



CASUAL FACTORS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

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Abstract

This study was conducted to find out the casual factors of criminal behavior in, Punjab Pakistan. Punjab is the largest province of Pakistan and crime ratio is also highest in this province. A questionnaire of 114 items was constructed through focus group discussion, Literature and DSM-5. Five point Likert scale was used to measure the casual factors. Data was collected from 200 criminals who conducted the crime more than one time. Data was collected from District jails of Multan and Vehari from south Punjab. Mean value was selected as 2 for mentioning a factors as cause of criminal behavior which indicate the presence of a factor. In last 20 factors were mentioned as casual factors of criminal behavior including physical abuse in

schools, stubbornness in childhood, feelings of hopelessness and helplessness in childhood, strict family restrictions in childhood. Failure in intimate relations, high media exposure, short temperament, feelings of revenge and deprivation in childhood. Most of the criminals found to get their primary and secondary education in schools whereas there were lowest ratio of criminals who get religious education. There is needed to make policies to reduce these casual factors to control crime in Pakistan.

Key Words: Crime, Criminal Behavior, Criminal Tendency, Criminal Factors, Causes of Crime.

INTRODUCTION

Crime is an evil practice. Crime is the major concern of criminology. It is considered as a human behavior which intrudes upon state laws. Crime can be defined in several ways. Crime can be defined as “ a human behavior that intrudes the criminal commandments of a state, the federal government, or a local jurisdiction that has the power to make” (Simpson, 2000). Edwin Sutherland, a prominent personality in criminology state that crime as essential characteristic of human personality which is prohibited by the state and the state have the right to react upon it through force or punishment.¹ Crime rate is increasing drastically in each society and it is occurring in sector of life and affecting people in all the fields of life.² Efforts to combat crime have not capitulated in positive result because the root causes of the crime have not been eliminated yet.³ There are two elements of criminal behaviors; First, Deviant behavior is defined as an activity that distorts social or cultural norms. Some behaviors or activities are not

¹ Eck, J. E., & Weisburd, D. L. (2015). Crime places in crime theory. Eggleston, E. P., & Laub, J. H. (2002). The onset of adult offending: A neglected dimension of the criminal career. *Journal of criminal justice*, 30(6), 603-622.

² Oyebiyi PO (2011). Effectiveness of Entrepreneurial Training and ToLo-Po-So-Go in Enhancing the self image of prison inmates in SouthWest, Nigeria. A seminar paper presented in the Department of Guidance and Counselling, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

³ Pakes F, Pakes S (2004). *Criminal Psychology*, William Publishing Portland, U.S.A.

predestined by State or Government but considered as bad or deviant behavior.⁴ Secondly, Delinquency is known as minor crime but, especially that committed by young people. Crimes usually considered the synonym of delinquency but it has different meaning in technical manner it is defined as the violations of the criminal law and other misbehavior committed by young people.⁵

LITERATURE REVIEW

Consensus Perspective:

This perspective states that the process of legislation should labelize any behavior as criminal when there is consensus in society to consider that behavior as criminal. This perspective is more common among homogenous societies that have common or shared beliefs, values and norms. Multicultural societies which have diversity face difficulty to make consensus therefore they have to problems to apply this perspective in making laws.⁶

Pluralist Perspective:

This perspective stresses upon the diversity of the society and culture therefore any behavior is labelized as criminal through political process involving proper debates about the issues in legislative forums. This perspective is common in multicultural societies where consensus is not easy to make about the issues. Therefore such societies make debates of concerned persons and then consider any behavior as criminal after brain storming on the issues.⁷

⁴ Tappan, P. W. (1960). *Crime, justice and correction* (Vol. 10). New York: McGraw-Hill.

⁵ Taylor, I., Walton, P., & Young, J. (2013). *The new criminology: For a social theory of deviance*. Routledge.

⁶ Arrigo, B. A., & Williams, C. R. (2004). *Theory, justice, and social change: Theoretical integrations and critical applications*. Springer Science & Business Media.

⁷ Young, T. R. (1999). A constitutive theory of justice: The architecture of affirmative postmodern legal systems. *Constitutive criminology*, 275-285.

