



Addressing White Collar Crime with Situational Crime Prevention Approach: What's Promising and How It Works?

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Abstract: The study aims to demonstrate that white collar crimes can be prevented by limiting organizational opportunities for such crimes. By employing a situational approach to crime prevention, the research seeks to highlight practical measures businesses can adopt to reduce these opportunities. It explores the 25 techniques proposed by Cornish and Clarke, discussing their implementation within the context of organizational crime prevention. The findings reveal that while situational crime prevention measures are effective in controlling white collar crime, they cannot eradicate it entirely. These measures help to maintain white collar crime within an acceptable range, as complete elimination is unattainable due to the complexity and organized nature of these crimes. This research underscores the importance of a situational approach in white collar crime prevention, providing a systematic framework for reducing crime opportunities. It emphasizes the need for businesses to adopt comprehensive internal controls, ethical guidelines, and awareness programs to mitigate the risk of white collar crimes, contributing to both academic discourse and practical crime prevention strategies in corporate settings.

Keywords: corporate fraud; crime opportunities; financial crime; situational crime prevention approach; white collar crime

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I. Introduction

Today, financial markets face a lot of corporate fraud and accounting scandals. When the accounting scandals that took place in the last century are examined carefully, it is seen that companies deceive and mislead their employees, investors and markets with various fraudulent methods. In the process of accounting scandals that resulted in great destruction, companies present fraudulent and erroneous reports to the public, harming not only employees and investors, but also social interests (Homer, 2019). In addition, another consequence of these scandals is the deterioration of the confidence climate in the markets. Thus, the belief that companies in globalized markets are unreliable economic actors aiming only at profit maximization is formed. The goal of profit maximization, which is one of the most basic goals of companies, should be in line with the goal of providing public benefit and should be compatible (Free and Murphy, 2015).

In order to achieve the goal of providing social benefit, potential white collar crimes within the company should be prevented and

potential criminals should be deterred from committing crimes (Dodge, 2019). In order to prevent white collar crimes, there are many different perspectives based on the criminal act, the criminal, the personality characteristics of the criminal, the social, cultural, environmental and legal elements that allow crime to be committed, the concept of criminality, the genetic factors that lead to delinquency, and many other various factors in the literature. One of the most preferred crime prevention approaches in practice is the situational crime prevention theory which elaborated 25 techniques provided by Cornish and Clarke (Benson and Simpson, 2017).

It is possible to say that these 25 techniques for reducing the opportunity for crime offer a systematic framework for reducing or preventing different types of crime, which helps to make crime seem less attractive to potential criminals (Ho et al., 2022). It is seen that these 25 techniques, which aim to reduce crime opportunities, which are frequently used in criminal justice studies, are mostly used in the prevention of simple violent street crimes. Although situational crime prevention techniques can be easily applied to street crimes, their applicability to white collar crimes, which are more complex, well-organized, longer-lasting and have higher returns, are questioned. Furthermore, the number of studies revealing how and to what extent situational crime prevention techniques are applied to white collar crimes is very few. Therefore, in the following part of the study, the application area of situational crime prevention techniques in the field of white collar crime is discussed. The situational crime prevention approach is discussed in detail and within this framework, the crime prevention techniques suggested within the approach are listed. In order to determine how successful the situational crime prevention approach is in preventing white collar crimes, the application method of crime prevention techniques in white collar crimes is discussed. In this context, firstly, a conceptual framework about the concept of crime is drawn and crime theories in the literature are presented in general terms. In the following section, the concept of white collar crime is discussed and how these crimes can be kept under control within a situational crime prevention approach is explained.

II. The Theoretical and Practical Basis of Situational Crime Prevention Approach

The situational crime prevention approach takes its theoretical foundations from the classical school and neo-classical criminology teachings, it goes beyond these school teachings in the field of criminology and offers a new crime prevention approach. Although there are many theories in the literature on how to handle crime, a clear understanding of the “classical school” teachings, which is considered the starting point of all these theories, is very important for understanding the situational crime prevention approach (Ray and Diane, 2017).

