agrawal's work is a valuable resource for understanding the interplay between law, policy, and social justice in the Indian context of land redistribution. His analysis underscores the need for continued legal reforms to achieve equitable land distribution and support rural development.

- **P. Chatterjee, *Nationalist thought and the colonial world, (A derivative discourse University of Minnesota Press, Minnesota, 1976)***

In *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse* (1976), Partha Chatterjee examines the development of nationalist ideologies in colonial contexts, with a focus

on India. He argues that nationalist thought, while opposing colonial rule, often adopts Western frameworks, resulting in a “derivative” discourse shaped by colonial influences. Chatterjee explores how intellectuals and leaders navigated these influences, attempting to create distinct national identities while relying on the very structures introduced by colonial powers. His work sheds light on the complexities and paradoxes of anti-colonial nationalism, as it grapples with both resistance to and imitation of Western ideas. By situating Indian nationalism within broader theoretical and historical contexts, Chatterjee’s analysis challenges readers to reconsider the nature of postcolonial identity and the ongoing impact of colonial legacies.

- **C. Jackson, V. A. Foshee, “Violence-Related Behaviors of Adolescents” 13(3)**
***Journal of Adolescent Research*, 343–359 (1998)**

In “Violence-Related Behaviors of Adolescents” (1998), Carolyn Jackson and Vangie A. Foshee explore factors influencing violent behaviors among adolescents. Published in the *Journal of Adolescent Research*, their study examines the impact of social, familial, and psychological variables on youth engagement in violence-related activities. Through a comprehensive analysis, they identify key risk factors such as peer influence, exposure to familial conflict, and substance use, all of which contribute to the likelihood of adolescent involvement in violence. Jackson and Foshee emphasize the importance of preventive interventions that address these underlying causes. Their findings underscore the need for targeted programs aimed at reducing violence among adolescents by addressing behavioral influences within family and peer environments. This study provides valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and mental health professionals working to curb youth violence.

- **J. Miller, R. Miller, *Jeremy Bentham’s Panoptic Device* 41, 3-29 (1987)**

In *Jeremy Bentham’s Panoptic Device* (1987), J. Miller and R. Miller analyze Bentham's concept of the Panopticon, a structure designed for surveillance with the potential to control and reform behavior. Published in volume 41, this study explores how Bentham’s architectural model, intended initially for prisons, reflects broader ideas on social control and the psychology of observation. The authors delve into the Panopticon’s implications beyond physical spaces, discussing how it represents a mechanism for influencing behavior by creating a sense of constant surveillance. This work connects Bentham’s ideas with contemporary debates on power, privacy, and autonomy, highlighting the Panopticon’s lasting relevance in analyzing modern

disciplinary systems. Through this lens, the Millers underscore Bentham's influence on modern social and political thought concerning surveillance and behavioral regulation.

- **M. S. Ainsworth, "Infant–mother attachment" 34(10) *American Psychologist*, 932–937 (1979)**

In *Infant–Mother Attachment* (1979), Mary S. Ainsworth explores the foundational aspects of attachment theory, focusing on the critical relationship between infants and their mothers. Published in *American Psychologist*, her study examines how early attachment experiences influence emotional and social development. Ainsworth identifies different attachment styles—secure, anxious, and avoidant—based on her observations of infant behaviors in the "Strange Situation" procedure. Her research highlights the role of maternal sensitivity in fostering secure attachment, which supports healthy psychological development. Ainsworth's work has profoundly impacted developmental psychology, offering insights into how early bonds shape interpersonal relationships throughout life. Her findings emphasize the importance of responsive caregiving in promoting secure attachment and emotional well-being.

- **Peters, & Jackson, "Community action a force for social change? Some conceptual observations" *Resolve Working Paper Series*, 01-08 (1970)**

In *Community Action: A Force for Social Change? Some Conceptual Observations* (1970), Peters and Jackson analyze the potential of community-led initiatives to drive social change. Published in the *Resolve Working Paper Series*, this paper examines how grassroots movements mobilize resources, foster collective identity, and address socio-economic inequalities within communities. The authors explore conceptual frameworks that underlie community action, discussing its effectiveness in achieving long-term social reform compared to top-down policy efforts. Peters and Jackson argue that, while community action can be powerful, its success often depends on the alignment of local and institutional support, as well as sustained participation from community members. Their insights contribute to an understanding of how community-driven change can challenge structural inequalities and advocate for more inclusive policies.