General Theory of Crime:

This theory of crime usually explains criminal behaviors through a single, predominant approach. According to many experts mostly theories in criminology have vague or unclear justifications therefore legislators have to follow some general rules in explaining all kinds of criminal behaviors (Weber, 1964).

Integrated Theory of Crime:

This theory does not explain all kinds of criminal behaviors but still has importance in merging the concepts from different sources to explain criminal behaviors. According to Gregg Barak the integrated theory tries to bring different kinds of knowledge together and combine different disciplines that study crime. This theory provides wider explanation on about the issues under consideration (Von Hirsch, 1976).

The Social Context of Crime:

Crime does not happen in space or vacuum therefore different people have different interpretations of different criminal behaviors such as who, what, when, where and why of crime. Generally people say that society makes the criminals. Each crime has different conductors, causes and consequences. Similarly the impact of crime are also different therefore crime effect each person differently, some people are effected more than others and sometimes crime effect those people who are not the direct target of criminal behavior such as police officers, witnesses and other people along with the victims. The results and consequences of criminal behavior largely depend upon the social policies, norms and laws. Similarly the reactions to criminal behavior are also depending upon the social context that how the society perceives any behavior as criminal or how punish it. Like other social constructs criminal behavior is also a social construct, means its roots prevails in social norms (Paternoster, 2000).

Learning Theories of Criminal Behavior:

Learning theories (Sutherland, 1939) played an important role in understanding and defining the criminal behavior. Theory of differential association proposed that criminal behavior is related to cultural conflict where association plays significant role in criminal behavior. This theory was later expanded and refined by Burgess and Akers (1966) integrated with behavioral and social learning theories. They proposed differential association reinforcement theory which postulated that criminal behavior could be explained in terms of differential reinforcement (Burgess & Akers, 1966).

In operant conditioning a behavior is strengthened or weakened based on its favorable or unfavorable consequences. If a behavior is reinforced it will continue and if a behavior is not reinforced it will discontinue or extinguish.⁸ Over time the reinforced behavior is internalized (Siegel et al., 2006). Similarly the reinforcement of criminal behavior is related to its amount, frequency and probability. In addition definition, internalization and imitation of learned norms also play role in development of deviant behavior.⁹

Tested and supported the hypothesis that as a delinquent gets attraction, delinquency increase in among peers. Along this there is extensive empirical support of this learning theory of criminal behavior and the principals of learning theory extensively shed light on understanding, defining and modification of criminal behavior.¹⁰

Hawkins¹¹ presented their social development model which discuss the pro social and antisocial behavior development. Relation with antisocial peers and family may increase the likelihood of

⁸ Skinner, B. F. (1963). Operant behavior. *American Psychologist*, 18(8), 503.

⁹ Burgess, R. L., & Akers, R. L. (1966). A differential association-reinforcement theory of criminal behavior. *Social problems*, 14(2), 128-147.

¹⁰ Rebellon, C. J. (2006). Do adolescents engage in delinquency to attract the social attention of peers? An extension and longitudinal test of the social reinforcement hypothesis. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 43(4), 387-411.

¹¹ Hawkins, J. D., Herrenkohl, T., Farrington, D. P., Brewer, D., Catalano, R. F., & Harachi, T. W. (1998). A review of predictors of youth violence.

such behaviors in later life and this also may decrease the likelihood of positive relationships with peers and family members.¹² Several research studies support this hypothesis that childhood antisocial behavior is linked to adolescent antisocial behavior or delinquency¹³ and the antisocial behaviors of adolescent can be predictive for adult antisocial behaviors.¹⁴ In a study it is tested that and hypothesis that problems in infancy leads to problems in childhood and problems in childhood leads to problems in adolescent and problems in adolescent leads to problems in adulthood.¹⁵ Similarly evidence from a longitudinal study of 500 delinquents from 7 to 70 ages indicated that criminal behaviors tends to decrease with age and childhood problems are not well prevision of adult antisocial behavior.¹⁶

Empirical Analysis of Juvenile Crime in Punjab, Pakistan

Juvenile delinquency now has become a global issue and is increasing in both developing and developed countries. Money, land, sexual assault, illiteracy, honor killing, old enmity and drug abuse are the main factors of delinquency in Pakistan. Religious education institutions (madaris) have versant the situation by developing militancy and sectarianism among adolescents. They develop hateful attitudes and behaviors. Cyber Net has also now a new factor which is contributing in developing delinquency among youth in Pakistan. Most literature about

¹² Fleming, C. B., Catalano, R. F., Mazza, J. J., Brown, E. C., Haggerty, K. P., & Harachi, T. W. (2008). After-school activities, misbehavior in school, and delinquency from the end of elementary school through the beginning of high school: A test of social development model hypotheses. *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, 28(2), 277-303.