Classical school argues that individuals are selfish beings that tend to reduce pain and costs by increasing their pleasure and benefits by nature, and that they always seek to maximize their individual interests due to this nature. It is emphasized that the arguments for the classical school are based on the concepts of “utilitarianism, hedonism, rationality and free will”. According to the classical school perspective, criminal individuals go through a rational decision-making process before they commit their criminal acts. To put it more clearly, potential criminals decide to commit or not commit a crime before committing the crime, taking into account the benefits they will gain from the crime and the harms that the crime will cause if they are caught. Therefore, the classical school argues that the way to prevent a crime is to remove a potential criminal’s motivation to commit a crime. In this respect, crime deterrent practices should be aimed at crippling the will of the guilty individual (Travis, 2017).

In addition to the classical school, positivist criminology teachings constitute the theoretical infrastructure of modern legal systems. Although the positivist criminology school follows the classical teaching, it has a very different perspective from the classical teaching. The positivist school of criminology is more concerned with the motivations that bring about crime rather than punishments. Contrary to the classical school doctrine’s assumption that individuals make rational choices while committing crimes, the positivist doctrine suggests that there are genetic, environmental, psychological and other factors that affect the individuals’ decision to commit crimes. According to this

point of view, it is possible to say that people do not have a free will in the full sense of the word, and that the will of individuals is crippled by various social factors. Whether individuals have criminal capacity or not, does not prevent them from being penalized for the crimes they have committed (Doak, 2015).

The neo-classical school takes its foundation from the main assumptions of the classical school, but takes these assumptions one step further and claims that crime can be prevented by preventing the formation of the minimum conditions necessary for an action to constitute a crime. According to the neo-classical school point of view, the conditions that create the crime are the primary factors that need to be addressed more than the causes of the crime. In neoclassical school teachings, the conditions that allow the formation of crime are evaluated in order to comprehensively examine the concept of crime and to prevent criminal acts (Derek, 2017).

The theory of rational choices, developed within the framework of the teachings of the neo-classical school, assumes that individuals are rational beings by nature and that they benefit from their rationality in decision-making processes. However, rational choices theory focuses only on individuals' rational decision-making processes; it does not take into account the factors that cause crime and delinquency. On the other hand, in the context of rational choices theory, although it is accepted that individuals make rational choices of their own free will in the process of deciding to commit or not commit a crime, the rationality of individuals in real life is not unlimited (Caillé and Vandenberghe, 2016).

Clarke and Cornish opposed the rational choice theory's assumption that "individuals have infinite rationality". They argue that there is a limit to the will and rationality of individuals. Clarke and Cornish who oppose the classical school's acceptance of infinite will and rationality, are based on the "bounded rationality" approach of Herbert Simon at the point of differentiation between the classical school and the neo-classical school. According to Derek Cornish and Ronald Clarke, although crime is affected by the rational decisions of individuals, this rationality is a limited one (Cornish and Clarke, 2017, p. 942). Therefore, the individual, who is considered as a potential criminal,

can never make a decision with the knowledge and equipment he should have, while deciding on committing or not committing a crime. The potential criminal always has limitations in skills, knowledge and time (Brantingham and Brantingham, 2017).

There are also studies in the literature stating that the evaluation of criminal acts and actions as a rational choice for potential criminals can be achieved through deterrent and preventive practices. However, variables such as the limited rationality of individuals, the effectiveness of deterrent and preventive practices, the deficiencies of the criminal justice system, when, where and how the crime is committed, the target to which the crime is directed directly, and the characteristics of crime and criminal cause the adequacy of the deterrent-based view to be questioned.

The situational crime prevention approach differs radically from all other remaining criminological teachings and mentions the necessity of making various managerial and environmental changes in order to minimize the possibility of the occurrence of crime. According to Felson's perspective on the subject, the situational crime prevention approach includes "methods used to prevent crime events by eliminating situations that allow criminal acts and actions" (Felson, 2008, p. 314). Clarke systematized all the measures that serve to prevent criminal acts and actions and to be taken regularly both by individuals on a micro scale and by companies on a macro scale, and included them in the literature as a "situational crime prevention approach". According to Clarke, the practices aimed at preventing crime should be carried out more effectively and efficiently and should be evaluated as a scientific discipline that includes the whole society, and therefore the situational crime prevention approach has been brought into the criminology literature (Clarke, 1995, p. 3).

