

DISTINCT, PARENTAL AND COMMUNAL FACTORS INDUCING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN URBAN AREAS: A CASE STUDY OF BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

This study examines parental and community-related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in urban Pakistan, focusing on Borstal institutions. Juvenile crime is a major social issue with limited research, requiring urgent prevention and intervention strategies. The research explores how family dynamics, peer associations, and social environments shape delinquent behavior. Findings reveal that lack of parental supervision, family conflicts, and financial instability significantly contribute to delinquency. Many juveniles face domestic violence, neglect, or criminal influences at home, while peer pressure and gang associations further increase their risk. In urban areas, exposure to criminal networks heightens involvement in illegal activities. Rising juvenile offenses necessitate identifying root causes and proposing interventions. Using a qualitative survey and thematic analysis, the study provides insights for policymakers. Recommendations include parental education, community centers, school-police partnerships, enhanced vocational training in Borstal institutions, and strengthening rehabilitation-focused juvenile justice policies to support reintegration.

Key Words: Juvenile Delinquent, Parental and Communal, Borstal Institutions, Urban, Pakistan

Introduction

A juvenile delinquent is "children who come in contact with the law," and demonstrates individuals who are under the age of eighteen (18) and have formal contacts with the justice department for the accusation of committing a crime (Amunyo, 2017; Khushhal et al., 2017; Desai 2020; Saeed et al., 2020). Juvenile delinquency refers to the behavior of non-adults which violates the rules and regulations set by the government or society. "The delicate intersection between childhood and criminality creates a complex dilemma of re-dressal. Social scientists, activists, and legislators debate the reasons and possible resolutions to this problem. However, as a concept, juvenile delinquency is still blurring and requires tactful methods for measuring, examining, and ordering adolescent guilty parties and even the treatment of juvenile misconduct (Saeed et al., 2020).

The words juvenile and delinquency come from the Latin word “juvenis” and “delinquere,” meaning a teenager and to abandon. It refers to children or teenagers who abandon a lawful lifestyle due to negative circumstances like parental neglect. Delinquents are juvenile offenders who violate local laws, and delinquent behavior is a universal issue seen as a sign of a sick society. In 2017, law enforcement estimated 809,700 juvenile arrests for violent and property crimes, 59% lower than in 2008, though rates have risen since 2013. Most arrests were for property crimes like theft and larceny, followed by simple assault (Yadav, 2022; Gamson Smiedt, 2021).

Similar to adults, conviction and arrest rates fluctuate over time, with periods of increase and decline. Juvenile arrest rates may be lower today than before, but understanding contributing factors remains crucial. Juvenile delinquency is linked to socioeconomic status, education, race, gender, and especially family circumstances. Since the early 19th century, it has been a global issue, including in Indonesia, increasing across all societal levels. Delinquency and crime among teenagers are categorized as deviant behavior, often seen as teenage resistance to societal norms and values (Thompson, 2010; Tepperman & Rickabaugh 2023).

Delinquents violate social norms, values, law, and the political order. Juvenile delinquency is a universal problem, varying across cultures, and a major challenge for social reformers and planners (Merdovic & Jovanović 2024). The age range differs, usually set until 18, but in Pakistan, it is 10 to 17. In Pakistan, juvenile delinquency is reaching epic proportions. A Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) report revealed alarming facts, showing nearly 10% of death-row prisoners committed crimes under 18 ((Mbuba 2023; Chohan 2024). However, due to poor record-keeping, registration of young offenders as adults, and social stigma, accessing accurate juvenile crime statistics remains difficult (Saeed et al., 2020).

Criminology has long examined social bonds' effects on delinquency. Travis Hirschi (1969) developed social bond theory, identifying attachments, involvement, commitments, and beliefs as deterrents to delinquency. Later, he described these as “inhibitors” influencing youth decisions. In 1990, Gottfredson and Hirschi’s General Theory of Crime claimed to explain “all crime, at all times,” centering on self-control and delinquent behavior (Lynch & Groves 2020). The family is crucial in developing self-control, with parental supervision and attachment being key. However, Gottfredson and Hirschi argued that attachment alone is insufficient; parental supervision and control are necessary (Siegmunt, 2019).

Juvenile delinquency stems from individual, family, school, and peer-related factors. Individual factors include life skills, self-efficacy, religion, and academics (Anjaswarni et al., 2019). Family influences involve parental attitudes, economic conditions, and communication (Anjaswarni et al., 2019; Umam & Musthofa 2024). School and peer groups affect delinquency through relationships, rule adherence, and exposure to harmful substances (Agnafors et al., 2021). Other causes include broken homes, delinquent environments, poverty, and unemployment. In Pakistan, factors like money, land disputes, sexual assault, illiteracy, honor killing, drug use, and militancy in religious institutions worsen the issue (Fatima et al., 2022; Abbasi 2023; Mahmood & Cheema, 2004).

In Pakistan, family disintegration and socio-cultural dynamics promote juvenile crimes, yet neither the law nor the public fully acknowledges the dangers (Fatima, 2009). Juvenile delinquency remains complex due to its ties with families, institutions, law enforcement, media,

and the judiciary (Saeed et al., 2020). Parenting shapes children's social values and behaviors, making family quality crucial in preventing delinquency (Susilo, 2020; Ruoyu, 2020).

Juvenile offence is expanding in Pakistan, requiring concrete research to identify its causes. Brown (2005) states that juvenile delinquency is complex due to its links with families, social institutions, law enforcement, media, and the judiciary. Delinquents violate social norms, values, laws, and political order. While universal, delinquent behavior varies by culture and challenges social reformers. A study is needed to identify causal factors and suggest remedies to curb its rise. This research will examine "Distinct, Parental and Communal factors inducing juvenile delinquency in urban areas: A case study of Borstal institutions in Pakistan." Understanding juvenile delinquency is crucial for prescribing measures to prevent it.

This study examines parental and communal factors influencing juvenile delinquency in urban Borstal institutions in Pakistan, addressing a globally significant issue alongside environmental pollution and drug trafficking.

