

REASONS OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME

Greed

The father of modern political philosophy, Machiavelli, strongly believed that men by nature are greedy. He said that a man can sooner and easily forget the death of his father than the loss of his inheritance. The same is true in the case of commission of white collar crimes. Why will a man of high social status and importance, who is financially secure, commit such crimes if not out of greed?

Easy, swift and prolong effect

The rapid growing technology, business, and political pressure has introduced the criminals to newer ways of committing white collar crimes. Technology has also made it easier and swifter to inflict harm or cause loss to the other person. Also, the cost of such crimes is much more than other crimes like murder, robbery or burglary, and so the victim would take time to recover from it. This would cut down the competition.

Competition

Herbert Spencer after reading 'On the Origin of Species' by Darwin, coined a phrase that evolution means 'survival of the fittest'. This implies that there will always be a competition between the species, and the best person to adapt himself to the circumstances and conditions should survive.

Lack of stringent laws

Since most of these crimes are facilitated by the internet and digital methods of transfer payments, laws seem reluctant to pursue these cases as investigating and tracking becomes a difficult and complicated job. Why it becomes difficult to track it is because they are usually committed in the privacy of a home or office thereby providing no eyewitness for it.

Modern technology

With modern technology ease of business is one of its expectations, in a sense, it also applies to white-collar crimes which have allowed them to reach out to a larger number of people and commit large scale crimes without being noticed by the law. Many have fallen victim to different scams such as the credit card scam, moreover, the pandemic opened up a new market for them by exploiting the medical field and creating a black market for Covid medications such as “Remdesivir” and over a hundred cases were lodged against the illegal sales and use of this medicine and in most cases, the Doctors and Hospital staff were involved. The need and greed of people have driven them to the extent of exploiting any possible field. It doesn't stop there the development in technology is so rapid that people can acquire nuclear weapons with a click of a button, this was the case in Mumbai when authorities seized two people acquiring 7kgs of natural uranium which is highly radioactive and dangerous to human life. This makes us question the level of threat that these cartels and organizations impose on the nation and the level of sophistication these crimes have reached for the personal gains of their lives.

Lack of awareness

The nature of white collar crimes is different from the conventional nature of crimes. Most people are not aware of it and fail to understand that they are the worst victims of crime. People who are victims of these crimes fail to comprehend the notion of the crime and understand the exact offence which has been committed and whom to approach or lodge a complaint against because most of the time it involves a large corporation and there may be little or no evidence to essentially produce a criminal and in certain crimes such as scam or fraud people may not even realise that they have fallen victim to a crime such as a bank fraud where yearly there are over thousand cases registered. And in a scam, such as a double-dip scam the victim may fall prey again because the information of the victim is stored and passed on to another scammer. Especially in metropolitan cities these cases are rising but we lack the awareness to become victims of such crimes, a wider reach is required and awareness campaigns by the government may help people understand the severity of these crimes and the loopholes these criminals use and may help reduce the rate of white-collar crimes in future.

Competition

We live in a fast pace world where only the fittest can survive and it has grown to such an extent that crimes are committed for survival especially belonging to the lower socio-economic classes their work environment is poorly designed and they are often underpaid so in order to earn more and make a decent living their moral and ethnic values may be compromised and just to move out of poverty or to make more gains their behaviour cannot rationalised and is often out of greed that they have no limits. Criminal organizations and cartels are also multiplying and advancing in their methods due to this competition.

Necessity

People also commit white collar crimes to meet their own needs and the needs of their family. But the most important thing that the people of high social status want to feed their ego.

The reasons behind white collar criminals going unpunished are:

- Legislators and the people implementing the laws belong to the same class to which these occupational criminals belong.
- The police put in less effort in the investigation as they find the process exhausting and hard, and often these baffling searches fail to promise favourable results.
- Laws are such that it only favours occupational criminals.
- The judiciary has always been criticised for its delayed judgement. Sometimes it so happens that by the time court delivers the judgement, the accused has already expired. This makes criminals loose in committing crimes. While white collar crimes are increasing at a faster rate, the judiciary must increase its pace of delivering judgements.