Situational crime prevention approach differs from other crime theories mentioned in the literature and accepts that the individual stays away from committing crimes of his own free will, but does not deal with the arrest and penal sanction of criminals. This approach focuses on the crimes committed, rather than the individuals who are the actors of the crime, and focuses on the conditions that create the crime instead of the conditions that cause the individual to become a

criminal. In the approach, how crimes occur is more important than the motivations of individuals to commit crimes. Within the framework of the approach, an attempt is made to determine which situational factors can be used in order to prevent people from committing crimes again in the future (Newman and Clarke, 2016). In parallel with Gottfredson and Hirschi, other crime prevention theorists accept that there is a distinction between the concepts of crime and delinquency within the framework of the situational crime prevention approach, and focus on the criminal act itself by putting guilt in the background. Identifying and revealing the acts and acts constituting a crime, and getting the criminals who committed these acts and acts to receive the punishment they deserve, are not among the priority agenda items for the situational crime prevention approach. While the situational crime prevention approach is not concerned with the elimination of crime through the development/improvement of the social order or the social institutions shaped by the rules, norms and values prevailing in the society, it serves the purpose of making the criminal act less attractive to individuals with a criminal potential.

Situational crime prevention approach aims to prevent crime by reducing opportunities to cause crime and taking necessary measures such as administrative decisions and environmental regulations. At the heart of the situational crime prevention approach is the goal of reducing crime opportunities. In order to fulfill the aforementioned purpose, the approach states that the probability of the criminals being caught should be increased and the benefit to be gained from the crime should be reduced. Benson and Madensen base their situational crime prevention theory is based on the idea that crime can be minimized, if not entirely prevented, by altering the opportunity structures that potential offenders have access to (Benson and Madensen, 2007, p. 610)

In many developed countries, the situational crime prevention approach is used in the process of redesigning physical environments. It is a known fact that physical spaces play an important role in promoting or preventing criminal acts. For this reason, within the context of the situational crime prevention approach, “creation of a defensible space” and “crime prevention through environmental design” studies are carried out in physical spaces. In addition, “problem-oriented policing

activities” are carried out within the context of the situational crime prevention approach, enabling more effective and rapid measures to be taken for certain types of crime. The aforementioned measures are considered to be extremely important steps in bringing the situational crime prevention approach to its current state and in establishing its basic principles (Madensen, 2016). According to Clarke and Cornish, the situational crime prevention approach is aimed at very specific types of crime; it involves the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment as systematically and permanently as possible; and it should include measures to reduce opportunities for crime that make crime more difficult and riskier to commit, while at the same time making it less rewarding and justifiable (Clarke and Cornish, 1985, p. 151).

According to Wortley and Cornish, and Clarke, the situational crime prevention approach, in addition to the aforementioned measures, also includes efforts to control situational crime triggers (factors that trigger the motivation to commit crime) and to eliminate situational factors that provoke crime reactions. Benson and Madensen discuss the basic principles of the situational crime prevention approach under five main headings. These principles aim to reduce the attractiveness of crime for potential criminals. First, increasing the effort required to commit the crime. Second, increasing the risk of being caught by the potential criminal in the criminal process, which includes the stages before, during, or after the completion of the criminal act. Third, reducing the rewards that can be obtained as a result of the crime. Fourth, reducing situational conditions that may trigger unplanned criminal acts. Fifth, preventing the perpetrator from making excuses that justify his or her criminal actions or relieve the perpetrator from the responsibility of the crime (Benson and Madensen, 2007, p. 623).

