



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIO – ECONOMIC CAUSES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR IN PAKISTAN: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT BAHAWALNAGAR

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ABSTRACT

Crime is a social evil for Global world in all facets. Crime is always considered as a social malevolent that is strictly related to individuals' economic, psychological and social background. The first empirical study investigated by Becker (1968) and Ehrlich (1973) on the relationship between crime and other socio-economic factors. This study mainly focuses on the multiple psychological and socio-economic factors such as, peer relations, inherited influence (negative risk averse attitude), broken families or family disputes, unemployment, level of education, age, locality of residence, family income, marital status and family size, which influences criminal activities in Bahawalnagar district, Pakistan. This study decays time series and cross sectional descriptive analysis for Crime investigation for a particular region. The findings pay attentions on multiple factors of crime in order to analyze the crime rate and helpful in policy formulation of law enforcement agencies of Pakistan.

Keywords: Age, Education, Family System, Unemployment, Family size, Crime, Socio-economic factors.

JEL Classification codes: A23, B21, C13, C35, C83, J64, J19, K42, D12

I. INTRODUCTION

Crime is an action which constitutes a serious offense against a person or state that is punishable by law. It has existence in the society since in the beginning of humanity. Whatever the level of civilization of human had been, crime always existed and expected to remain till an end.

Human is such diversified specie in its behavior and attitude in the context of difference in opinion, interest and benefits. This diversification leads diversifications in all fields of life. However recourses of delinquency are quite common among middle class youth, (Mehmood and Cheema, 2004).

This study tried to find out the causes that serve as driving force for the criminal activities in a society for a long time. These reasons are taken as determinants of crimes and categorical heads of crime that includes for representation of psychological and socio-economic factors of crime.

The first proper crime on the earth by mankind was recorded at the time of beginning of humanity, when Qabeel, the son of Adam murdered his own brother and narrated in Holy Quran (Surah Ai-Maida, 27-31). Although it is stated that civilization is an anti-force to crime but the truth is otherwise as much as the human became civilized, crimes also refined its shapes and magnitude with respect to social, moral and economic conditions of society.

There are different psychological causes of crime in literature as cycle of violence, peer influences, mental illness, inherited traits, family issues (broken families, restlessness, clumsiness and risk taking behavior among people, that is considers as major reasons of criminal acts.(Hervey Milton Cleckley , 1941).

Socio-economic factors are also play a deterministic role to influence criminal activities in a society. Age, family income, unemployment, Occupation of father, marital status, family size, locality of residence, and especially education are the factors that previous literature strike us to explain the criminal behavior among peoples.(Ehrlich ,1973. and Shamim ,2009).

The basic objective of this study, not only finds out determinants of crime but also find out those factors that pushed somebody towards crime, Which is being deeply viewed in a case study of Bahawalnagar district through offenders of district jail Bahawalnagar as

respondents that are already committed crime. The purpose of this research is actually determining also the remedies to minimize the crime in this area. It is assumed that if the remedial measures are taken then of course the crime in this area can be controlled by Government 'Law enforcement agencies.

A. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Hypotheses of research are constructed on the basis of different categorical head of crime such as psychological, social and economic factors. Alternative hypotheses are given below:

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS OF CRIME

H₁: Peer relations and crime is significantly associated to each other.

H₂: Inherited traits have strong association with criminal behavior of people.

H₃: Family issues/disputes are positively associated with indulgence in crime.

ECONOMIC FACTORS OF CRIMES

H₄: Unemployment is positively associated with indulgence in criminal acts.

H₅: Family income and crime inversely related to each other.

SOCIAL FACTORS OF CRIMES

H₆: Family size and crime positively associated to each other.

H₇: Education level and Chances to commit a crime inversely related to each other.

H₈: Age and crime has inverse relationship to each other.

H₉: Education of parents has negative association with crime.

H₁₀: Occupation of parents and crime has no relationship.

H₁₁: Locality has significant impact on crime.

H₁₂: Family type and crime has no relationship to each other.

In the light of above discussion, this study finds out the major determinants of crime that pushed the people to commit criminal acts in a society.

B. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

After presenting the background of the study along with the study objectives in the introductory section the study encompasses of the following sections: literature review section focuses on previous literature related to Crime in international and local contexts.

Data and methodology section presents data sources, data type, and data range, unit of measurement, and definition of variables. Forth section exhibits results of economic analysis and make discussion. Finally, the last section concludes the whole discussion and recommends suggestion on the basis of findings.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The number of researchers conducted different studies to consider the connection between crime and its different determinants. Following is a direct review of some recent studies about determinants of crime.

Ehrlich (1973) explored the impact of unemployment on crime. Unemployment rate observed as a complementary indicator of income opportunities available in the legal labor market. Therefore, when the level of unemployment increased as a result opportunities in the legal sector decreased individual's involvement in criminal activities.

Winkelmann (1999) investigated the relationship between unemployment and crime. The panel data of 16 regions are used over the time period of 1984 to 1996 by using the random and fixed effect model techniques to check the casual relationship between crime and unemployment. The results showed that there was statistically significant impact of unemployment on crime.

Chishti (2002) conducted a study to evaluate the nature and causes of crimes among educated youth of Pakistan. The sample data collected from educated prisoners, experts, educationists, crime controlling officials, and the student of the different institutions of the Pakistan. The common criminal act among educated youth is attempt to murder, Dacoity, sexual violation, and uses of alcohol and narcotics. The researcher used the chi-square and percentage analysis to assess the data and found that mentioned socio-economic, were the major causes of crime.

Lochner (2007) examined the association between education and crime in United States of America, by using time series data from 1960 to 1990. For that purpose age group, average education level, arrested males, population density, murder, rape, assault, robbery and burglary variables are considered as independent variables. Ordinary least square technique (OLS) used to find out relationship between education and crime. The result showed that education had significantly negative impact on crime, when education level increased as a result chances to commit crime is declined gradually. Study

recommended that there should not any difference between black and white people, to decrease this difference and fair provision of education to all citizens.

Altindag (2009) highlighted a connection between unemployment and crime by using panel data of European Countries. Unemployment, police force, GDP, urbanization, considered as deterministic factors of crime. OLS (ordinary least square) and 2SLS techniques were used for analysis. The result exhibited that the unemployment of male with low level of education was more significant in driving the impact of the overall unemployment rate on crime.

Shamim (2009) analyzed the reasons of crime with the help of primary data through Borstal jail of Faisalabad, Pakistan. The sample data of 90 juvenile criminals collected from the jail of Faisalabad through random sampling technique. The study found that the majority of the people were illiterate and their ages were within 16-18 and most of the peoples belong to the low level income groups. The study concludes that poverty and low level of income is the major reason of juvenile crimes in the Faisalabad Pakistan. This study recommended that there is a big need to increase the education level of the citizens especially in the rural areas.

Tang (2009) analyzed the linkages between inflation, unemployment and crime rate in Malaysia by using time series data from 1970 to 2006. Inflation, unemployment and crime rate variables considered as a stimulus variables. Bartlett corrected test technique was used for econometric regression analysis. The result showed that inflation and unemployment were positively correlated to the crime rate but inflation is not significant in short run.

Gill et al. (2009) investigated the effects of crimes in Pakistan, The multiple Socio-economic indicators were employed such as unemployment, inflation and human development index as a proxy of poverty, by using time series data for the period of 1975-2007 and the researchers applied co-integration and granger causality test to check out the long run relationship among these variables. There is a long run association occurs between crime and other variables.

Gronqvist (2011) found significant relationship among unemployment and crime by using conviction data of labor market and Swedish working age population. Unemployment, delinquency and age crime profile are considered for analysis. The

empirical result described the significantly positive association between unemployment and crime. The result indicated that the youth unemployment is one most important determinant of crime.

Nikolaos and Dritsakis (2011) inspected the factors that influenced the criminal activities in Greece by using annual data from 1971 to 2006. Co-integration technique was used to find out the findings on crime along with concluding remarks of researcher Crime rate, unemployment, migration, conviction, real compensation variables are considered. The result showed that there is a positively significant linkage of crime with included explanatory variables in long run.