¹³ Broidy, L. M., Nagin, D. S., Tremblay, R. E., Bates, J. E., Brame, B., Dodge, K. A., ... & Lynam, D. R. (2003). Developmental trajectories of childhood disruptive behaviors and adolescent delinquency: a six-site, cross-national study. *Developmental psychology*, 39(2), 222.

¹⁴ Lynam, D. R., Caspi, A., Moffitt, T. E., Loeber, R., & Stouthamer-Loeber, M. (2007). Longitudinal evidence that psychopathy scores in early adolescence predict adult psychopathy. *Journal of abnormal psychology*, 116(1), 155.

¹⁵ Eggleston, E. P., & Laub, J. H. (2002). The onset of adult offending: A neglected dimension of the criminal career. *Journal of criminal justice*, 30(6), 603-622.

¹⁶ Sampson, R. J. (2009). *Shared beginnings, divergent lives*. Harvard University Press.

childhood delinquency in Pakistan attributed to the lack of relevant data. Delinquency in youth in becoming a serious issue in Pakistan Disturbed families and parents concerns regarding future of their children are increasing drastically, Sectarianism is also has deep rooted cause in developing delinquency in youth of Pakistan. If the delinquency in youth in not controlled and proper steps are not implemented it will become a major drastic issues in Pakistan. There is needed to make proper policies and sufficient law enforcement along with the activation of civil society (Nadeem, 2002).

Rationale of the Study:

Criminal behavior is common behavior in our society now a days and the rate of crime is increasing day by day. This study help to understand the factors which contribute in the development of criminal behavior in society. This study also helps to understand the life events of criminals from childhood which lead them to criminal behavior. This is the important study in the Pakistani cultural context because there is very limited work in Pakistan in this context.

METHOD

Research Design:

Descriptive and comparative research design was used in this study.

Sample Size:

Sample was collected from 200 criminals who had conducted crime more than one time.

Sampling Technique:

Purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used to select the sample. Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental, selective or subjective sampling, is a type of non-probability sampling technique.

Research Instrument:

Self-structured 5 point Likert scale questionnaire constructed from the following three sources was used.

- 1- Literature review oriented questions

- 2- Focus group oriented questions
- 3- DSM-V oriented symptoms based questions

Research Procedure

Data collected from juvenile jails in cities of Faisalabad and Bahawalpur in Punjab revealed that parental conflicts, community environment, complaining and demanding fathers and violence shown in media are the major factors of juvenile delinquency in Punjab, This study stressed to focus on resolving parental issues through counseling and awareness to control the delinquency among children and adolescents (Khalid, 2004).

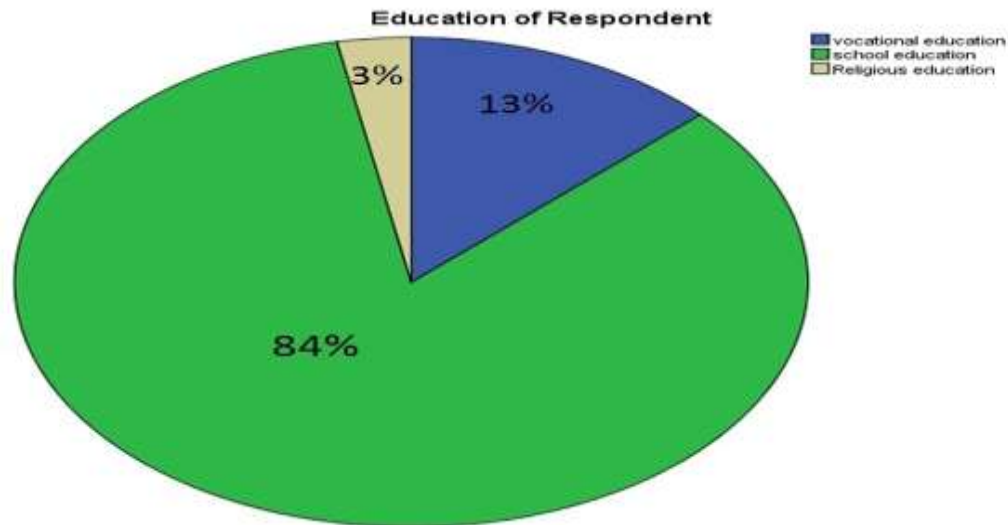
The development of risk factor model has its own limitations. The main hindrance is to define, identify and differentiate risk and protective factors. This limitation further causes hindrance in developing interventions for the juvenile delinquency. One problem in the development of the risk factors and their intervention is that, could it be possible that one factor can easily be change.¹⁷