Although the basic principles of the situational crime prevention approach are summarized under five main headings, it should not be forgotten that these principles vary according to the potential criminal’s perception of effort, risk, reward, triggering and excuse making in terms of a certain type of crime (Benson and Simpson, 2014). These perceptions, based on personal judgments, allow a general framework for crime prevention efforts to be drawn within the situational crime

prevention approach. There are 25 special techniques in the literature for the application of these 5 basic crime-reducing principles that draw the general framework (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of 25 Techniques for Situational Crime Prevention

| Increase the Effort | Increase the Risks | Reduce the Rewards | Reduce Provocation | Remove Excuses |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harden target | Extend guardianship | Conceal targets | Reduce frustrations and stress | Set rules |
| Control access to facilities | Assist natural surveillance | Remove targets | Avoid disputes | Post instructions |
| Screen exits | Reduce anonymity | Identify property | Reduce emotional arousal | Alert conscience |
| Deflect offenders | Utilize place managers | Disrupt markets | Neutralize peer pressure | Assist compliance |
| Control tools and weapons | Strengthen formal surveillance | Deny benefits | Discourage imitation | Control drugs and alcohol |

Source: Clarke, 2016

The first of the principles determined to reduce crime opportunities is to increase the effort made during the commission of crime. In other words, by increasing the effort of the person to commit a crime, it can be ensured that the person gives up committing a crime. In this context, the person's access to the crime target should be made more difficult (Weisburd et al., 2017). For example, with the installation of steel steering wheel locks in cars in a neighborhood where theft cases are high, there has been a significant decrease in car thefts. Keeping the entrances and exits to the buildings under control will not only keep unemployed or unwanted persons away from the buildings, but also make it more difficult for the person who knows that they are controlled to commit a crime. Ensuring control in buildings can be achieved by measures such as using electronic cards at entrances and exits, showing identity cards, or establishing security points at entrances and exits. Closing the

streets to pedestrian and vehicle traffic by the law enforcement officers, determining the locations of the bars or having the men's and women's toilets in separate places have been determined as techniques to prevent crime opportunities in terms of eliminating criminals. The use of smart weapons, the shutdown of stolen phones, and the restriction of spray paint sales to young people are also measures to increase the effort to be made during the commission of crime.

According to the situational crime prevention approach, another way to reduce crime opportunities is to increase risks. The biggest risks that the potential perpetrator will face in case of committing a crime is the risk of being caught and punished (Nagin et al., 2015). Increasing these risks can be achieved by tightening routine precautions, expanding guard duties, or providing natural surveillance by providing street lighting, redesigning defensible spaces, and supporting whistleblowers. The use of official uniforms and professional identities are considered important steps in reducing crime opportunities by removing anonymity. Other actions that will reduce the risks are the installation of closed-circuit camera systems (CCTV) within the framework of space management and official surveillance, the placement of more security officers, the creation of red-light cameras and alarm systems for thieves.

Reducing the reward (return) to be obtained from crime is another principle of the situational crime prevention approach that prevents crime opportunities. In this context, hiding or eliminating the targets of the crime can be realized with techniques such as establishing women's shelters, using virtual credit cards and placing removable radios in cars. Product branding, licensing of vehicles, and application of identification numbers for auto tapes also allow reducing opportunities for crime by registering goods. Keeping users under control is important in terms of market abuse actions. In addition, deleting graffiti and pictures, making speed bumps on the roads and placing product alarms on the product are considered eliminating criminal motivations (Richard and Michael, 2016).

Another fundamental principle of situational crime prevention is the reduction of crime triggers. Reducing or eliminating triggers can be accomplished by eliminating boredom and stress. In addition, resolving conflicts that trigger crime, neutralizing emotional stimulation, balancing

peer pressure, and preventing imitation are other crime opportunity reduction techniques mentioned by Cornish and Clarke. The last basic principle of situational crime prevention is the prevention of crime excuses. Techniques foreseen in the literature to prevent excuses are as follows: setting rules, issuing instructions, providing moral awareness, helping people in complying with the rules and instructions, and keeping stimulants such as alcohol and drugs under control (Richard and Nick, 2017).

