

“nullum crimen nulla poena sine lege”. Thus, in order to eliminate crime in a certain area it also requires the abolition of law. However, law is a form of social control and absence of regulation in the community leads to the chaos between the people within the area. Furthermore, without a decree to control the people the **“Law of the Jungle”** will prevail.

The Law of the Jungle speaks about **“Survival of the Fittest”** or in Tagalog parlance, **“Matira ang Matibay”**. In the forest, there is no law applicable to control those animals which lead to the preying of those weak creatures by those tough animals. It is, therefore, assumed that only the Lion (the king of the forest) will survive in the jungle because it can physically outsmart other beings in the jungle.



The **triangle of crime** is a graphical representation of the elements of a crime. The three elements are **desire, capability, and opportunity**. These three elements must be present in a given situation before a crime may be committed. In the absence of one, there can be no crime.

The element of **desire/motive (M)** refers to the **wanting of the person to commit the crime**. A person would only commit the crime if he decides he wants to do it. It may be because of the profit he will gain from it, or because of the satisfaction he may derive from it. Whatever reason the offender may have, the offender must first decide that he wants or he desires to commit the offense.

Capability/Instrumentality (C/I) refers to the **ability or the means of the offender to commit the crime**. It includes skills, methods and tools that would enable the offender to perform the act of committing the crime. An offender who does not have the capability would not be able to do it.

Finally, **opportunity (O)** refers to the **physical possibility for crime to be committed**. It is the chance that the offender must have to commit the crime. Just like that popular saying, “right place, right time”, the offender waits or creates the right timing for the commission of the crime.

Of the three elements, **opportunity** is what is being eliminated in all crime prevention activities.

A **habitual criminal**, as the name implies, is one who repeatedly commits criminal acts for different reason due to deficiency of intelligence and lack of self-control. And finally, an **accidental criminal** is a person who "accidentally" violated the law due to some circumstances beyond his control.

3) ON THE BASIS OF MENTAL ATTITUDES



Figure 18. Classification of Criminals According to Mental Attitudes

Active Aggressive criminals – those who commit crime in an impulsive manner, usually due to the aggressive behavior of the offender. Such attitude is clearly shown in crimes of passion, revenge and resentments.

Passive inadequate criminals – those who commit crimes because they are pushed to it by inducement, by reward or promise without considering its consequence.

Socialized delinquent criminals – those who are normal in their behavior but merely defective in their socialization processes. To this group belong the educated, respectable member of society who may become criminal on account of the situation they are involved in.

CRIME STATISTICS

In the study of crimes, it is important to have records of the different crimes committed, their number, the specific period of time and specific places where they are committed. These data would help in identifying which crimes are committed the most number of times, which crimes are likely to be committed at specific places and at what times or periods are crimes at their most number of occurrences. The compilation of all these data is called **crime statistics**.

Crime statistics is the measure of the level or amount of crimes. To estimate the nature of crime in the Philippines, criminologists and researchers primarily rely on the **National Crime Reporting System (NCRS)**, the data compiled by the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) through the Crime Prevention and Coordination Service, which measures crimes through reports made by the police and other law enforcement agencies (Soriano, 2008).

Crime statistics uses the terms index crimes and non-index crimes in classifying crimes, **Index crimes** are crimes which are sufficiently significant and which occur with sufficient regularity to be meaningful, such as **murder, homicide, physical injury, robbery, theft, and rape**. **Non-index** crimes are those crimes that are not classified as index crimes, meaning all other crimes not included in the enumeration are non-index crimes.

CRIME RATE AND CRIME VOLUME