Research Methodology

The research article titled "Evolution and Progression of Victimology: Exploring New Frontiers" employs a Doctrinal Legal Research methodology to deeply analyze legal concepts

through statutory provisions and judicial precedents. Utilizing logical reasoning, the study identifies and clarifies core legal principles related to crime dynamics. It relies heavily on primary legal sources, including Acts of Parliament and high court decisions, while also integrating content analysis and a range of secondary resources—books, academic journals, newspapers, trade publications, and organizational reports—to strengthen its findings. Further depth is achieved through insights from academic institutions, government documents, international organizations, and credible online sources. This multifaceted approach enables a thorough examination of criminal conduct within the legal framework, underscoring law's role in fostering accountability and justice.

Concept of Victimology

The term "Victimology" was first coined by French lawyer Benjamin Mendelsohn in 1947. It involves examining crime from the perspective of the victim or those who have suffered harm. There are differing opinions on its classification: some view Victimology as a subfield of Criminology, while others advocate for its recognition as an independent discipline. Additionally, debates continue regarding its scope and the range of victim-related concepts it should include.⁶

Some argue that Victimology should focus exclusively on the relationship between the victim and the offender. Others believe it should also address the victim's needs, the functioning of institutions that respond to those needs, and the victim's role in the justice process. Additionally, there is debate over the definition of "victim." While some advocate for a narrow definition limited to traditional crimes like rape, murder, and robbery, others contend that it should be broader, including groups such as immigrants, prisoners, and individuals wrongfully accused but later proven innocent.⁷ The victimology is a relatively recent concept within the legal field, primarily aimed at enhancing the understanding of how crime impacts victims. It examines crime by highlighting the responsibilities and roles of both victims and offenders. Today, the definition of a victim has broadened to include anyone who experiences loss or injury due to another person's actions. At its core, victimology focuses on the relationship between the victim and the offender.⁸

⁶*Supra*, note 2

⁷*Ibid*

⁸*Ibid*

According to Viano, there are several terms related to victims and victimology:

1. Victimhood - This term refers to the state of being a victim, that is, the condition of having suffered harm or loss due to the actions of another.
2. Victimization - This term pertains to the action of victimizing a person, which involves causing harm or injury to another individual.
3. Victimizer - The victimizer is the individual responsible for victimizing others, typically the offender or wrongdoer in a given situation.

In the field of victimology, which focuses on the relationship between the offender and the victim, there are two primary sub-areas:

1. The first sub-area is centered on examining the nature of the relationship between the victim and the offender. This aspect of victimology is closely related to the scientific study of criminal behavior, delving into the dynamics and factors influencing criminal acts.
2. The other sub-area primarily addresses the role of the compensation and restitution system in providing redress to victims. It focuses on how the legal and institutional mechanisms function to support and compensate victims for the harm they have suffered.⁹

Scope of Victimology

According to Shinder in 1982, victimology investigates the connection between the offender and the victim in the causation of crime. It delves into the process of victimization, the experience of becoming a victim, with a particular focus on the victim-offender relationship and the question of whether victimization can have criminogenic effects or potentially encourage further criminal activity.¹⁰

The definition highlights that victimology primarily focuses on the victims themselves, who occupy a central role in this field of study. The key area of investigation in victimology is the legal relationship between victims and the legal system of their country. Over time, victimology has evolved, achieving at least a conceptual recognition of victims' needs and rights, even if not always implemented in practice. Often, victims have been used for political purposes

⁹*Ibid*

¹⁰ Victimology and Emerging Trends of Compensation, *available at*:<http://www.lawctopus.com/academike/victimology-emerging-trends-compensation/>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

depending on the circumstances of the crime. Nevertheless, in a relatively short time, victimology has gained momentum, transitioning from the interest of a few pioneers to being acknowledged in influential circles such as the United Nations.¹¹

Historical Evolution of Victimology

The Indian subcontinent boasts a rich historical legacy concerning victim rights. Ancient India witnessed the practice of victim-offender mediation rooted in principles of retaliation, alongside tribal courts that ensured justice for crime victims. A pivotal milestone in this context was the promulgation of Manusmriti, one of the world's oldest legal codes, which explicitly safeguarded the rights of crime victims. However, Manusmriti was marred by discrimination, as it imposed distinct punishments based on the Vama system, a derogatory caste hierarchy.¹²