III. Understanding the Essentials of White Collar Crime Concept

Some of the crimes committed are homicide, injury, sexual assault, etc. As in crime cases, it includes the use of physical force by the perpetrator of the crime against the victim and refers to the physical integrity of the victim. Such crimes are classified as “violent crimes” in the literature (Fajnzylber et al., 2002). In addition to violent crimes, there are crimes against property or crimes without victims, which do not involve any threat or element of attack against any individual, such as fraud, robbery, trespassing, disrupting public order, or a property that does not result in physical loss of individuals (Deka, 2022). It is also possible to commit crimes that are described as “non-violent crimes” (Maulidi and Ansell, 2021). Although there are opinions that there are two main types of crime, mainly violent crimes and property crimes, other crimes that are not covered by these two main types of crime can also be encountered. White collar crimes are one of the most important examples of crimes that do not include property damage or violence in their structure. Unlike violent crimes, white collar crimes do not require physical force and contact, and it cannot be determined that these crimes are clearly illegal during their commission. The fact that white collar crimes are difficult to detect at first glance and they can occur in various forms makes it difficult to identify the main features of these crimes. However, it is important to understand how white collar crimes differ from other crimes in order to reveal how white collar crimes are committed and to determine effective strategies to prevent these crimes. White collar crimes differ from violent crimes

in three main points. First, the perpetrator of a white collar crime has legitimate access to the place where the crime was committed. Second, the perpetrator of a white collar crime is spatially separate from the victim of the crime. Third, the actions of the perpetrator of the white collar crime are seen as legitimate when looked at superficially at the first stage (Gottschalk, 2018b).

When the concept of crime is mentioned, although violent street crimes usually come to mind first, white collar crimes can have as devastating results as violent crimes due to the costs they cause. On the other hand, white collar crimes are committed by well-educated employees in middle or upper-level positions, often earning higher wages than the majority of society. These individuals, particularly those close to top management, are responsible for such offenses carried out in the course of their duties. The cost to communities can be much higher when compared to street crime (Cohen, 2016).

The phenomenon of white collar crime was described in the literature by Edwin H. Sutherland. The concept in question first emerged at the meeting held in 1939 by the American Sociological Society and the American Economic Association. While talking about the concept of white collar crime, Sutherland states that white collar crimes have an unlawful nature, just like other crimes, and therefore should be considered as a real crime as in street crimes, and contrary to a popular belief, the crime is not committed only by the lower classes. According to Sutherland, for an act of a criminal nature to be considered as a white collar crime, the act in question must constitute a crime, and this offense must also be committed by a respected and high social status individual during the practice of the profession. Reurink opines that Sutherland used the term “white collar” as a metaphor to distinguish employees in office buildings — especially in management and managerial positions (Reurink, 2016, p. 389).

Sutherland states that white collar crimes are frequently seen in every occupational group. White collar crimes are mostly misrepresented in the financial statements of companies, manipulation in the stock market, commercial bribery, direct or indirect bribery of public officials for the purpose of making appropriate contracts and showing them in accordance with the legislation, bribery of public tenders, false

advertising and sales, corruption, embezzlement. Less than promised or less than what was paid (short measures), tax evasion, bankruptcy and it appears in the form of misuse of funds in liquidations (Sutherland, 1940, p. 9).

Sutherland basically places these crimes under two headings. These are occupational criminal behavior, which occurs when the employee violates the rules of law for the sake of his individual benefit, during the performance of a profession, and organizational criminal behavior, which is the crimes committed by the individual(s) of the company in order to obtain benefits and/or economic benefits on behalf of the institution they work for. In the literature, there are opinions that argue that the definition of white collar crimes by Sutherland is insufficient and limited in terms of the individuals it covers. Edelhertz argues that white collar crimes should consider not only crimes committed by high-level corporate employees, but also criminal acts committed by other white collar employees regardless of a status (such as accountants, cashiers in lower social classes) (Cliff and Wall-Parker, 2017). Shapiro, on the other hand, argued that in order to make the concept of white collar crime more valid, the complementary components of the concept should be clarified. In this direction, Shapiro argues that “manipulation and violation of trust norms and impartiality constitute the behavior style of white collar crimes” and thus reconceptualizes white collar crime through the phenomenon of trust (Pontell, 2016).