Almin (2011) focused on the relationship between different types of crimes and different types of unemployment by using panel data from 1997-2009 of Sweden. In this study researcher focus on youth unemployment, total unemployment and long term unemployment, and for crime researcher used robbery, narcotics, vandalism, motor theft, burglary, rape and etc. Baseline model techniques were used (Baseline Econometric Specification). The result showed that unemployment, burglary, and narcotics positively associated with Crime.

Aurangzeb (2012) pointed out the major causes of crime in Pakistan. The result showed that households' consumption or demand of basic needs, total population, education, wage rate are the major causes to increase crime rate in Pakistan. The study also found that electricity crisis is the weakly associated with crime.

III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

To complete the targeted task of the study, primary data is collected from Bahawalnagar district jail via Questionnaires that were to be filled by author through directly interviewed of offenders because of some offenders were uneducated. Sample of 100 criminal was taken for analysis of criminal behavior in Bahawalnagar district. This study also included the time series data of cross sectional units from District Jail Bahawalnagar from the period 2012 to 2014 for descriptive analysis.

A. MODEL SPECIFICATION

In the light of objective of the study, functional can be specified as:

$$\text{Crime} = f(\text{Age, Pinf, inht, edu, Occup, poccup, fi, fs, loc, ms, fis})$$

Above general functional form describes here multiple categorical causes including psychological and socio-economic determinants, such as age, peer influence (pinf), inherited traits (inht), Family issues(fis), education (edu), parents 'occupation (poccup), family income (fi), family size (fs), locality of residence (loc) and marital status (ms) as explanatory variables that will be expectedly influence the criminal activities in a society.

This study is based on purely descriptive statistical analysis, and Table 01 shows the description of the included stimulus variables that represented as major determinants of criminal behavior among persons in a society.

Table 1: Definition of variables

Variable	Description	Unit of measurement	Expected relationship
Crime	Chance to indulge in criminal activities	Subjective Probability	Dependent variable
pinf	Peer influence	Bad/good company	positive
inht	Inherited traits of crime	Yes/No	Positive
Age	Age of respondents	Numbers	Inverse
Occup	Occupation of respondents	Unemployed, Private, Government, self employed	Positive
Edu	Education	Illiteracy, primary, middle, metric, graduation, post-graduation	Inverse
poccup	Occupation of parents	Unemployed, Private, Government, self employed	Inverse
Loc	Locality of residence	Rural, urban, town	Inverse
Fs	Family size	Numbers	Positive
Fi	Family income	Pakistan Rs.	Inverse
Ms	Marital status	Married/unmarried	Inverse
Fis	Family issues	All type of dispute	Positive

IV. AN OVERVIEW OF CRIME IN BAHAWALNAGAR DISTRICT

The aim of the study is to investigate the determinants of crime in district Bahawalnagar. For this purpose primary data is taken with the help of questionnaires and the time series data is taken for the time period of 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively with the help of record maintain in District Jail Bahawalnagar. In the questionnaire different type of questions were asked from prisoners and conclusion are drawn.

In this study we basically analyzed two types of crimes. Crimes against person includes Murder, Dacoity – robbery with murder, Attempt murder, hurt, police

encounter/assault on, other kidnapping, kidnapping of ransom, women kidnapping, Rape, gang rape, fatal accident, and non-fatal accident. Crimes against property includes Dacoity, Robbery, Car snatching, motor cycle snatching, other vehicles snatching, car theft, motor cycle theft, other vehicles theft, 382-PPC, Burglary, 458/459-PPC, Cattle theft, other theft 411 PPC. In this study we have found the fluctuation of crime in each category from three years.