Additionally, the ancient text Artha Shastra, a seminal treatise on statecraft, contained provisions related to victim compensation funds. The renowned Tamil sage Thiruvalluvar, in his revered work 'Thirukurral,' underscored the importance of equal justice for all and provided guidance on victim-offender mediation. During the medieval period, the Mughal Emperors administered justice based on Islamic principles, with restitution being a common practice.¹³

Unfortunately, with the advent of British colonization in India, the substantial and procedural laws introduced did not adequately consider the rights of crime victims. Despite India gaining independence, many of these British-era laws persist, albeit with some modifications over the years to offer solace to victims of crime. The Indian constitution, specifically through Parts III and IV, guarantees victims' rights to justice and a fair trial, further reinforced by provisions within the criminal procedure code and other laws. The judiciary has played a significant role in upholding the rights of crime victims through landmark judgments.¹⁴

A significant development occurred with the 154th Law Commission Report, which dedicated a chapter to 'Victimology' in the context of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This report highlighted the growing emphasis on victims' rights during criminal trials, acknowledging the serious harm caused by crimes and the need to prioritize victims' rights and needs. It linked these principles to Indian constitutional jurisprudence, emphasizing the relevance of fundamental

¹¹*Ibid*

¹²*Supra*, note 1

¹³*Ibid*

¹⁴*Ibid*

rights and directive principles of state policy in supporting victimology. While Indian criminal law previously offered limited compensation to victims under Section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the report recommended a comprehensive review and expansion of compensation principles to cover all cases, proposing that the state should provide assistance to victims from its own funds.¹⁵

Furthermore, the report discussed the Malimath Committee recommendations from 2003, which made significant proposals regarding victim participation in trials, victim rights, and victim compensation. Some of these recommendations found their way into the amended Criminal Procedure Code of India (CrPC) in 2009.¹⁶ Notably, this amendment introduced the legal definition of a 'victim' in Indian law, closely aligning with the 1985 UN Declaration of the Basic Principles of Justice for the Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, with the exception of bystanders who aided in preventing victimization. The report also provided insights into victim compensation in foreign countries like England and the United States, discussing legislation and practices, as well as highlighting the UN General Assembly's 1985 Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims and Abuse of Power, which recognized crime victims' rights to compensation and the establishment of national funds when necessary.¹⁷

The Role of the United Nations in Advancing Victims' Rights and Protection

The United Nations was established with the primary mission of promoting global peace and safeguarding human rights. In pursuit of this objective, the United Nations has made significant contributions to the protection of human rights, particularly for victims. Over time, the UN has consistently emphasized the crucial role of victims within the Criminal Justice System, advocating for regular conventions and declarations.¹⁸

A pivotal advancement in the field of victimology over the past few decades was the endorsement of the "UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power" by the General Assembly on November 11, 1985.¹⁹ This declaration provides

¹⁵Victim's rights under the Indian criminal law system, *available at*: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/victims-rights-under-the-indian-criminal-law-system/>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

¹⁶*Ibid*

¹⁷Vanfraechem Inge, Antony Pemberton, Felix Mukwiza Ndahinda, *Justice for Victims: Perspectives on Rights, Transition and Reconciliation*, 76-79 (Routledge Publications, 2014)

¹⁸Sanjukta Chatterjee, *Victimology- origin & development*, *available at*: [The Genesis and Growth of Victimology.pdf](#), (last visited on Jan 15, 2026)

¹⁹*Ibid*

the broadest definition of a "victim." It defines victims not only as those who suffer loss or injury but also includes dependents and family members of the direct victim of the crime.²⁰ Moreover, it encompasses anyone who sustains injury while attempting to assist or prevent the victimization of another.