Benson and Simpson consider white collar crimes from the perspective of opportunity and emphasize that individuals who have the opportunity to commit crimes at a higher rate are more inclined to white collar crimes. In this context, these people can more easily access the necessary resources to commit crimes and hold strong professional positions within the organization. Adhering to Sutherland’s concept of white collar crime, there are many studies revealing that the most important factor forming the basis of white collar crime is the professional power of the individual and the opportunities provided by this power (Sutherland, 1940, p. 7).

Victims of white collar crimes actually know that the rapid damage caused by the crime has consequences far beyond the material dimension. The emotional collapse caused by white collar crimes shows that besides

the material damage expressed in numbers, different damages are endured. The most important of these damages is the loss of trust, which is also vital for organizations, and thus the destruction of the social trust climate. Trust should be considered both in terms of white collar crimes and as a precursor phenomenon of legal (legitimate) business activities. In other words, white collar crimes are crimes that should be given importance in terms of causing critical physical and mental harm to the victims of such crimes, beyond their material dimensions. Often, the consequences of white collar crimes can be larger than street crimes and can lead to a climate of insecurity in society (Dearden, 2016).

As white collar crimes intensify, their effects are wider and the situation may cause more serious consequences such as an economic trauma in the society. The consequences of white collar crimes are costly for all segments of society (Gottschalk and Gunnesdal, 2018). For this reason, white collar crimes need to be comprehensively addressed and examined. The fact that white collar crimes are inevitable and their consequences are very costly for both companies and investors and the whole society has led to the fact that these crimes have become an important research trend, especially in the fields of accounting, corporate governance, law and forensic sciences. Therefore, in many studies, researchers talk about the importance of white collar crimes and efforts to prevent these crimes. In this study, measures to prevent white collar crimes are evaluated within the framework of the situational crime prevention approach.

IV. Addressing White Collar Crime under the Situational Crime Prevention Theory

The situational crime prevention approach focuses on the effect of environmental factors on the occurrence of crime and argues that if it is kept under control, the situations that lead to the emergence of crime can be eliminated and therefore the formation of crime can be prevented. The main objective of the situational crime prevention approach is to eliminate or reduce the benefits to be obtained from crime by preventing the occurrence of situations, opportunities, risks and difficulties that are essential for the emergence of certain crimes.

In this direction, many developed countries such as England, Sweden and the Netherlands, also benefit from the situational crime prevention approach to deter crime. The approach, which was introduced to the literature by Clarke and Homel in 1997, is based on the personal preferences of criminal individuals regarding the cost of the crime and the benefit they will derive from the crime. In this respect, the potential criminal may choose to commit a crime if the benefit he gains in case of committing a crime is greater than the cost he will bear. Clarke and Homel mentioned crime prevention measures that make it difficult to commit a crime or limit the time of committing a crime within the framework of the situational crime prevention approach (Homel and Clarke, 1997, p. 21).

The situational crime prevention approach aims to prevent white collar crimes by changing the opportunity structures that cause crime. For this reason, in order to apply the situational crime prevention approach, the crime opportunities that cause white collar crimes should be well understood. Since the situational crime prevention approach can be applied for the same type of crime that has been committed with many different forms of implementation (*modus operandi*), it should be focused on specific types of crime in this context (Lord and Wingerde, 2019). For example, a white collar crime committed in a hospital (health sector) can be committed by a doctor, as well as by a nurse, pharmacist, psychiatrist or a hospital administrator. In this case, the opportunity for each actor to access the crime scene is different despite the committing of the same crime. The crime opportunity should be evaluated by considering the actor of the crime.

In addition, since the characteristics of white collar crimes have an important role in determining situational crime prevention techniques, these techniques should be redesigned taking into account the characteristics of white collar crimes. The peculiarities of white collar crime that should be considered within the framework of the situational crime prevention approach, which emphasizes the necessity of making certain managerial and environmental changes to reduce the possibility of crime, are as follows: potential white collar offenders often have exclusive access to victims and targets; the criminal person uses means of deception or concealment to hide the evidence of the

crime he has committed; it is often difficult to detect the intent and malice on which the offense is based, since the action taken by the guilty person does not clearly differ from legal (legitimate) activity; and the perpetrator is usually physically separated or distant from the victim of the crime at the time of committing the crime (Gottschalk, 2018a).