Objectives of Study

It is precarious to understand for remedial and intervention magnitudes of juvenile delinquency but a widespread diversity of earmarks can be tried to envision juvenile delinquency. The importance of this study and goals that distinct, parental and communal factors it comes to deliberate that this research conduct over this coherent and knowledgeable topic to entrance the researcher to find the fact to all Borstal institutions in Pakistan.

The explicit objectives of this research paper are: -

- To identify the factors responsible for the increasing juvenile delinquency of Borstal institutions in Pakistan.
- To analysis the relationship of juvenile delinquency in family, existing environments, peer relationships, parental liability and other related characteristics in Pakistan.
- To examine the distinct, parental and communal factors inducing juvenile delinquency of Borstal institutions in Pakistan.
- To recommend the ways to minimize the increasing crime rate in increasing juvenile delinquency of Borstal institutions in Pakistan.
- To discover the suggested measures to control delinquency and make juveniles as cherished person of the society.

Research Questions

Social, economic and behavioral factors are responsible for increase in crime rate in children. Presenting the goals setting of this research there will be few research questions are related to identify the distinct, parental and communal factors inducing juvenile delinquency of Borstal institutions in Pakistan there are few questions for this study.

- What are the factors responsible for the increasing juvenile delinquency of Borstal institutions?
- Which correlation of juvenile delinquency has between family, existing environments, peer relationships, parental liability and other related characteristics?

- What are the distinct, parental and communal factors inducing juvenile delinquency in Pakistan?
- How to minimize the increasing crime rate in increasing juvenile delinquency?
- What are the measures to control delinquency and make juveniles as cherished person of the society?

2. Literature Review

Juvenile delinquency is closely linked to urbanization, with factors like density, impersonality, and weak social ties fostering crime (Wirth, 1938; 1964). Cities provide more delinquency opportunities due to peer influence, poverty, and income inequality (Clinard, 1942; Gumus, 2004). The Chicago School found crime clustering in transitional zones, driven by social disorganization, poverty, and weak community networks (Park & Burgess, 1967; Shaw & McKay, 1942). Historically, juveniles were treated as adults until reforms established separate institutions (Chung & Laurence, 2013). Urbanization increases delinquency through economic disparity and weakened family roles, whereas rural areas, with stronger social cohesion, see lower crime (Gerban, 2007). Marxist perspectives attribute delinquency to capitalist accumulation and social inequality (Humphries & Wallace, 1980).

Factors Leading to Juvenile Crimes

Delinquency is an act or behavior by a juvenile that is socially undesirable (Sirohi, 2010). A juvenile is a minor below the legal age who cannot be held accountable for criminal behavior. Juvenile delinquency is an antisocial, illegal, or criminal act persistently committed by a minor, requiring law enforcement intervention as it threatens societal well-being (Sirohi, 2010). Despite diverse causes, common themes exist, classified into six categories: physical factors, mental factors, home conditions, school environment, neighborhood, and occupation environment (Arseneault et al., 2011).

Physical Conditions

The physical condition of a child influences behavior in ways that may lead to delinquency. Issues such as disabilities, malnutrition, and drug abuse shape responses to situations (Arseneault et al., 2011). Physical disabilities may directly cause delinquency, prompt compensatory delinquent behavior, or lead to excess energy channeled into delinquency (Staff et al., 2010). Youth crime factors are similar globally, with family disadvantage leading to educational and economic marginalization, resulting in social exclusion. In Asia, juvenile delinquency is largely urban, with rising violent acts, drug-related offenses, and female juvenile delinquency.

Cultural Factor

In developing countries, extensive industrialization and economic growth have led to the mushrooming of slums in the urban areas which later become the breeding grounds for juvenile delinquents. This is true of all countries irrespective of pace and nature of development. The slums in all cities are particularly considered as overcrowded, seriously congested, and set amongst filth. From this social culture of the slums, a subculture develops. This sub-culture is based on social disintegration of the community life and development of the criminal attitudes. They are reflected in the social ills of the crime, prostitution, drug abuse.

Social Factor

Juvenile delinquency is a complex issue influenced by family, social institutions, law enforcement, and media (Brown, 2005). While various factors contribute, low socioeconomic conditions are the most significant. Farrington (1991) links poverty to delinquency, with Duckworth (2002) finding that children from financially deprived families are 2.5 times more likely to commit crimes. Hawkins et al. (1992) note that antisocial behavior is common in economically vulnerable communities. Additionally, delinquency is tied to a lack of education, as many delinquents perform poorly, drop out early, and lack job opportunities. In Pakistan, 77.9% of juvenile offenders are illiterate or below primary education, highlighting education's role in rising delinquent behavior.

Economic Factor

Poverty and delinquency are linked, as poor parents in Pakistan work long hours, leaving children vulnerable to crime (Shanks, 2011). Neglect, drug misuse, and social isolation increase delinquency risks (Goldman et al., 2003). Economic struggles correlate with substance abuse and aggression (Agnew et al., 2008). School dropouts face higher delinquency risks, with suspended students eight times more likely to be imprisoned (Kilpatrick, 2010). Underemployment strains families, leading to child maltreatment and delinquency (Goldman et al., 2003). Low income and education create a hostile home, affecting school performance and well-being (Mahmood & Cheema, 2004; Silpasuwan et al., 2011). Impoverished youth engage more in violence and crime (Sampson & Lauritsen, 1990), with offenses twice as common (Elliot et al., 1989). Family neglect, domestic violence, and abusive parenting further fuel delinquency (Blackburn, 1993; Demuth & Brown, 2004; Mahmood & Cheema, 2004; Malik & Shirazi, 2010).

Urbanization

Urbanization in developed nations fosters juvenile delinquency due to weakened social ties, media dependence, and anonymity. Higher urban density correlates with increased crime, influenced by socioeconomic factors in impoverished urban areas that create conditions for substance abuse and delinquency. A criminal parental history, family size, sibling gender, and intelligence contribute to neglect and delinquency (Wagner-Rizvi & Anees, 2003; Bano et al., 2009). Broken families, violence, and divorce further exacerbate the issue (Aoulakh, 1999; Haider & Mahsud, 2010).

