Identifying Crime and Socio-Economic Factors Related to Crime in Multan District Prison, Pakistan

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Crime is a major issue all over the world mostly in developing countries. Many social and economic determinants may cause crime such as poverty, ignorance, lack of education, unemployment, inflation, etc. This paper is an attempt to explore the crime-related and socio-economic crime factors in district jail Multan, Pakistan by collecting data through interviewing method from 172 male prisoners by random sampling technique. Two kinds of crime are linked through the purely crime-related variables and socio-economic variables by applying cross-tabulation analysis. The study has identified that crime is the upshot of many social, economic, and purely crime-related factors like the type of crime, economic, social, political & psychological factors, Criminal friendships, Revenge, joint family, rural area of residence, low education level, lack of support, Social deprivation, private-sector job, etc. The study has suggested some policies to reduce the crime rate.

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1.   Introduction

The word crime is derived from the Greek word "Krimos" which means social norms and morals. So, crime is any act that is against moral values. The word crime is also derived from the Latin word "Crimen" which means that crime is a social issue, not an individual. The jealousy of Cain results in the killing of Abel who turned out to be the first murderer in the World (Huda, 1902). It seems that the attainment of crime is strictly due to the economic and social background of the individuals. Crime always causes corruption and suffering in every society which leads to a sense of insecurity among the people of a particular society. The economics of crime begins with Becker (1968) works (Khan, Ahmed, Nawaz, & Zaman, 2015).

Recently many researchers and scholars have highlighted the importance of crime prevention in the society. Now society uses the importance of crime both for recognize the crime and solving the problems of crime. It is recommended that justice and public agencies should work together to solve the problem of crime in the society. Crime prevention is a successful approach to prevent crime. The evidence and research from the different countries suggest that implementing the crime prevention program play a key role in achieving the secure and safe society. Effective and well-planned policies can remove the criminal activities; promote the safety of the society that can play the importance role for the development of the country. Crime prevention policies can eliminate the long-term cost in judicial system. It also reduces the long-term cost of the country economically and socially. It also increases the profit

from the human capital. A safe society can contribute in the all the activities and deliver its services and improve the standard of living in the society. It is the responsibility of all the people in the society public and private sector work together to reduce the criminal activities (Weisburd & McEwen, 2015).

The main goal of the police of defense in the country is to remove the criminal activities from the society. But many factors that influencing the crime are beyond the control of police. Therefore, to control the crime cannot be left on the police department alone. Just as crime affect the society as a whole, so it is the society's responsibility to prevent it. It is the task of the society and its organizations whose policies can affect the crime, can contribute to prevent the crime. It seeks the importance of crime prevention and promotes its awareness (Bottoms, 1990).

Many methods are used to determine the economics of crime which may vary from country to country. According to Alexandros and Nicolaus, the past decades have seen a steady increase in criminal activities in developing as well as developed countries. Surely, crime has many effects on the lives of the people of society. Economists consider that the behavior of the criminal is a rational choice according to the cost and benefit analysis. They do the cost and benefit analysis and do the best alternative legal and illegal doors open for them (Sheikh, Tariq, & Sultan, 2021).

The remaining paper has been organized as Section two displays the summary of various studies on factors of crime. Section three talks about data and methodology. Section four gives the results and discussions, section five points out the conclusion and policy recommendations.

2.   Review of Assorted Studies

This section sorts out the empirical results of previous studies that are related to our study. Table 1 highlights the summary of the studies on socio-economic determinants of crime in various countries.

Table 1: Summary of Various Studies on factors of Crime

Author(s)	Area	Time /Obs.	Technique	Results
Sheikh et al. (2021)	Pakistan	Seventy female prisoners	Cross-tabulation	Socio-economic factors have a significant effect on crime.
S. Amin and Ahmad (2018)	Pakistan	1970-2015	ARDL	GDP per-capita (-ve), population density (-ve), Ethnic diversity (+ve), Social exclusion (+ve), deterrence variable (+ve)
Bhorat, Thornton, and Van der Zee (2017)	South Africa		OLS	Unemployment rate (-ve), logged average per-capita income (-ve), Lagged crime rate (-ve), job dependency (+ve), Gini coefficient (+ve)
Asghar, Qureshi, and Nadeem (2016)	Pakistan	1984-2013	ARDL	Corruption (+ve), Law and orders (+ve), Government stability (-ve), remittance (-ve), External debt (-ve), Misery index (+ve), Poverty (+ve), Human rights (+ve), Human capital (+ve), Inequality (+ve), Population density (+ve)
Anwer, Nasreen, and Shahzadi (2015)	Pakistan	2005-2012	Fixed and Random Effect	Mosque enrollment(+ve), Higher secondary school enrollment (+ve), Population density (+ve), primary school enrollment (-ve)
Mogeni (2011)	Kenya	1975-2012	vector error correction model	Consumer price index (-ve), GDP (-ve), Annual conviction (-ve), Law and order (+ve)
Omotor (2010)	Nigeria	2002-2005	pooled ordinary least square and pooled EGLS	Education (-ve), Unemployment (-ve), Deterrence variables (+ve), Population Density (+ve), Income Per-capita (+ve)
Arslan (2004)	Turkey	81 cities, 2000-20003	multiple regression model	GDP (+ve), Unemployment rate (+ve), Young Populattion (+ve), Population density (+ve), Size of city (+ve), Urbanization (+ve), enrollment rate (-ve), Clear-up rate (-ve)

This section points out the review of the socio-economic determinants of crime. Factors of crime are different across the countries. Different countries concentrate on the different

factors of crime. Most studies investigate that inflation, urbanization, population density, unemployment, etc. are the most important causes of crime.