Table 2: Frequency distribution analysis of Crime against Persons

Committed Crimes	Frequency 2012	Frequency 2013	Frequency 2014
Murder	155	161	118
Dacoity-Robbery with murder	4	5	9
Attempt to Murder	241	224	200
Hurt	705	610	554
Police Encounter	21	15	24
Other Kidnapping	74	77	57
Kidnapping of Ransom	0	0	1
Women kidnapping	367	295	241
Rape	170	141	145
Gang Rape	2	3	4
Fatal accident	33	41	28
Non-fatal accident	146	148	130
Total	1918	1720	1511

The above mentioned table 2 describes different crime heads that were reported in consecutive years from 2012 to 2014. Which indicates that crime to hurt cases, are 36.75 percent of the total number of Crimes (1918) cases in 2012, 35.46 percent of the total crime reported (1720) cases in 2013 and 36.67 percent of the total crime reported (1511). So it is clearly observed that a trend towards crime is going to decline due to strong working of Law enforcement agency and implementation of rules and regulations about criminal acts but on the other hand, hurt, woman kidnapping reported cases are relatively increased with the passage of time and other crime head cases declined over time. Among them attempt to murder, and non-fatal accidents ratio also relatively high.

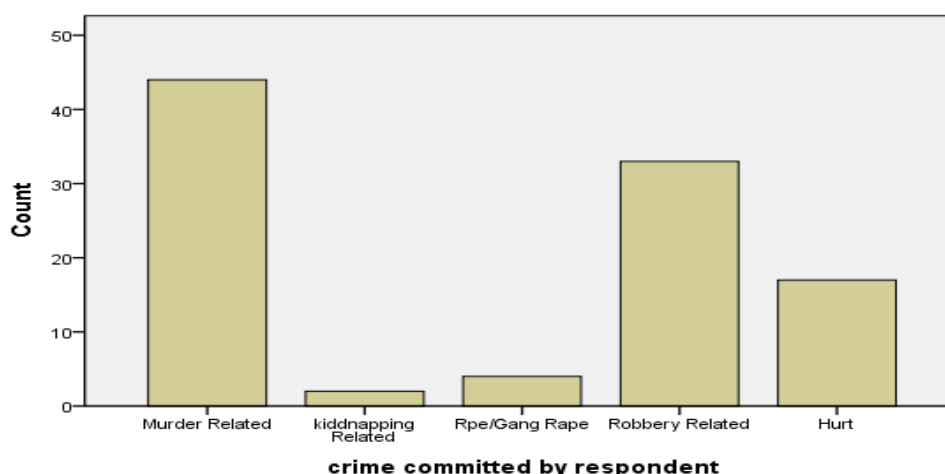
In light of frequency distributional in table 3 regarding crime against property are gradually decreased over time. As relative comparison between the total number of crime between 2012, 2013 and 2014, it seems to be overall declining trend in crime, but in the light of individual head of crime, robbery, burglary, cattle theft and other form of theft of crime repeated in large number of time in consecutive years along-with decreasing trend.

Table 3: Frequency distribution analysis of Crime against Property

Crime Head	Frequency 2012	Frequency 2013	Frequency 2014
Dacoity	30	47	38
Robbery	71	115	106
Car snatching	9	5	3
Motor cycle snatching	71	85	62
Other vehicles snatching	8	7	5
Car theft	8	4	12
Motor cycle theft	158	144	92
Other vehicles theft	7	10	13
382-PPC	33	39	18
Burglary	225	227	185
458/459 –PPC	39	28	24
Cattle theft	341	282	256
Other theft	888	831	668
411-PPC	43	33	28
Total crime	1931	1858	1510

Below simple bar chart mentioned that murder and robbery related crimes extensively committed by offenders over the consecutive three years as compare to other case reported such as rape, gang rape, hurt and kidnapping.

Figure 1: Crime committed by respondent



V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. PSYCHOLOGICAL CAUSES OF CRIME.

According to given descriptive analysis, alternative hypothesis of the study that is based on psychological factors such as peer influence, inherited traits and family issues. It is being observed that peer influence about crime creates a significant impact on chance to commit a crime because 69 percent of total sample size of offenders had bad company which pushed them to indulge in criminal activities. Finally H_1 that is mentioned above as alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Similarly, inherited traits of criminal activity in not as such associated with indulgence of persons in crime, because only 15 percent of the total sample size replied that there is no family member is involved in any kind of criminal activity. So as a result, alternative hypothesis H_2 , is rejected in a case of district Bahawalnagar. It is concluded that there is no strong relationship of inherited traits with crime. On the other hand family issues or broken families or disputes are strongly positive associated with indulgence in attempt to in any crime so as result and H_3 , accepted.