RESULTS

¹⁷ Farrington, D. P., & Loeber, R. (1999). Transatlantic replicability of risk factors in the development of delinquency. *Historical and geographical influences on psychopathology*, 299-329.

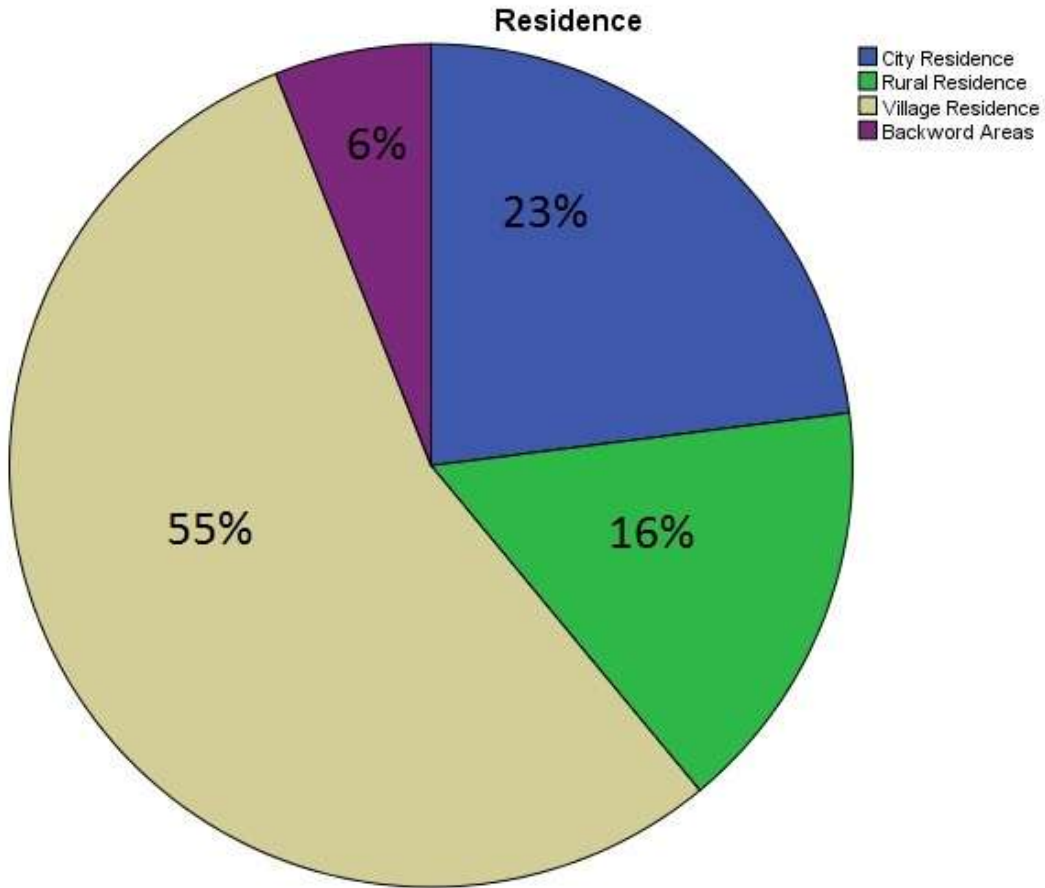
Results indicate the percentage of the following factors found in criminals.