The declaration grants various rights to victims of crime, including:

1. Access to Justice and Fair Treatment: Victims are entitled to respectful treatment and have the right to timely remedies and justice in line with national laws. They should receive detailed information about their role, the scope of the case, and its progress. Crucially, victims' concerns and perspectives must be acknowledged without prejudice to the accused. Additionally, victims should have access to essential legal assistance during proceedings, with their safety and privacy protected throughout the process.²¹

2. Restitution: Perpetrators or third parties responsible for the victim's suffering are obliged to provide restitution. The concept of restitution should be considered as a form of punishment in addition to other sanctions by the government.²²

3. Compensation: In cases where the offender is unable to fully retribute the victim for their losses, the government should aim to provide monetary compensation to both the victim and their dependents. This support allows victims to begin anew without further obstacles. The state should establish a dedicated fund specifically intended for the benefit of victims.²³

Psychological Consequences of Victimization

Psychological consequences of victimization are profound and often long-lasting, affecting the mental and emotional well-being of individuals who have experienced various forms of trauma, abuse, or victimization. These consequences can be debilitating and significantly impact a person's overall quality of life. Understanding these psychological repercussions is crucial for providing appropriate support and interventions to those affected.²⁴

One of the most common psychological consequences of victimization is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Those who have experienced traumatic events like physical or sexual

²⁰ Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, available at: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/compendium/compendium_2006_part_03_02.pdf, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

²¹ *Supra*, note 1

²² *Ibid*

²³ *Ibid*

²⁴ *Ibid*

assault, natural disasters, or combat may suffer from symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and hypervigilance. These intrusive and distressing symptoms can significantly disrupt daily functioning, hindering individuals from reclaiming a sense of normalcy in their lives.²⁵

Anxiety disorders are prevalent among victims of various forms of victimization, manifesting as generalized anxiety, specific phobias, or panic attacks. Victims may experience constant worry, racing thoughts, or intense fear triggered by reminders of their trauma. Depression is also common, with symptoms like sadness, hopelessness, and a loss of interest in activities, potentially leading to clinical depression that requires intensive treatment.²⁶

Emotional responses to victimization often include guilt and shame, even when the victimization was in no way the victim's fault. These emotions can be particularly challenging to cope with, as they contribute to a diminished sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Victims may feel responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, which can perpetuate negative self-perceptions. Anger and aggression can also result from victimization, as victims grapple with intense emotions related to their experiences. This anger can manifest as irritability, outbursts of rage, or even physical aggression. Managing anger and finding healthy outlets for it are essential for personal and social well-being.²⁷

Some victims turn to substance abuse as a way to self-medicate and cope with the emotional pain and trauma of victimization. Substance abuse can develop into addiction, creating additional challenges. Dissociation, characterized by feeling disconnected from thoughts, feelings, and surroundings, is another response to trauma. It can serve as a coping mechanism to avoid emotional distress but may hinder the healing process.²⁸

Finally, victims often experience a loss of self-esteem and self-worth. They may feel less valuable or deserving of happiness due to their victimization. Rebuilding self-esteem and self-worth is a critical component of the healing process. In submitted that, the psychological consequences of victimization are complex and multifaceted, encompassing a range of emotional

²⁵ Posttraumatic stress disorder and the nature of trauma, *available at*: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3181584/>, (last visited on Jan 14, 2026)

²⁶ An overview of Indian research in anxiety disorders, *available at*: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3146193/>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

²⁷ The Impact of Victimization, *available at*: <https://crcvc.ca/docs/victimization.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

²⁸ *Ibid*

and mental responses to trauma. Effective support and treatment are vital in helping individuals address and overcome these consequences, ultimately facilitating their recovery and healing.²⁹

Impacts of Crime on Victims and Their Families

There are profound and enduring consequences associated with various forms of crime for both victims and their loved ones. Consider, for instance, the harrowing experience of a child being abducted by a family member, a crisis that ranks among the most devastating challenges a parent can confront. The impact of such an event on the abducted child is equally traumatic, marked by a multitude of emotions, prominently including feelings of betrayal and a loss of trust. Yet, the repercussions extend far beyond the immediate victim. Siblings, grandparents, and other family members are also deeply affected, as are their friends.³⁰

While the immediate impact on the abducted child's life may not be readily apparent, over time, the profound influence of being kidnapped by a parent becomes increasingly evident. For an extended period, they might believe that the best strategy for coping with their childhood trauma is to repress it, bury it in the recesses of the past. However, as victims gradually acknowledge the lasting effects of these incidents, many consider seeking psychological therapy as a means of better managing the enduring consequences.³¹

