

Assault and Amercement in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*

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ABSTRACT

The act of crime generates a law and order situation and it is great trouble in the world. The causes of illegal acts are complex, parental neglect, low self-esteem, and alcohol and drug abuse. B.F Skinner introduced that punishment has a more restrictive and technical definition. Even philosophers have presented various definitions of punishment. Punishment can be seen as good in society to prevent people from doing bad things. It can also be seen as cruel, unnecessary, and does not do any good. The path from crime to punishment is not straight, or smooth and it is non-existent. Harshit Walia says that the criminal mind needs consideration rather than the criminal itself. In truth, there are more criminals than those who committed a crime. This paper analyses the measures one takes to acquire a state of peace that makes him do an extreme act to take another person's life which is 'crime'. The entire novel Crime and Punishment portrays the torture the protagonist undergoes as his mind slowly reaches insanity.

Keywords: *Crime, Punishment, Murder, Law*

Russia's St. Petersburg experienced widespread poverty in the 1860s, and many struggled to survive. Due of this, many people turned to committing crimes, particularly sexual assaults on women, which were also common in St. Petersburg, in order to survive. Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky examines how living in the hazardous city of St. Petersburg has a negative psychological impact on the protagonist, the poor student Raskolnikov. The growth of the characters is heavily influenced by the city. Even though he is good, he commits a serious offence, feels lost and unworthy, and decides he wants to take action. The majority of the book is devoted to discussing his punishment, which is a form of torment as his mind steadily devolves into insanity. He robs and kills the pawnbroker Alyona Ivanovna and her imprisoned sister Lizaveta. When he presents the "Silver cigarette case" to the pawnbroker, which she accepts and unwraps, Raskolnikov recognises his chance and hits her, almost "mechanically" with the blunt end of the axe, and she cries very faintly, suddenly sank all of a heap on the floor. He has multiple reasons to kill the pawnbroker, but Raskolnikov is forced to kill Lizaveta and this is more distressing for him, because she is both mentally slow and a good person, and he feels terrible about her murder. He uses the blunt end of the axe to repeatedly and violently strike the elderly woman, killing her. Then, he takes the keys out of her pocket