Table 4: Psychological factors of Crime

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Peer Influence		
Good company	31	31
Bad company	69	69
Total	100	100
Inherited Traits (About Crime)		
Yes	15	15
No	85	85
Total	100	100
Family Issues (Parents Clangs)		
Financial Problem	39	39
Father Mother conflict	04	04
Family Dispute	21	21
No problem	36	36
Total	100	100

B. ECONOMIC CAUSES OF CRIME.

Table 5 showed that unemployment is the big cause of crime according to analysis. Because people indulge in criminal activities to full fill their desires and basic needs with illegal acts due to unavailability of the job opportunities in a society. 63 offenders out of 100 were unemployed. Thatswhy H_4 is accepted. Total family income is

being observed that among all income groups, those people, who belongs to high income groups is inversely related to crime as compare to low income groups so alternative hypothesis H_5 is accepted.

Table 5: Economic factors of Crime

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation		
Un-Employed	63	63
Self- Employed	33	33
Private	03	03
Government	01	01
Total	100	100
Family Income		
Below 5000	60	60
5000-10000	30	30
10000-15000	10	10
Above 15000	05	05
Total	100	100

C. SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME

According to the results of table 5, it easily elaborated that low level of education strikes immaturity of mind and that make a big cause of people take wrong action in all activities irrespective of thinking about benefits or loss. It means that high level of education and crime is inversely related to each other, H_7 is accepted (Winkelmann, 1999).

Age factor also matters in determination of crime because it is clearly observed that young teenagers are immature and they are indulge more in criminal activities as compare to mature people of a society. Family size of the offenders are also a cause of crime because low level of income along with more family members required more basic necessity of life and offender as a family head psychologically disturbed and want to do anything for survival of a family and try to take negative step towards criminal activity.

Marital status is also a dominant factor related to crime, unmarried people feel free to indulge in crime to take any kind of revenge from others as compare to married people. And locality of residence, also play a vital role in determination of crime. As observed majority of offenders of rural areas involved in criminal acts because these people had less facilities and opportunities to fulfill their basic needs and desires. So that is a big reason of rural people involved in criminal activities more as compare to urban.

People belong to joint family system indulge in crime more rapidly as compare to nuclear family system. So family system also associated with crime and father occupation is also matters in such a way that self-employed people have their own business and their children adopted luxurious life style and more social in a society that is also a reason of crime. Finally hypothesis H₈, H₉, and H₁₁ are accepted and H₁₀, and H₁₂ are rejected.

Table 6: Social Factors of Crime

Education		
Groups/Levels	Frequency	Percentage
Illiteracy	33	33
Primary	22	22
Middle	19	19
Metric	23	23
Graduation	02	02
Total	100	100
Father Occupation		
Un-Employed	16	16
Self-Employed	73	73
Private	07	07
Government	04	04
Total	100	100
Family Size		
4	12	12
4-8	45	45
8-12	29	29
12+	14	14
Total	100	100
Locality Of Residence		
Urban	39	39
Rural	59	59
Town	02	02
Total	100	100
Age (Years)		
Below 15	7	07
15-24	50	50
25-44	30	30
Above 45	13	13
Total	100	100
Family Type		
Joint	88	88
Nuclear	12	12
Total	100	100
Marital Status		
Single	59	59
Married	41	41
Total	100	100

VI. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION

This study found multiple factors that enhanced the criminal behavior in a society, such as psychological causes, which includes peer influence, inherited traits and family issues. On the other hand socio-economic factors also have significant impact on crime. People having age between 15-24 years have committed maximum number of crimes and most of the criminals were illiterate.

People from rural areas are more vulnerable to crime. The people who have educated parents are less attracted towards crime. Similarly people living in the joint family system are highly convinced to commit a crime. .

Unemployment is one of the major causes of criminal activity. Low level of income may also lead exclusively in committing of a crime. Parental education and income is an important factor. Married persons are less attracted towards crimes.

This study recommended that Government should make the policies to provide employment with proper wages to the population. The proper arrangement of education must be provided all across the country. Parents must monitor their kids in the growing age. Rural areas should be fully equipped with educational facilities.

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