Human trafficking is another form of crime that inflicts significant short and long-term harm on its victims, encompassing both sex and labor trafficking. Notably, there has been a concerning surge in the trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation in recent years. This reprehensible exploitation of children can manifest in various forms, including child marriage, prostitution, pornography, and child sex tourism. The nature of the traffickers and the specific type of trafficking greatly influence how victims are abducted, the motives behind their abduction, and the manner in which they are treated.³²

In essence, crimes against children strip them of their childhood and exact a heavy toll on their psychological and emotional development. As previously mentioned, psychological therapy plays a pivotal role in helping victims come to terms with their experiences. Furthermore, specialized community-based programs such as advocacy centers and child protection teams,

²⁹*Ibid*

³⁰*Supra*, note 4

³¹*Ibid*

³²Goudrian, Reporting crime: Effects of social context on the decision of victims To notify the police 2005), available at: <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/bitstream/handle/1887/4410/Thesis.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

alongside child welfare agencies and social workers, offer invaluable support to families in securing appropriate care and navigating the legal dimensions of these traumatic events.³³

The Emergence of the Victims' Rights Movement in the Mid-1900s

In the mid-1900s, researchers and social organizations began to focus on victims and their challenges, shifting public and criminal justice perceptions. Scholars examined the victim's role in crime, and increased sympathy emerged for crime victims, influenced by broader social movements. In 1966, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice was established to address rising crime concerns.³⁴ One of the commission's responsibilities was to conduct the first ever government-sponsored victimization survey, called the National Crime Survey (which later became the National Crime Victimization Survey). National Crime Survey relied on victims to recall their own experiences. Further, victims were asked in the survey whether they reported their victimization to the police and, if not, why they chose not to report. For the first time, a picture of victimization emerged, and this picture was far different than previously depicted. Victimization was more extensive than originally thought, and the reluctance of victims to report was discovered.³⁵

The women's movement has been a pivotal force for victims, recognizing that sexual assault and domestic violence stem from sexism, traditional gender roles, and women's economic subjugation. This movement led to three significant developments: first, it highlighted that victimization often results in emotional and mental harm, even without physical injury. Second, it reduced reliance on the criminal justice system for victim support, helping to minimize additional victimization. Third, many shelters and centers operated with volunteer support, allowing them to remain open despite limited funding.³⁶

Civil rights movement: This movement advocated against racism and discrimination. The civil rights movement created awareness of the mistreatment of minorities, served as a backdrop for the victims' rights movement in that it identified how minorities were mistreated by the criminal justice system, both as offenders and victims. The ideologies of the women's movement

³³Factsheet for Families, Parenting a child or youth who has been sexually abused: a guide for foster and adoptive parents (2018), available at: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_abused.pdf, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

³⁴A. M. Rayejian, "Introducing a General Theory of Victimology in Criminal Sciences" *International Journal of the Humanities* 53-79 (2013)

³⁵*Supra*, note 18

³⁶*Ibid*

and the civil rights movement merged to create a victims' rights movement largely supported by females, minorities, and young persons who pushed forward a victims' agenda that concentrated on making procedural changes in the operation of the criminal justice system.³⁷

Findings

- Victimology, a term coined by French lawyer Benjamin Mendelsohn in 1947, examines crime from the victim's perspective, focusing on those who have suffered harm.
- The scope of Victimology is debated; some view it as a subfield of Criminology while others consider it independent. This debate extends to defining "victim" to include diverse groups beyond traditional crime victims.
- The primary focus of Victimology is the victim, exploring the relationship between the victim and the offender in understanding crime causation, highlighting the victim's central role in the study.
- Historical contexts, such as ancient India and British colonization, have shaped the evolution of victim rights, emphasizing the recognition of crime victims' needs and rights.
- The United Nations significantly advanced victim rights with the 1985 "UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power," which expanded the definition of a "victim" and outlined their rights.
- Victims of crime frequently endure lasting psychological effects, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, guilt, anger, trust issues, sleep disturbances, substance abuse, dissociation, and diminished self-esteem.
- Crime can have deep, lasting impacts on both victims and their families. For instance, child abduction may lead to feelings of betrayal, while crimes like human trafficking necessitate specialized support services for psychological and emotional healing.