Low-income families face inadequate housing, slums, gang dominance, and lack of recreational facilities, all linked to delinquency (Brickhead, 2012; Burgess, 1952). Peer influence and hostile communities drive youth crime (Aoulakh, 1999; Sampson & Lauritsen, 1990), with urban environments affecting delinquency more than rural ones (Panezai et al., 2019). School-related factors like teacher neglect, low academic performance, and dropouts contribute to delinquent behavior (Lee, 2001; Razi, 2015). Psychological factors, including depression, schizophrenia, emotional numbness, low self-esteem, and social exclusion, further increase risks (Kausar et al., 2012; Meier et al., 2008; Panezai et al., 2019). Studies also link juvenile crime to sexual activity, mood disorders, and subconscious mental conflicts (Ryan & Redding, 2004; Lee, 2001).

FAMILY SET UP

Family well-being is increasingly recognized as a key factor in reducing juvenile delinquency. Studies show that children with parental supervision are less likely to engage in illegal behavior. However, shifts in family structures, such as rising single-parent households and non-marital unions, contribute to delinquency. Dysfunctional families, marked by tension, poor supervision, weak internal bonds, and premature independence, are strongly linked to juvenile crime.

Children from low-income backgrounds with limited legal job opportunities face a higher risk of social exclusion and delinquency. Additionally, families involved in criminal activities often influence their children to break the law.

MEDIA

The "cult of heroes," glorifying justice through violence, has been popularized by media, influencing youth toward hostility. Exposure to violent films excites viewers, fostering aggression in real life. Society's leniency toward youth mistakes and challenges in proving minors' intent further enable delinquency. In Pakistan, abusive treatment of juveniles in jails turns them into criminals. Reports highlight sexual abuse and exploitation of juvenile prisoners, despite child protection laws. Human Rights Watch (2016) documents that imprisoned juveniles come from the poorest backgrounds and are often housed with hardened criminals, perpetuating crime. Poverty and low socioeconomic conditions remain key drivers of juvenile delinquency.

Legislative Aspect

Prior to juvenile justice act 1986, enacted by the parliament to provide care, protection, treatment, development, and rehabilitation to neglected and delinquent juveniles. The juvenile justice act, 1960 was operative throughout the country hence juvenile justice act, 2000 was enacted. Later the juvenile justice (care and protection of children) act, 2000 came into force on 30th December 2000 as the primary legal framework for juvenile justice in Pakistan.

DG Khan Gang Rape Case

The Supreme Court affirmed the death sentences of three out of four defendants in the 2002 Dera Ghazi Khan gang rape case, in which Mukhtaran Mai and her brother were brutally raped, and she was paraded naked before a crowd. The convicts failed to identify any "error" in the judgment, as noted by the court. Following the incident, Pakistan's juvenile justice laws faced criticism for their inability to prosecute juveniles involved in heinous crimes like rape and murder. In response, the Juvenile Justice Bill 2014 was passed in December 2015 and enacted on January 15, 2016. Under the 1986 Act, Section 2(a) defined a juvenile as a boy under 16 years and a girl under 18 years.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

The Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO) 2000 aimed to reform juvenile laws, ensuring care, protection, and child-friendly adjudication. Sections 9-12 facilitated the establishment of Juvenile Homes, Special Homes, Observation Homes, and Aftercare Organizations. Special trial processes were introduced for juvenile cases. Key provisions included Section 3, allowing inquiries to continue even if the juvenile exceeds the age limit, and Sections 4-7, outlining the formation of welfare boards, juvenile courts, and child-friendly trial settings. Section 29 ensured parental presence for emotional support. JJSO 2000 was repealed following the Lahore High Court's judgment in *Ahmed Farooq v. Federation of Pakistan*, citing constitutional and practical inadequacies, leading to the 2018 Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA). Despite initial praise, JJSA 2018 lacks pragmatism. Given the similar socio-economic conditions of India and Bangladesh, Pakistan must adopt best practices from its neighbors to improve its juvenile justice system.

Salient Features of JJSA 2018

1. Categorizing Offenses

The JJSA, in line with the UNCRC, defines a “child” as anyone under 18, maintaining the standard set by the JJSO 2000. It categorizes offenses into minor, major, and heinous. Minor offenses carry a maximum penalty of three years under the PPC, with or without a fine. Major offenses are punishable by three to seven years, while heinous offenses—serious crimes that shock public morality—carry life imprisonment or over seven years, with or without a fine.

2. Legal Assistance & Observation Homes

In addition to defining juvenility and categorizing offenses, the act ensures the right to state-funded legal assistance, as outlined in Rule 7 of the Beijing Rules. Juveniles must be informed of this right within 24 hours of custody. Section 20 mandates the establishment of observation homes, separate from police stations, to temporarily house juveniles after arrest, during remand, or for inquiry and investigation.

3. Creation of Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres

The act also mandates the establishment of juvenile rehabilitation centers alongside observation homes under Section 20. These specialized facilities house convicted minors until adulthood, providing education, as guaranteed by Article 25A of the Constitution, along with vocational and technical training. The JJSA 2018 further ensures female juveniles have access to women’s care centers. Additionally, a juvenile justice committee, comprising four members—including a magistrate, district public prosecutor, experienced lawyer, and probation or social welfare officer—will inspect these facilities and guide authorities on welfare and reintegration measures.

Shortcomings of the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

Although the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, lectures guarantee for juveniles, it lags in exterminating delinquencies overall. Following are the few limitations that the act miscarries, hence defeating its purpose.