Demographic Variables



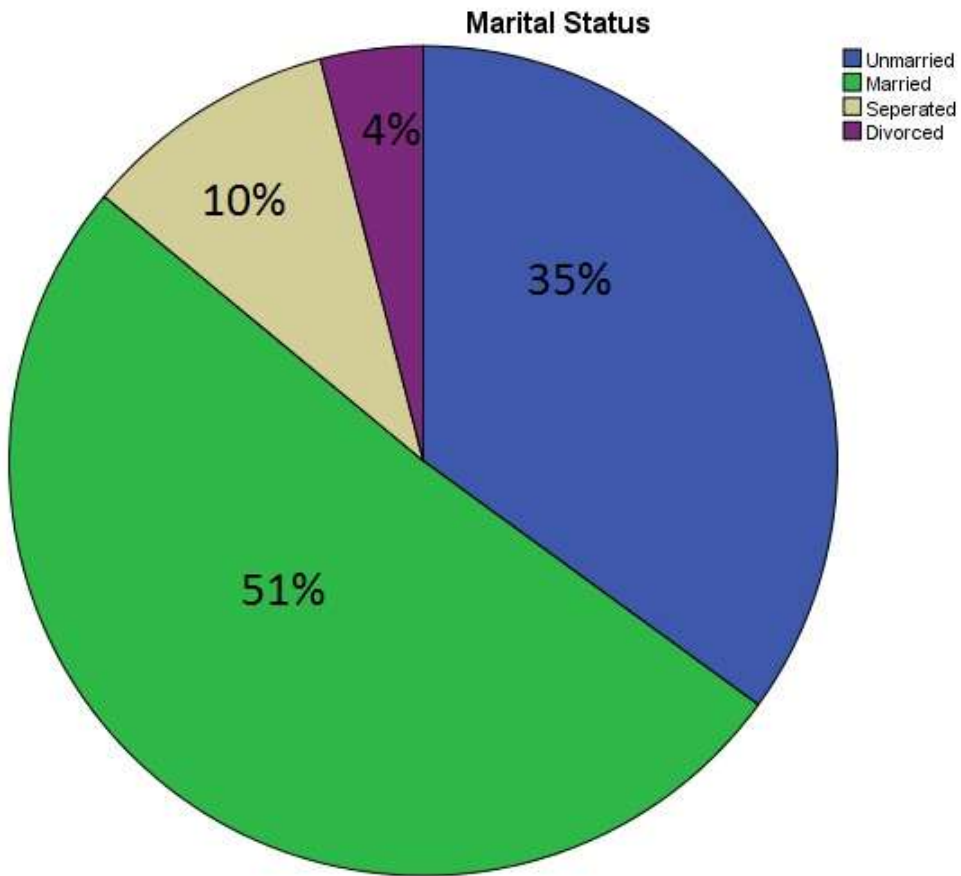
Graph shows that 84% criminals got education from schools, 13% got vocational education and only 3% got from educational institutions.

Residence of Respondents



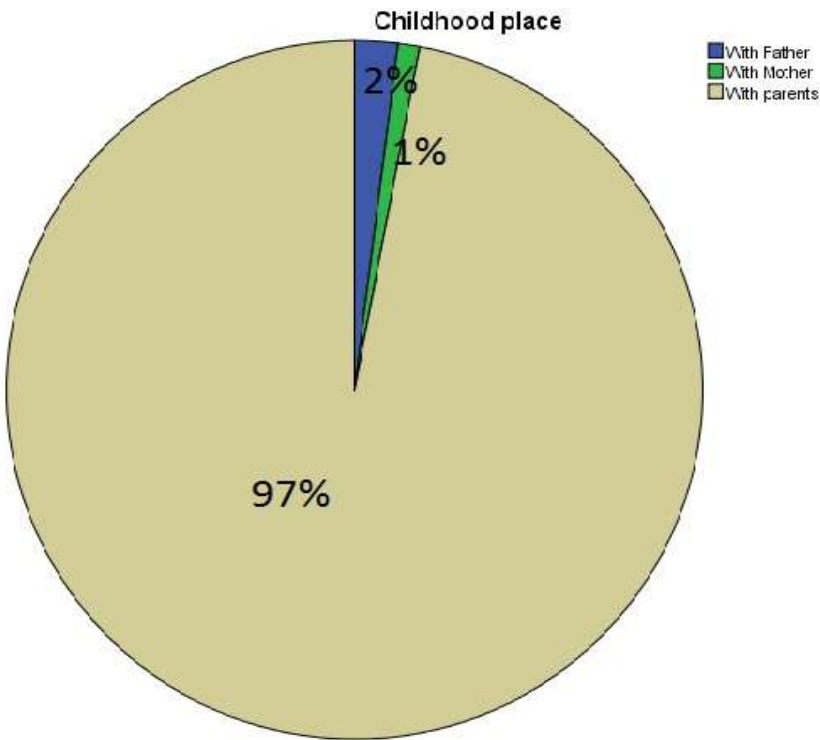
Above graph shows that 55% respondents lived in villages, 23% lived in cities, 16% lived in rural areas and 6% lived in backward areas.

