

Understanding Our Criminal Justice System

Q1. In a town called Peace Land, the supporters of the Fiesta football team learn that the supporters of the Jubilee football team in the nearby city about 40 km away have damaged the ground on which the Final between both teams is to be held the following day. A crowd of Fiesta fans armed with deadly weapons attacks the homes of the supporters of the Jubilee football team in the town. In the attack, 10 men are killed, 5 women are gravely hurt, many homes are destroyed and over 50 people injured.

Imagine that you and your classmates are now part of the criminal justice system. First divide the class into the following four groups of persons:

- 1. Police 2. Public Prosecutor 3. Defense lawyer 4. Judge**

The column on the right provides a list of functions. Match these with the roles that are listed on the left. Have each group pick the functions that it needs to perform to bring justice to those who were affected by the violence of the Fiesta fans. In what order, will these functions be performed?

Roles	Functions
Police	hear the witnesses, record the statements of witnesses, cross examine the witnesses, take photographs of burnt homes, record the evidence, arrest the Fiesta fans, writes the judgment, argue the case for the victims, decide for how many years the accused will be put in jail, examine the witnesses in court, pass the judgment, get the assaulted women medically examined, conduct a fair trial, meet the accused persons

Now take the same situation but ask one student who is a supporter of the Fiesta Club to perform all the functions listed above. Do you think the victims would get justice if only one person performed all of the functions of the criminal justice system? Why not? State two reasons why you believe that different persons need to play different roles as part of the criminal justice system.

Answer.

Role	Functions
Police	Records the statements of witnesses, Takes pictures of burnt houses, Arrests Fiesta fans, The women who assaulted are medically examined
Public Prosecutor	Cross examines witnesses, Argues in the case of victims
Defense lawyer	Meets the accused persons, Examines witnesses in court
Judge	Listens to witnesses, Records evidence, Writes the judgment/decision, Decides for how many years the accused will be kept in jail, Passes the judgment, Conducts a fair trial

The victim will not get justice if only one person will do all the functions of the criminal justice system as he can be affected by various prejudices and is required to secede from power, absolute power from within the judicial system can also lead to unfairness.

There are two reasons why different individuals need to play different roles as part of the criminal justice system are:

1. Because all aspects of testing and investigation cannot be conducted by the same person It alone arrests a wide variety of functions, including recording witnesses, arresting witnesses, Defense of the victim and accused parties, fair trial and passing judicially correct judgment.
2. Because if all the power lies on one person alone, then it can be misused Violating laws based on equitable and equal judgment. A single ideology may not be correct as it may affect the outcome of the trial and the case.