Conclusion

Victimology emerged in the mid-20th century, was coined by French lawyer Benjamin Mendelsohn. It examines crime from the victim's perspective, focusing on their experiences, rights, and the relationship between victims and offenders. The scope and definition of victimology remain subjects of debate, with some advocating for its classification as a subfield

³⁷*Ibid*

of criminology, while others argue for its recognition as an independent discipline. Historically, various cultures and legal systems have acknowledged the needs and rights of crime victims, reflecting the evolving nature of the concept. The United Nations has significantly advanced victim rights, particularly through the 1985 "UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power," which expanded the definition of victims and outlined their rights. A central theme in victimology is the profound psychological consequences that victims often experience, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, depression, guilt, anger, trust issues, and substance abuse. Addressing these psychological effects is vital for supporting victims on their recovery journey.

Moreover, the impact of various crimes extends beyond victims to their families and broader social networks. Crimes such as child abduction and human trafficking can inflict emotional and psychological harm, necessitating specialized support services to assist victims in coping with their experiences. Overall, victimology is a multidisciplinary field that explores the victim's perspective within the context of crime. It has gained recognition on the international stage, aided by organizations like the United Nations. Understanding the psychological consequences of victimization and the wider effects of crime on individuals and their families is crucial for developing effective support systems and policies to help victims navigate their challenges.

Suggestions

- Encouraging interdisciplinary research in Victimology should integrate insights from psychology, sociology, law, and criminology, offering a comprehensive understanding of victimization and its societal impact.
- Promoting international collaboration on victim rights should establish consistent global standards, building on United Nations efforts to enhance victim support systems worldwide.
- Implementing victim-centered approaches in the criminal justice system should prioritize victims' well-being, rights, and participation, ensuring justice processes address their needs effectively.

- Raising awareness about mental health support for crime victims should ensure accessible counseling and therapy services, addressing the psychological impact of victimization.
- Investing in crime prevention strategies and educational programs should empower individuals to recognize risks, enhancing personal safety and reducing overall victimization rates.
- Strengthening community-based support for victims should provide resources for organizations aiding severe cases, such as human trafficking, benefiting victims and their families.
- Focusing legal reforms on comprehensive victim rights should guarantee justice, fair treatment, restitution, and compensation, guided by international best practices in victimology legislation.
- Conducting public awareness campaigns on victim rights should reduce stigma, promote empathy, and encourage community support for individuals affected by crime.

References

- A. M. Rayejian, “Introducing a General Theory of Victimology in Criminal Sciences” *International Journal of the Humanities* 53-79 (2013)
- Biglan, B. R. Flay, *et. al.*, “The critical role of nurturing environments for promoting human well-being” 67(4) *American Psychologist* 257–271 (2012)
- C. Alexandrowicz, *International law in India* Society of Comparative Legislation, *Anderson*, (1952)
- C. Jackson, V. A. Foshee, “Violence-Related Behaviors of Adolescents” 13(3) *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 343–359 (1998)
- J. Miller, R. Miller, *Jeremy Bentham’s Panoptic Device* 41, 3-29 (1987)
- M. Materni, “Criminal Punishment and the Pursuit of Justice”, *Harvard Law Review* (2013)
- M. S. Ainsworth, “Infant–mother attachment” 34(10) *American Psychologist*, 932–937 (1979)
- P. Chatterjee, *Nationalist thought and the colonial world*, (A derivative discourse University of Minnesota Press, Minnesota, 1976)

- P. K. Agrawal, *Land reforms in India: constitutional and legal approach*, (MD New Delhi, 1993)
- Peters, & Jackson, “Community action a force for social change? Some conceptual observations” *Resolve Working Paper Series*, 01-08 (1970)
- S. Adelman, ‘Cosmopolitan sovereignty’ in Bailliet, *et.al.*, *Cosmopolitan justice and its discontents* (Routledge, London, 2011)
- U. Baxi, ‘Modelling “optimal” constitutional designs for government structures: Some debutant remarks’ in Khilnani, S; Raghavan, V; & Thiruvengadam, (Comparative constitutionalism in South Asia Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013)
- U. Baxi, *et.al.*, ‘Dignity in and with Naz’ in Narrain, *Law like love*, (Queer perspectives on law Yoda: New Delhi, 2011)
- V. R. Krishna Iyer, *Human rights, a judge’s miscellany* (BR, Delhi, 1995)
- An overview of Indian research in anxiety disorders, *available at*: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3146193/>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- An overview of Indian research in anxiety disorders, *available at*: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3146193/>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Bureau of Statistics, Nearly 3.4 million violent crimes per year went unreported to police from 2006 to 2010, *available at*: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/press/vnpr0610pr.cfm>, (last visited on Jan 18, 2026)
- Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, *available at*: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/compendium/compendium_2006_part_03_02.pdf, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- Exploring the effects of long-term anti-social behaviour victimization, *available at*: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0269758020961979>, (last visited on Jan 15, 2026)
- Factsheet for Families, Parenting a child or youth who has been sexually abused: a guide for foster and adoptive parents (2018), *available at*: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_abused.pdf, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)