1. Flaws in the Age Determination Mechanism

The JJSA 2018 sets 18 years as the age of juvenility, yet this fixed criterion is prone to misuse, as maturity levels vary. The Lahore High Court (*Farooq Ahmed v. Federation of Pakistan*) acknowledged this inconsistency. India amended its laws after the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case, where a 17-year-old avoided harsher punishment by claiming juvenility, sparking nationwide protests. The reform introduced psychological evaluations to assess a child’s awareness of their actions. In Pakistan, juvenility pleas are frequently exploited as a defence. Courts have issued conflicting rulings on age determination. Sultan Ahmed’s case requires judicial inquiry with supporting documents and medical reports, whereas Muhammad Aslam’s case ruled school leaving certificates alone insufficient. The Lahore High Court (PLD 2005 Lah. 15) exposed the system’s vulnerabilities, noting widespread forgery of birth records and medical certificates to falsely claim juvenility, enabling crime.

2. Inability to Establish Doli Incapax

The Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA) 2018 fails to incorporate the principle of *doli incapax*, a fundamental concept in criminal jurisprudence rooted in Article 40(3)(a) of the UNCRC. This principle mandates that states set a minimum age below which children cannot be held criminally liable due to their inability to comprehend the nature and consequences of their actions.

While Sections 82 and 83 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) align with this principle, the JJSA 2018 neglects to explicitly enshrine it, creating a legal inconsistency in juvenile justice.

3. Training of Special Police Officials

Rule 12 of the Beijing Rules emphasizes the need for specialized training for law enforcement officials handling juvenile cases. Given their direct role in investigations, it is essential for parliament to introduce provisions ensuring proper education and training for these officials.

India has effectively incorporated such regulations, designating special police officials for juvenile matters. However, the JJSA 2018 lacks any concrete provisions for appointing or training such officials. Instead, it only mandates the inclusion of a social welfare officer in investigations, which remains an inadequate measure.

4. Lack of Juvenile Courts

The act bears infrastructural deficiencies as the state still lags in setting up juvenile courts, with only 13 courts nationwide, while children continue to be tried in ordinary courts. Islamabad lacks a single juvenile court. Section 12 of JJSA 2018 endorses juvenile justice committees, yet their formation remains slow. The act also guarantees observation homes for juveniles during arrest or remand but leaves key questions unanswered regarding their management and operation.

5. Observation Homes

Since its inception, no observation home exists on record, leading to juveniles being detained with adults, learning from felons, escalating crime, and facing torture, harassment, and abuse, undermining the juvenile justice system.

6. The Need for Rehabilitation

Flanking realms have functional rehabilitation centers for children. Bangladesh's child development centers (CDCs) offer education, vocational training, and recreation, with the Tongi center housing 300 children. India's Juvenile Justice System Act mandates registered childcare institutions with mental health and referral facilities. Justice Salahudin Panwari, in a Sindh High Court ruling, stressed state responsibility for child protection under the Sindh Child Protection Act, requiring rehabilitation centers. International standards, including the Nelson Mandela and Beijing Rules, emphasize professional rehabilitation strategies, yet JJSA 2018 lacks such provisions. Pakistan's Constitution under Articles 25(3), 34, and 37 mandates child rights and education, necessitating proper development centers. Legislative amendments must ensure child protection and crime reduction.

Implementation of the Law & Discrimination

Pakistan's juvenile justice system suffers from poor implementation, with the UN accusing it of non-enforcement. Parliament enacts laws but neglects execution, leaving the JJSA 2018

ineffective in ensuring reintegration. Article 40(4) of the UNCRC mandates educational and vocational programs, yet the act lacks reintegration measures. Section 19 removes juvenile conviction disqualifications but provides no practical support. Section 6(4) grants bail privileges to children under 16, even in heinous offenses, risking misuse. The Peshawar High Court in *Zeb Sar v Mst. Kosar* restricted bail for serious offenders. Four years after enactment, juvenile justice committees remain non-functional, and the diversion system is unimplemented due to a lack of resources. With almost no rehabilitation centers or counseling services, juveniles lack support upon release. As Michelle Alexander noted, societies either provide care for vulnerable youth or marginalize them. Pakistan's superior courts must intervene to enforce juvenile justice laws effectively.

Preventive Measures

Prevention is crucial for juveniles, requiring early intervention and treatment to avoid habitual offending. Assisting children and families is the most effective approach. State programs should ensure economic benefits are evenly distributed, promote vocational education, provide accessible recreational facilities per Riyadh Guidelines, prioritize family well-being, and rehabilitate unaccompanied and homeless children.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design using thematic analysis. Data collection involved structured interviews with juvenile offenders in Borstal institutions, law enforcement officials, and social workers. Thematic coding was used to identify recurring patterns in the qualitative data.

Findings

Juvenile delinquency is defined as a crime committed by a minor under eighteen (Scalia, 1997). While not a new issue, urban growth has worsened it by reshaping society. The rising involvement of minors in crime is a major concern in urban Pakistan, driven by rapid urbanization, socio-economic disparities, poor parenting, and inadequate social infrastructure. Existing research examines urbanization's impact on juvenile delinquency, focusing on its causes, key factors, and possible solutions.

Researchers highlight juvenile delinquency and victimization as complex social problems, yet little research explores parenting and communal influences. This questionnaire, part of a PhD thesis, seeks input from professionals—lawyers, students, police, academics, NGOs, and business representatives—on these factors. It takes 10 minutes to complete.

Demographical Information about Participants

Please identify your Gender.
 213 responses

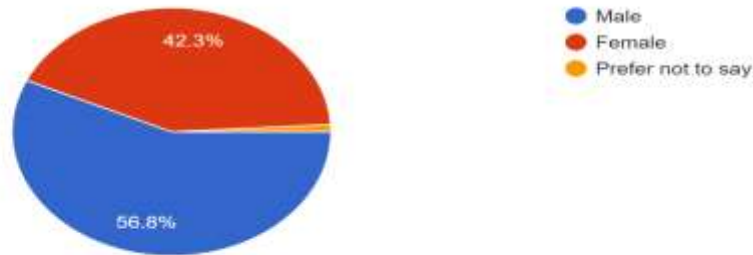


Figure 01: Gender

As expected, the pie chart depicts a large number of male responses nearing 56.8%, while the female responses remained at 42.3%, while a marginal population of less than 1%, didn't identify themselves with either. The reason for more male and less female is due to the gender disparity in Pakistan, through recent surveys. Pakistan happens to be the only country in South Asia, (perhaps in the world), where male population outnumbers female population.