In order to discuss the role of the situational crime prevention approach in addressing white collar crimes, it is necessary to consider the basic situational crime prevention principles one by one and determine the techniques to be applied within the framework of these principles. In this context, when the increase in efforts to commit crime is evaluated, it is often not possible to physically restrict or prevent access to crime. White collar crimes often result from individuals having special access through their professional roles (Dearden and Gottschalk, 2021). For example, it is not possible for a senior executive who engages in insider trading to be prevented from accessing company information before it is determined that he has committed a white collar crime. Blocking the person's access to the company information may lead to the prevention of the company's routine activities.

Although preventing the physical access of the person to the target within the situational crime prevention approach is not very applicable in terms of white collar crimes (Heinonen et al., 2017). It is possible to provide the senior manager with controlled access to the company information. In this direction, a well-functioning internal audit system established within the company can control important information that an individual can access. Internal audit systems are very important in terms of revealing the true nature of seemingly legal actions and revealing that they are fundamentally unlawful, wrong or fraudulent. However, even though companies have a strong internal audit system, company employees can circumvent these internal audit systems with their confidential collaborations from time to time. Licenses or certificates, regulations requiring them in order to prevent certain types of white collar crime increase the efforts of individuals to reach the crime target. By organizing the working environment in the company to prevent crime, determining ethical rules and codes within the company, creating special support programs to help company employees financially, and trainings to be given against white collar crimes within

the company, employees can be more careful and conscious of these crimes. This situation will cause potential criminal employees to make more efforts to commit crimes. In addition, with the independent audit process, it can be difficult for the potential criminal to reach the target. The fact that the potential criminal has to make more efforts to carry out the criminal act may result in his withdrawal from the idea of committing a crime. In order to prevent white collar crimes within the framework of the situational crime prevention approach, measures such as controlling the entrances and exits to company offices (using personnel cards), presence of security guards in the company and using various control tools (providing access to the company's confidential information in special stages) also increase the efforts to access the target. It allows to prevent white collar crimes.

Increasing risks, which is another example of the situational crime prevention principles, can be achieved by tightening inspections or increasing penalties. In order to increase the risks, the duties of the structures (board of directors, audit committee, internal audit system, etc.) that undertake the task of oversight in the company can be expanded. In addition, in order to help natural surveillance, employees can be assigned to watch each other at work. In addition, assigning company-related transactions to individuals means increasing risks for potential criminals by reducing anonymity. On the other hand, increasing the severity of punishments in deterrence of white collar crimes in order to increase the risks does not give the expected effect in preventing crime. Increasing the severity of punishment alone is not a complete deterrent to committing crimes; it is necessary to know that the penalty required by the crime will be applied in a way that is proportional to the crime and that the finalized penalty should be executed in a timely manner. In addition, companies can create risk management systems and internal reporting lines within the company in order to increase the risks related to potential white collar crimes. The fact that the company prefers more honest people in personnel employment increases the existing risks for potential criminals. In addition, it is used by companies as another risk-increasing measure to ensure that employees are aware that they will be punished if they commit a crime (Andreatta and Favarin, 2020).

Unlike simple crimes such as street crimes, it is more difficult to increase the risks in white collar crimes in order to identify and eliminate opportunities that pave the way for crime (Sehgal and Koul, 2021). For example, installing security cameras against the simple theft crime, tightening surveillance, more guards on the streets, hardening door locks is enough to prevent the potential criminal from accessing the target. However, when these crime prevention efforts are applied to white collar crimes, the establishment of a physically tighter surveillance mechanism to prevent potential criminals from accessing the target may become more difficult than in street crimes. Reducing the crime opportunities that cause white collar crimes can be achieved by developing mechanisms that will monitor the compliance of business people's behavior with both legal and ethical standards within the organization rather than by physical measures to be taken.

