

## Analysis of Youth Crime in Punjab Pakistan: An Empirical Study

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**Abstract-** *Criminality and juvenile delinquency are pervasive issues of global significance. The Pakistani government has demonstrated a significant inclination towards empirical and scientific study pertaining to the origins, prevention, management, and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency. However, it was not fully cognizant of the magnitude of juvenile criminality until a more recent period. Therefore, the potential consequences of juvenile delinquency on the moral and social fabric of society in the foreseeable future are of significant concern. The research was carried out in the Faisalabad and Bhawalpur Districts of the Punjab Province, where two juvenile detention facilities and hostels for the rehabilitation of problematic youngsters are located. A sample of 221 juvenile offenders was obtained from prisons using a pretested and well-structured questionnaire for the purpose of data collection. The results of the study indicated that many factors, including media exposure, community environment, paternal influence, and parent-child conflict, were positively associated with juvenile delinquency. On the other hand, when family income was treated as a binary variable, the findings yielded conflicting outcomes. The study suggests that the implementation of media and community involvement, counseling services, and awareness campaigns is recommended in order to mitigate parent-child conflict.*

**Keywords-** *Youth Crime in Punjab Pakistan.*

### How to Cite

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### Introduction

Criminality and juvenile delinquency are pervasive issues of global significance. The Pakistani government has demonstrated a significant inclination towards empirical and scientific study pertaining to the origins, prevention, management, and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency. However, it was

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The issue of adolescent delinquency has become a worldwide concern that impacts both industrialized nations and emerging nations in both structured and unstructured ways. This is because the problem can take many forms. Because it ensures that the members of a civilized society are treated fairly and in accordance with the law, the criminal justice system is of the utmost

importance in every society that aspires to be civilized. In point of fact, a nation that is plagued by broad social instability and a pervasive fear for one's life and property is unable to have economic expansion (Khan, 1997).

When compared to criminal behavior, antisocial behavior can be considered a potentially less serious infraction.

According to Auolakh (1999), other characteristics that are connected with juvenile delinquency include dysfunctional families, a neighborhood that is filled with delinquents, disruptive classmates or school group companions, impoverished communities that have a high crime rate, unemployment, and poverty.

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high crime rate, unemployment, and poverty.

Money, land, sexual assault, illiteracy, honor killings, long-standing hatred, and narcotics are the primary contributors to juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Other contributors include honor killings. The recent construction of militant "deeni madras" (religious education institutions) has made the situation significantly worse. Youths less than eighteen years old are instructed about the dangers of sectarian violence and militancy in these institutions. According to Nadeem (2002), young people in both developed and developing countries have acquired a tendency toward engaging in gang warfare online. This pattern may also be seen in Pakistan, unfortunately. Due to a lack of pertinent data, there is a scarcity of academic writing on crime, particularly juvenile delinquency in Pakistan (Usmani, 1978). This is mostly the case.

In light of what has been said thus far, it would seem to be imperative that we immediately start giving serious consideration to the key problems facing society. The stigma attached to juvenile criminality is growing in today's culture. The moral and social fabric of society is being severely torn apart as a direct result of the issue's social dimension. The majority of parents are anxious

about the future for their children as they observe the breakdown of the traditional nuclear family. The already serious issue of delinquency among young people has been further complicated by the rise in sectarian violence, which has been directed mostly on adolescents.

If nothing is done to stop it, the current upward trend in juvenile delinquency will, in the end, produce exceedingly severe socioeconomic issues.

As a result, it is vital to carry out study to discover the elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency and to offer remedial actions in order to put a stop to the rapidly growing trends associated with the problem. The findings of this study will be useful to policymakers, as well as to law enforcement and civil society. The research was carried out in the Faisalabad and Bhawalpur Districts of the Punjab Province, where two juvenile detention facilities and hostels for the rehabilitation of problematic youngsters are located.

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### **Research Method**

The cities of Faisalabad and Bahwalpur in Punjab served as the research locations for the current study. The rehabilitation of young offenders who committed crimes in the province of Punjab is currently being carried out through the usage of two juvenile prisons and borstal institutions. For the

purpose of the research project, the population that was questioned included a total of 221 juvenile offenders. A questionnaire that was carefully crafted and organized, as well as put through a preliminary testing phase, was created.

The correlation coefficient is a useful tool for quantifying the degree to which two variables are related to one another. This exemplifies how two variables are not dependent on one another in any way. It is possible that there is not an apparent linear relationship between the two variables in question if the correlation coefficient is very close to the value of zero.

As stated in Bryman and Cramer's (1996) research,

### **Discussion**

The breakdown of juvenile offenders into their respective divisions is presented in Table 1. Within the Punjab Province, the Bahawalpur Division accounts for 22% of the total number of juvenile offenders, making it the division with the highest proportion of juvenile offenders. The next city with the most population is Multan, with 18%, followed by Lahore with 15%, Dera Ghazi Khan with 14%, and Faisalabad with 13%. The incidence of criminal behavior is quite uncommon in other fields of endeavor. Many of the participants, in response to what they

saw as personal or societal injustices, engaged in behaviors that broke established norms or laws. This was the case even when these behaviors were illegal.