Please identify your age group.
 215 responses

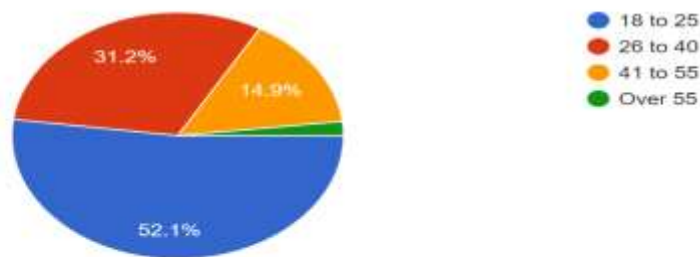


Figure 02: Age Group

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan in its natural domain of definition is a highly populated youth country where a vibrant nation, of the country's population is below the age group of 25.¹ Hence as the pie chart also depicts the largest category of 52.1% belong to the age group of 18 to 25. The second category, accounting for 31.2%, are from the age group of 26 to 40, still young then comes the middle-aged group which is between 41 to 55 years of age resulting in 14.9% and

¹ Shirazi, Safdar Ali, and Syed Jamil H. Kazmi. "Analysis of population growth and urban development in Lahore-Pakistan using geospatial techniques: Suggesting some future options." *South Asian Studies* 29, no. 1 (2020).

smallest slice of people over 55 years, the ageing population accounts to be hardly 1.7% of the total survey. Pakistan is a country of an intensive youth populace and hence we see 3 categories of the youth to display our target audience. The vast majority of them do hail from the juvenile delinquency age of debutants, numbering 215 persons.

Please specify your local Area
 214 responses

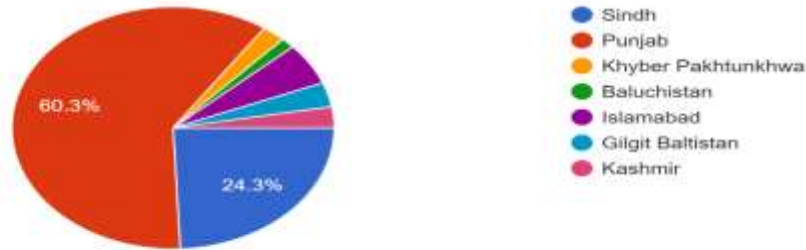


Figure 03: Local Area

Since the research initiated at the university of Karachi (UoK), and furthered on to the rural areas of interior Sindh province of Pakistan hence a huge chunk of 60 point 3% represents the majority of surveyors and this pie chart won't stop incidentally 24.3% turned up from Gilgit Baltistan which is the up north region of Pakistan adjacent to the KPK province. The other provinces include the huge population of Punjab, Baluchistan, the Pakistan administered Kashmir and the Federal Territory of Islamabad whose percentages exactly are not clear by the pie chart.

Please specify your Educational Qualifications
 214 responses

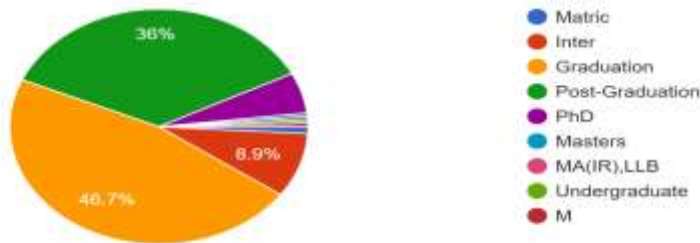


Figure 04: Educational Qualification

This pie-chart relates to the academic performances slash qualifications of the participants of this questionnaire, a remarkable percentage of 46.7% belong to the graduated

categories whereas 36% fall under the postgraduate category. 8.9% of the participants were from category M which donates Masters. While the rest came from subsequent categories of matriculation, intermediate, PhD masters.

Statement Agreement on Youth Delinquency

Youth are prone to consuming drugs?
 214 responses

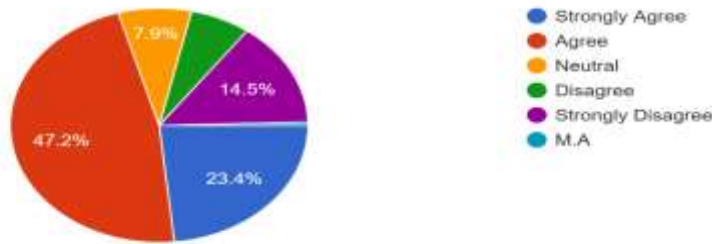


Figure 05: Youth are prone to consuming drugs?

Drug use has been identified as a major public health issue in Pakistan. This descriptive questionnaire survey has identified the socioeconomic profile and beliefs and practices of the 214 participants. The most used drugs in Pakistan are cocaine and crack-cocaine, followed by amphetamines, alcohol, caffeine, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines. Key psychological factors leading to drug use were problems with parental or juvenile relations or poor parenting (47.2%). Drugs were seen as an escape from stressful life events (23.4%) or feelings of failure (14.5%). Many drug users blamed the origins of their drug use on bad social influences (7.9%) or socioeconomic problems.²

Youth are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society?
 210 responses

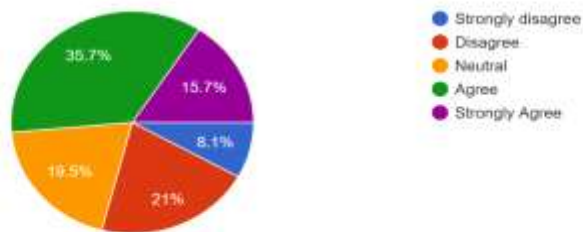


Figure 06: Youth are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society?