- Factsheet for Families, Parenting a child or youth who has been sexually abused: a guide for foster and adoptive parents (2018), *available at:* https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_abused.pdf, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- FBI Uniform Crime Report: Definition, *available at:* <https://study.com/academy/lesson/fbi-uniform-crime-report-definition-pros-cons.html>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- Goudrian, Reporting crime: Effects of social context on the decision of victims To notify the police (2005), *available at:* <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/bitstream/handle/1887/4410/Thesis.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Goudrian, Reporting crime: Effects of social context on the decision of victims To notify the police (2005), *available at:* <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/bitstream/handle/1887/4410/Thesis.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Hsin-wen Lee, Consequentialist Theories of Punishment (202201), *available at:* https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359341107_Consequentialist_Theories_of_Punishment202201, (last visited on Jan 12, 2026)
- L. B. Eisen, What caused the crime decline? (2015), *available at:* <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/what-caused-crime-declin>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- M. Kleiman, When brute force fails: strategic thinking for Crime control. (2005), *available at:* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/211204.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- Murugesan Srinivasan, Victims and the criminal justice system in India: Need for a paradigm shift in the justice system, *available at:* https://www.researchgate.net/publication/47748931_Victims_and_the_criminal_justice_system_in_India_Need_for_a_paradigm_shift_in_the_justice_system, (last visited on Jan 18, 2026)

- Ravi Amitoz, Victimology Emerging Trends, *available at:* [https://www.academia.edu/25340943/ Victimology_emerging_trends](https://www.academia.edu/25340943/Victimology_emerging_trends), (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- Sanjukta Chatterjee , Victimology- origin & development, *available at:* The Genesis and Growth of Victimology.pdf, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Sushil Kumar Singh, Arun Verma, A Study of Capital Punishment in India, *available at:* https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361025100_A_Study_of_Capital_Punishment_in_India, (last visited on Jan 11, 2026)
- The Concept & Cost of Victimization in Criminal Justice, *available at:* <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-concept-cost-of-victimization-in-criminal-justice.html>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- The Impact of Victimization, *available at:* <https://crcvc.ca/docs/victimization.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- The Impact of Victimization, *available at:* <https://crcvc.ca/docs/victimization.pdf>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Theories of punishment – a thorough study, *available at:* <https://blog.ipleaders.in/theories-of-punishment-a-thorough-study/>, (last visited on Jan 12, 2026)
- Theories of punishment, *available at:* <https://blog.ipleaders.in/theories-of-punishment/>, (last visited on Jan 11, 2026)
- Trauma informed interventions: A systematic review, *available at:* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8219147/>, (last visited on Jan 15, 2026)
- Victim's rights under the Indian criminal law system, *available at:* <https://blog.ipleaders.in/victims-rights-under-the-indian-criminal-law-system/>, (last visited on Jan 17, 2026)
- Victimology – A Separate Field?, *available at:* <https://blog.ipleaders.in/victimology-separate-field/>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)
- Victimology and Emerging Trends of Compensation, *available at:* <http://www.lawctopus.com/academike/victimology-emerging-trends-compensation/>, (last visited on Jan 16, 2026)

- Why crimes aren't reported: The role of emotional distress and perceptions of police response, *available at*: <https://journalistsresource.org/criminal-justice/crime-unreporting-emotional-distress-police-response/>, (last visited on Jan 18, 2026)
- William R. Wood, Four Challenges in the Future of Restorative Justice, *available at*: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/295396295_Four_Challenges_in_the_Future_of_Restorative_Justice, (last visited on Jan 18, 2026)