According to the information that is shown in Table 3, a sizeable proportion of respondents, exactly 10%, claimed that they had been forced to participate in illegal activities as a result of being impoverished or having restricted access to resources. In contrast, varying percentages of respondents indicated that they committed crimes due to different factors such as influence from friends and family, prioritizing wealth accumulation over legal rights, land disputes, provocation, accidental circumstances, self-defense, drug addiction, and sexual desires, respectively. These percentages are as follows: 3.2%, 10.9%, 2.3%, 19.0%, 4.1%, 12.2%, 3.2%, 1.4%, and 10%.

In order to test six hypotheses, the data were evaluated by employing Pearson's Correlation as well as other pertinent statistical measures. In urban settings, the Pearson correlation coefficient for parental conflict stands at 0.235, while in rural areas it stands at only 0.172. These values are statistically significant at a level of significance equal to or greater than 5%. The coefficient demonstrates the predicted sign, which

points to the existence of a connection between parental conflict and delinquency.

In this specific instance, the second hypothesis being looked into concerns a possible connection between the presence of juvenile delinquency and the atmosphere of the local community. The Pearson correlation coefficients for the community environment in rural and urban contexts are 0.172 and 0.210, respectively, at a significance level of 5%. This compares to a significance level of 5%. The coefficient gives an indication of the expected direction. As a direct consequence of this, the hypothesis is widely recognized and approved of.

In order to test the third hypothesis, which concerned the father's attitude, the Pearson's R statistic was utilized. The coefficient offers evidence in support of the theory by displaying the predicted sign and presenting values of 0.175 and 0.203, respectively, for rural and urban settings, respectively. In addition, a significance level of 5% is sufficient to determine that the coefficient exhibits statistically significant behavior. In addition, the findings are consistent with the research that Bhatti (1976) carried out. The use of Pearson's R correlation coefficient is used to reevaluate the fourth hypothesis, which states that the



media has an effect on the criminal behavior of adolescents. This hypothesis proposes that the media has an influence on the behavior of adolescents. In connection with this hypothesis, the coefficient values for the rural variable are found to be 0.154, while the urban variable's coefficient values are found to be 0.227. Both urban and rural areas have significance level coefficients of 5%, with urban areas having a slightly higher value of 10%. The findings of the research provide empirical evidence that is in agreement with the theory that was proposed. There is neither clarity nor conclusive evidence to support the hypothesis that a higher monthly income is associated with reduced rates of delinquency among adolescents.

The fact that the coefficient in rural areas was significant at the 5% level ( $p = 0.162$ ), however, did not cause the hypothesis to be rejected. Nevertheless, the similar coefficient in metropolitan zones did not provide support for the idea. The findings go counter to the statistics that were published by Narsian (1997) earlier on in this field.

With the help of the estimation of Pearson R statistics, a total of six hypotheses were tested and evaluated. A positive influence on juvenile delinquency may be exerted by a number of different circumstances,

including disagreements between parents, the attitude of the father, the local community, and the influence of the media.

The fact that the binary variable that represents family wealth yields conflicting findings is due to the fact that while it does have an effect on the criminal conduct of adolescents in rural areas, it has quite different outcomes in urban settings.

### **Summary:**

The empirical study titled "Analysis of Youth Crime in Punjab, Pakistan" delves into the intricate dynamics of youth involvement in criminal activities within the Punjab region of Pakistan. Authored by [Author(s)], the research employs a systematic approach to investigate the root causes, patterns, and consequences of youth crime in the area. The study begins by contextualizing the issue of youth crime, emphasizing its significance in the socio-economic landscape of Punjab. It highlights the alarming rise in youth involvement in criminal activities and the potential ramifications for both individuals and society at large.

Utilizing empirical data, the researchers meticulously analyze various factors contributing to youth crime. These factors encompass socio-economic

disparities, educational deficiencies, familial influences, peer pressure, and societal perceptions. By examining these multifaceted determinants, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying mechanisms driving youth towards criminal behavior.

Moreover, the research employs statistical methodologies to discern patterns and trends in youth crime across different demographic segments within Punjab. This quantitative analysis offers valuable insights into the prevalence of various types of offenses, the age distribution of offenders, and the geographical concentration of criminal activities.

Furthermore, the study explores the repercussions of youth crime on individuals, families, and communities, shedding light on the socio-economic costs and psychological toll associated with such behavior. It underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of youth crime and fostering rehabilitation and reintegration mechanisms for offenders. In the empirical study provides a comprehensive examination of youth crime in Punjab, Pakistan, elucidating its complexities and

implications for society. By offering empirical evidence and analytical insights, the research contributes to the development of informed strategies and interventions aimed at mitigating youth involvement in criminal activities and fostering a safer and more prosperous future for the region.



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