² Ziauddin College of Pharmacy, Ziauddin University, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan (Correspondence to R. Bushra: rabia_pharmacist@hotmail.com). Received: 03/03/09; accepted: 29/06/09

The question itself has been a devil's advocate and that responses are considerably biased as well. The disturbances and the crimes committed in society have been laid down on the youth as 35.7% have agreed and 15.7% have unfortunately strongly agreed, 19.5% remain neutral. To our earnest surprise, yet 21% have fortunately disagreed and 8.1% have strongly disagreed with this nuisance question.

To what extent you agree that there is an association between poor mental health and juvenile delinquency?
 205 responses

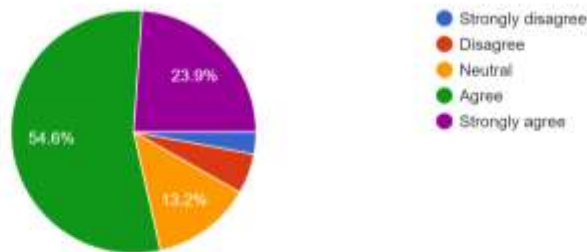


Figure 07: To what extent you agree that there is an association between poor mental health and juvenile delinquency?

Pakistan certainly is a country, which lacks malnutrition disposition as a vast majority of its population do not have adequate access to psychological care, healthcare and mental associations or institutions, which can help the common person overcome all the arts and deliver the best possible potential. Hence it is no surprise that 54.6% agreed with this notion and a remarkable 23.9% also are in strong agreement. 13.2%, as a comparative minority of the participants, decided to remain neutral, whereas a small number of participants either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this notion.

To what extent you agree that gender also includes in the list of risk factors for juvenile delinquency? for example girls are less likely to commit crimes?
 204 responses

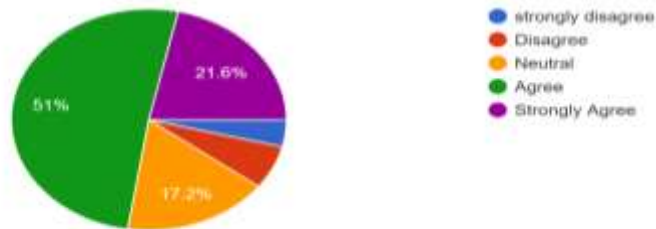


Figure 08: To what extent you agree that gender also includes in the list of risk factors for juvenile delinquency? for example girls are less likely to commit crimes?

As mentioned earlier in one of the first pie charts that the gender disparity in Pakistan is of an exceedingly high ratio. The reasons for this sort of an awkward arrangement are due to the social, cultural and linguistic issues which Pakistan has cultivated due to the nonexistence of authoritative Islamic mindset. Unfortunately, 51% had to agree that the female population of Pakistan is exposed to dangers, but they do not get the exposure nor the corroborative support from families to go to this extent. 21.6% do agree strongly on this notion whereas 17.2% tried to remain neutral. I mean the participants, although negligible, did either disagree or strongly disagree with this notion.

To what extent you agree with the Social disorganization theory which asserted that the joint family system is coming to an end, and a new trend has evolved to the child's involvement in wrongful acts?
 203 responses

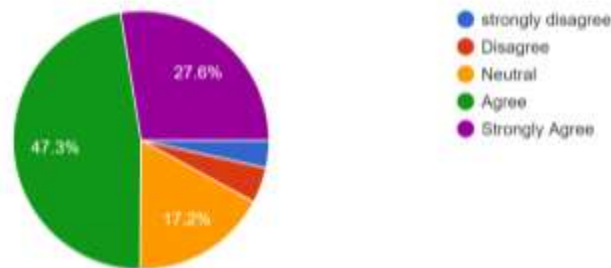


Figure 09: To what extent you agree with the Social disorganization theory which asserted that the joint family system is coming to an end, and a new trend has evolved wherein both the parents are working and as a result, children are left neglected and such isolation leads to the child's involvement in wrongful acts?

Social disorganization is a common denominator across the globe, with Pakistan, at the core of this problem. 203 respondents replied to this question, and the results are optimum, as 47.3% agreed, 27.6% strongly agreed and 17.2% remained neutral. 7% remained in either disagreement or strong disagreement on this notion.

To what extent you agree with the Social Learning theory of crime which provides that criminal behaviour is learned through others like other behavioral traits?
 199 responses

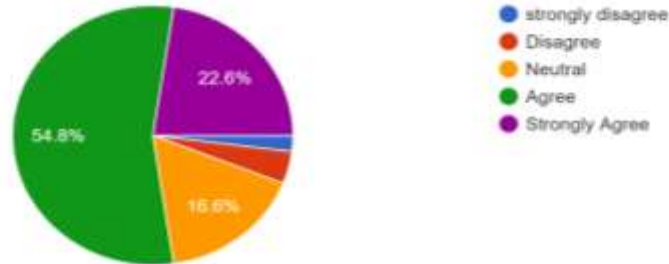


Figure 10: To what extent you agree with the Social Learning theory of crime which provides that criminal behaviour is learned through others like other behavioral traits?

Results confirm that 54.8% are in simple agreement on this notion, 16.6% are neutral and 22.6% strongly agreed, which in turn are associated with juvenile delinquency.

To what extent you agree with the notion that If children will not be supervised properly there would be greater probability of their involvement in anti-social acts?
 201 responses

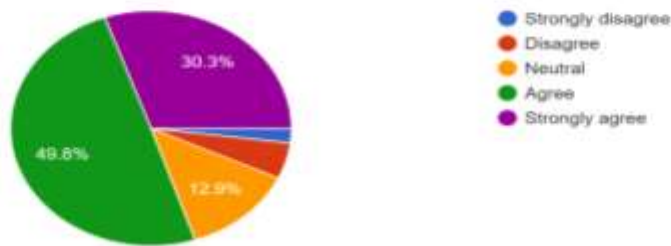


Figure 11: To what extent you agree with the notion that If children will not be supervised properly there would be greater probability of their involvement in anti-social acts?