Another way to change the opportunity structure of white collar crime is to reduce the rewards for engaging in illegal activities. They can be reduced by disrupting the functioning of illegal markets, not recognizing or denying the benefits of a criminal act (Stadler and Gottschalk, 2022). The acknowledgment that the situational crime prevention approach can be achieved through concealment or elimination of targets, registration of goods, disruption of markets or removal of incentives for crime has more validity in white collar crime than in street crime. Reducing rewards to prevent white collar crime is more difficult to achieve than street crime. Hiding or eliminating targets, registering goods are mostly ineffective in terms of white collar crimes. In deterring white collar crimes, cooperation should be made with institutions that carry out special studies and implement proactive crime prevention techniques to identify individuals, institutions and organizations involved in crime and prosecute crime cases. To summarize, the most effective way to reduce rewards in white collar crimes is to disrupt illegal markets and remove the factors that encourage crime.

Reducing the triggers of crime, in other words, the situational factors that trigger crime, serves the purpose of preventing crime opportunities that encourage people's criminal actions (Cozens and Love, 2015). However, unlike simple street crimes, white collar crimes

are not passion-based crimes, have a more complex structure and are committed as a result of a more rational decision process compared to street crimes, which shows that the perpetrator has gone through a long decision-making process. For this reason, avoiding conflicts and reducing emotional arousal, which are effective in street crimes, do not give the expected effect in white collar crimes (Craig and Piquero, 2017). However, in order to prevent emotional stimulation of bankers who are dealing with large amounts of money in the banking sector, double custody (dual custody) is imposed on funds above a certain limit. In addition, the existing system created to sue government payments in order to prevent white collar crimes in the health sector is designed in a very easy and simple way. In addition, continuous training and seminars are given in order to ensure professionalism in the sectors.

Ethical principles and guidelines created to promote professionalism can serve to neutralize peer pressure by eliminating the justification that “all employees are already doing this”. Finally, it is important to prevent the methods used by those involved in white collar crime from being made public, in terms of reducing counterfeiting. While many successful white collar crime cases can be accessed on the internet or in official documents, the methods used by individuals or organizations during the commission of these crimes are generally kept confidential (Rustiarini et al., 2019).

The last of the situational crime prevention principles, namely the excuse prevention principle, is based on the rationalization of the motivations that criminals have while committing crimes. Despite the reasons on which the perpetrators base their criminal acts, the determination of the rules and instructions by the company, the creation of ethical and moral codes and ensuring that the employees comply with these regulations prevent the rationalization of criminal motivation by using possible excuses. In addition, it is extremely important that the boundaries of the rules are determined and clear in terms of reducing the opportunities for crime. Uncertainty in company rules can cause employees to abuse them whenever they have the opportunity (Engdahl, 2017).

V. Conclusion

The situational crime prevention approach focuses on understanding how potential offenders evaluate the costs and benefits of crime opportunities and adjusting these risk and reward factors to deter criminal behavior. This method is more effective in preventing white collar crimes than increasing sanctions or creating new regulations. Although it does not completely eliminate white collar crimes, it helps to maintain them at a manageable level. Traditional views of white collar crimes being purely rational decisions have evolved, recognizing the influence of various micro and macro factors on individuals' choices, which are not always driven by rational motives. Thus, despite different perceptions of effort, risk, and reward, the situational prevention approach effectively keeps white collar crimes under control by addressing these diverse factors.

To successfully implement this approach, companies must understand the specific crime opportunities within their organization and apply appropriate techniques to alter these opportunities. This involves strengthening internal audit systems, establishing whistleblower lines, creating comprehensive company constitutions, and defining and enforcing ethical rules. Additionally, companies should focus on employee training and awareness programs to prevent crimes and ensure adherence to ethical standards. Beyond the organizational level, raising community-wide awareness and fostering a commitment to ethical values and legal compliance are essential. An effective legal system that swiftly and fairly punishes offenders while protecting victims is crucial for deterring potential criminals and maintaining trust in the law.

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