Marital Status of Respondents



Above graph shows that 51% of respondents were married, 35% were unmarried, 10% were separated and only 4% were divorced

Childhood Resident of Respondents



Above graph shows that 97% respondents spent their childhood with both parents, 2% spent their childhood with only father and 1% spent their childhood only with mother.

CASUAL FACTORS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Mean Value	Factor Based Questions	Sr.No
2.00	I had been beaten in school.	1
2.21	My parents used to contradict my point of view.	2
2.02	In past, I often complained against my nearby people.	3
2.49	I was found to become very rich person.	4
2.38	In past, I had revengeful nature.	5

2.44	In love, I have not succeeded.	6
2.62	In past, consumption of sugar was my delicacy.	7
2.95	In past, there were many restrictions on my family.	8
2.22	I think, getting true love in the world is impossible.	9
2.92	I was found of watching TV.	10
2.61	I realized I was eager to avenge the abuse in the past.	11
2.24	I was stubborn in childhood.	12
2.24	I would love to keep myself isolated in childhood.	13
2.36	In past, I was short-tempered.	14
3.09	In past, I used helpless and hopelessness.	15
2.32	I had deprivation in past.	16
2.52	I was habitual to control others in past.	17
2.23	I used to play risk oriented and adventurous games.	18
2.88	In childhood, I would try to get everything of my likings.	19
4.06	I would feel my insult in childhood.	20

Description of Casual Factors

20 top casual factors were selected from 114 questions. These questions were selected on the basis of minimum value of 2 which indicate that a factor is present for criminal tendency.

DISCUSSION

Conclusion:

This research was conducted to study the casual factors of criminal behavior among criminals. for this purpose a questionnaire was developed through focus groups and literature regarding the topic. Casual factors found in this research was also supported by Khalid (2004).¹⁸ Social factors such as disturbed economical conditions and some cultural norms and social values such as restrictions on expressing feelings and thoughts to parents or family and to society also, and poverty are found in this research also supported by study of Tittle (2000) and Young (1999). Some new factors such as failure in romantic relations and high consumption of sugar are new factors which are not studied much found in this study.

We have to face many difficulties in the development of this scale such as some items are not be included due to cultural barriers for example most of the individuals refused to answer or deceive about the questions regarding sexual issues therefore we could not properly add the questions regarding sexual factor but this factor do not influence the questionnaire because in our culture most adolescents do not involve in sexual activities. The most difficult barrier was to meet the criminals due to the security reasons therefore administration of jails could not allow us to meet the criminals, so questionnaires were filled out through the administration of jails. Criminals to whom we got the data were from remote (backward) areas, village area, rural areas, urban (city) areas and they were belong to parental family maximum. Maximum criminals were literates and get there education from formal institutions.

LIMITATIONS

This research is consisted only on male criminals females were could not be included in the study but Questionnaire of Criminal Behavior consist of 114 items is sufficient for females to

¹⁸ Nadeem, A. H. (2002). Pakistan: The political economy of lawlessness. *OUP Catalogue*.

measure their criminal behavior. Data was not collected from first time criminals and the criminals on trial. Data was only from Punjab province of Pakistan

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