Hence, 49.8% agreed to the relevance of such a prerogative, whereas 30.3% have been substantial in stronger agreement. 12.9% are in the neutral zone, as the cause of delinquent behaviour was parental absence at home due to different reasons and the most common reason was earning bread. This lack of involvement by parents increases the risk factor of delinquency.

Statement Agreement would help Dissuade Youth from Juvenile Delinquency?

Stronger legal ramifications?

201 responses

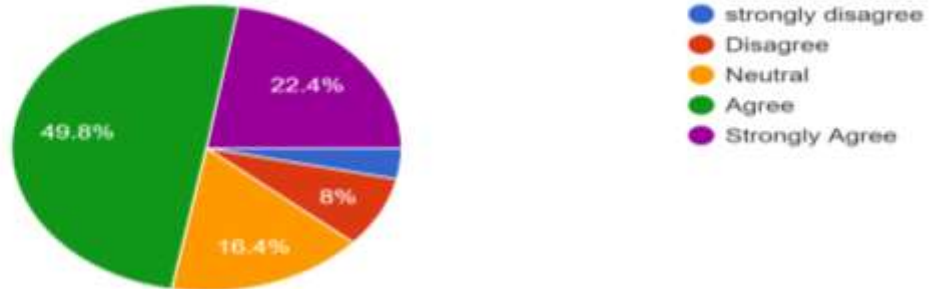


Figure 12: Stronger legal ramifications?

Legal ramifications provide legal redress to overcome situations, and certainly juvenile delinquency is at the core of such issues. Out of 201 responses 49.8% do agree with this notion, 22.4% are even in a stronger agreement coronavirus 16.4% remain neutral and a staggering 8% totally disagree with this notion.

Jail time?

202 responses

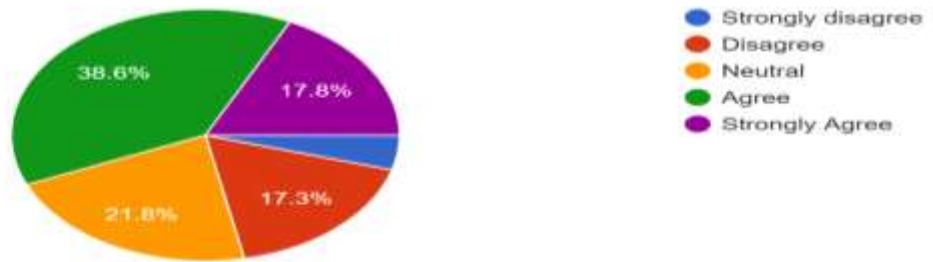


Figure 13: Jail time?

The period of incarceration in Pakistan can be overwhelmingly bolted due to politicizing of prisoners. Hence our respondents also contribute to a mixed reaction where 38.6% agree alongside 17.8% who are even in a stronger agreement with this notion full 21.8% people remain clueless as they opted for the neutral option and 17.3% disagree in entirety with this particular matter.

Sporting programs?
 201 responses

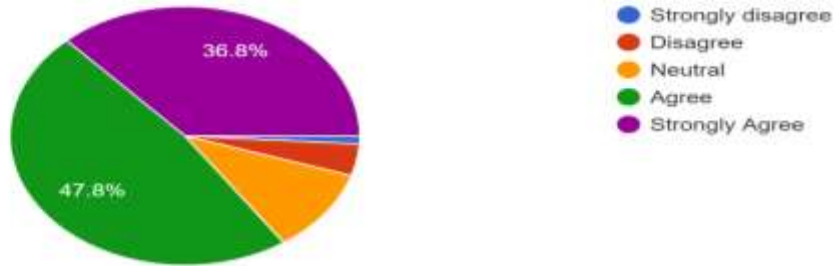


Figure 14: Sporting programs?

Sporting activities can reduce youth delinquency in South Asian societies by providing positive engagement, discipline, and a sense of purpose. Sports promote teamwork, self-control, and leadership skills, steering youth away from crime and substance abuse. They also offer a constructive outlet for frustration and aggression, reducing violent tendencies. Community sports programs create social inclusion, keeping at-risk youth away from delinquent peer groups. 84% were strongly agreed as mentioned by the Pie chart. Few present neutral, and less than 5% disagreed. Additionally, participation in sports can open career opportunities and foster personal development. Governments and NGOs should invest in sports infrastructure and initiatives to channel youth energy into productive and lawful activities, preventing delinquency

Supportive parent-child relationships are protective family factors for juveniles?
 199 responses



Figure 15: Supportive parent-child relationships are protective family factors for juveniles?

50.8% agree to this common notion and 35.2%, are in more agreement. The other categories are negligible to show results.

Children who had higher levels of communication with parents, less likely to report delinquency?
 198 responses



Figure 16: Children who had higher levels of communication with parents, less likely to report delinquency?

Hence 35.9% strongly agree with the notion, whereas 46% simply agree and 12.6% remain neutral. A negligible number of respondents, either disagree or strongly disagree with this notion.

Children who reported greater affectional identification with parents are less likely to report delinquency?
 199 responses

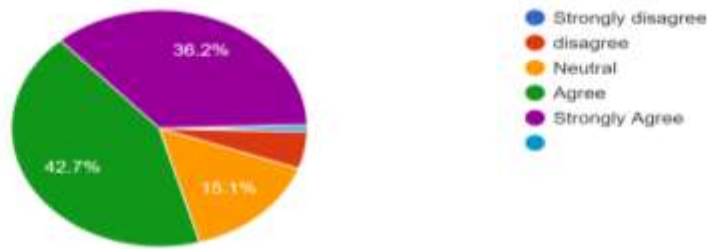


Figure 17: Children who reported greater affectional identification with parents are less likely to report delinquency?

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. Hence a total of 36.2%, strongly agree, alongside 42.7% in agreement, whereas 15.1% remain neutral. The rest remain either in disagreement or total disagreement.

To what extent you agree that high parental involvement is risk factors for juvenile delinquency?
 200 responses

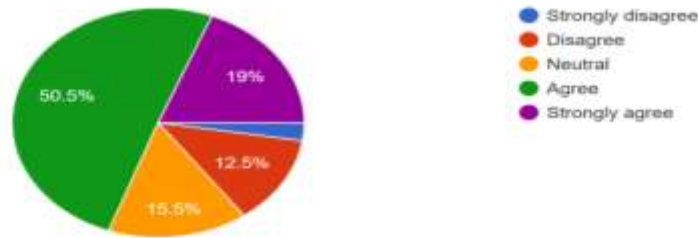


Figure 18: To what extent you agree that high parental involvement is risk factors for juvenile delinquency?

This is a question rephrased 5 times and repeated. Hope someone needs to check the questions in advance, prior to submission.

To what extent you agree that family factors (i.e., close parent-child relationship, intensive parental supervision, low physical punishment, and positive p... education), are less likely to report delinquency?
 200 responses

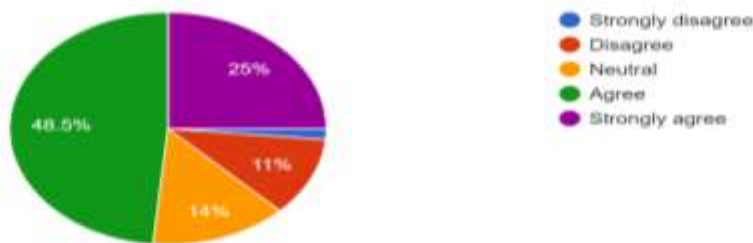


Figure 68: To what extent you agree that family factors (i.e., close parent-child relationship, intensive parental supervision, low physical punishment, and positive parental attitudes toward the child's education), are less likely to report delinquency?

Once gain repeated question, with different wordings. Suggestion to divide explanations and shift it here from other sections.

Conclusion

There is a widely accepted theory that offenders are not born but rather shaped by their society. Children are often regarded as the future leaders of a nation, yet in Pakistan, those growing up in poverty face significant hardships from the moment they are born. Poverty and illiteracy are the leading causes of crime. Analysis shows that individuals who engage in criminal behavior often receive guidance and training from seasoned offenders during incarceration, heightening their probability of continued criminality, particularly as societal rejection compounds their challenges upon reentry. Moreover, the dynamics of unstable or large families lacking sufficient resources,

along with a history of criminal activity, further contribute to juvenile delinquency. The rise in delinquency in urban areas like Karachi is closely linked to population growth and systemic oversights. Many young individuals, often facing challenging circumstances, find themselves tangled in legal issues and end up in adult facilities due to limited juvenile detention options. Pakistan's population of 165 million includes nearly half under the age of 18, and 22% are adolescents aged 10 to 18. Many of these young people living below the poverty line may turn to crime when they see no other path. Better correctional services and facilities, particularly in the Borstal Jail, are urgently needed. Jail staff revealed that juveniles with lengthy imprisonment were engaged in cooking, serving, and dishwashing, contradicting legal provisions by the United Nations Children's Fund (2006). However, recent developments at Borstal Jail in Bahawalpur have led to increased visits from government authorities, improving services for juvenile offenders and securing early releases. In April 2024, the Chairperson of the Child Protection Authority visited Borstal Jail, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving conditions. Fostering a compassionate framework prioritizing children's rights can ensure they receive the support they deserve.

Literature has documented challenges faced by juvenile prisoners, emphasizing the importance of family visits for their overall well-being. The Human Rights Watch visit in 1998 noted the jail administration's commitment to allowing these visits, and Tufail et al., (2004) and the United Nations Children's Fund (2006) highlight that consistent family contact is pivotal for welfare and rehabilitation. Without it, young people risk losing vital life skills and community support, hindering reintegration after release. It is heartening that jail staff and young offenders report that families can visit juvenile prisoners on all six working days, improving rehabilitation. The family should be concerned about their children's future, and parent education can help reduce juvenile delinquency. Negative stigmatization at an early age should be discouraged. The media should raise awareness about juvenile behavior, parental attitudes, and defensive measures to address the problem early. The government should take necessary steps to implement policies on media transmission programs, banning unnecessary or negative content. Policies and initiatives should serve the country's benefit rather than personal motives. According to the rule, arrested juveniles must be produced before juvenile courts within 24 hours, and their families must be informed promptly.

Recommendations

- Increase the number of juvenile jails and courts across all districts of Pakistan to ensure proper rehabilitation and legal proceedings under JJSO 2000.
- Prohibit the imprisonment of juveniles with adult criminals to prevent exposure to harmful influences and abuse.
- Provide medical facilities for juveniles suffering from mental health and skin disorders to support their well-being and reintegration.
- Train police and prison staff in character-building and child protection, ensuring only responsible officers are posted in juvenile jails.
- Ensure immediate notification of guardians and probation officers upon a juvenile's arrest and produce them before the court within 24 hours.

- Enforce the prohibition of handcuffing, corporal punishment, and hard labor for juveniles, holding responsible officers accountable.
- Strengthen the judiciary's power to enforce decisions without interference, ensuring justice and protection for young offenders.
- Recruit schoolteachers and psychologists to support inmates' emotional and mental development, preventing future criminal behavior.
- Appoint permanent social welfare officers with unrestricted access to juvenile inmates for effective rehabilitation programs.
- Encourage community participation in juvenile correction programs, fostering early intervention and support.
- Prohibit the involvement of juvenile prisoners in labor, ensuring their legal rights are upheld.
- Implement media campaigns to educate parents on their responsibilities and raise awareness about juvenile delinquency prevention.
- Improve living conditions in juvenile jails, ensuring access to education, healthcare, and recreational activities.
- Train jail staff on juvenile rights and protection measures to prevent abuse and exploitation within the system.
- Enforce strict monitoring of juvenile facilities to ensure compliance with legal protections and rehabilitation efforts.

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