3. Data and Methodology

The study investigates the Socioeconomic and Crime related factors of crime in District Multan and sample of 172 prisoners was collected by applying a random sampling technique in the year 2019-2020 from District Jail, Multan via personal interviews. Analysis was conducted using Cross-Tabulation method, Chi-Square test with Pearson Chi-Square test. In the study, two kinds of crimes have been checked:

- Property Crime
- Violent Crime

4. Results and Discussions

This section examines the effects of several socioeconomic and crime related variables on the types of crimes. The results are presented in the tables along with their explanations.

4.1 Number of Times Prisoners Commit Crime and its effect on Type of Crime

Table 2 shows the results of Cross-Tabulation with reference to Number of times prisoners commit crime. The results show that as prisoners are committing few crimes (1-5 times), they are committing Property or Violent Crime relatively in more numbers. As prisoners are committing more crime (more than 5 times), they are not committing Property or Violent crimes but some other type of crime. This is also statistically insignificant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 2.915 with 0.23 significance value.

Table 2: Number of times prisoners commit the crime and type of crime

		Prisoners Commit Crime (Number of Times)			
		One-Five	Six-Ten	Eleven and above	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	84	3	1	88
	Violent Crime	83	0	1	84
	Overall	167	3	2	172
	Chi-Square				
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	
Pearson Chi-Square		2.915	2	0.233	

4.2 Average Strength Length of crime and Type of Crime

Table 3 shows the results of Cross-Tabulation with reference to Average Strength Length of Crime. The results show that as Average Strength Length of Crime increases, the property Crime reduces on the other side Violent Crime increases due to this. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 57.672 with 0.00 significance value.

Table 3: Average Strength Length of crime and Type of Crime

		Length of Crime (Average Strength)				
		0 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	21 to 25	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	71	14	1	2	88
	Violent Crime	24	19	2	39	84
	Overall	95	33	3	41	172
	Chi-Square					
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square		57.672	3	0.00		

4.3 Psychological, Political, Social and Economic Factors and the Types of Crime

The effect of Psychological, Political, Social and Economic Factors and the Types of Crime is given in Table 4. Results of Cross-Tabulation with reference to Psychological, Political, Social and Economic Factors and the Types of Crime show that Prisoners committed property crime due to their Economic and Social factors while they committed Violent Crimes only due to Social Factors. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 25.8715 with 0.00 significance value.

Table 4: Motivation for crime is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Crime Motivation				
		Economic Factors	Social Factors	Political Factors	Psychological Factors	Overall
Crime (Type)	Property Crime	47	41	0	0	88
	Violent Crime	15	65	3	1	84
	Overall	62	106	3	1	172
Chi-Square						
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square		25.871	3	0.000		

4.4 Relationship with Prisoners and Crime

Relationship of Prisoners with Prisoners may also enhance Crime rate of Pakistan. For that purpose, this variable is taken in the analysis and their results are given in table 5. Results of Cross-Tabulation with reference to relationship with prisoners show that violent crime was relatively committed in more numbers as compared to property crime if prisoners have relationship with prisoners. The table shows prisoners persuade prisoners to carry out a crime. 9 prisoners who commit property crimes are persuaded by the other people in jail to execute crime. 79 prisoners who carry out property crimes do not inspire by other persons in jail to commit crimes. 18 prisoners who execute violent crimes and prisoners encouraged prisoners to commit crime. There are 66 prisoners who carry out violent crimes and prisoners who do not encourage prisoners to commit crime. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 4.075 with 0.04 significance value.

Table 5: Prisoners Persuade Prisoners to Carry out Crime

		Prisoners Persuade Prisoners to Carry out Crime		
		No	Yes	Overall
Crime (Type)	Property Crime	79	9	88
	Violent Crime	66	18	84
	Overall	145	27	172
Chi-Square				
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square		4.075	1	0.044

4.5 Revenge and Crime

Result of Cross-Tabulation with reference to revenge taken is given in table 6 which show that there is an association between revenge and type of crime. 18 prisoners committed property crimes and they have a preference for revenge. 70 prisoners committed property crimes and they do not desire to take revenge. 44 prisoners committed violent crimes and they prefer to take revenge. 40 prisoners committed violent crimes and they do not prefer to take revenge. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 19.002 with 0.00 significance value.

Table 6: Revenge is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Revenge		
		Revenge Not Taken	Revenge Taken	Overall
Crime (Type)	Property Crime	70	18	88
	Violent Crime	40	44	84
	Overall	110	62	172
Chi-Square				
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square		19.002	19.002	0.000

4.6 Family Type and Crime

Family type of Prisoners may also affect Crime rate. Result of Cross-Tabulation with reference to family type and crime is given in table 7. 54 Prisoners committed property crimes are related to a joint family. 34 prisoners who commit property crimes are related to nuclear

family. 41 prisoners who committed violent crimes are related to a joint family. 43 prisoners who commit violent crimes are related to nuclear family. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 2.73 with 0.09 significance value.

Table 7: Type of family is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Family (Type)		
		Joint-Family	Nuclear-Family	Overall
Crime (Type)	**P-Crime**	54	34	88
	V-Crime	41	43	84
	Overall	95	77	172
		Chi-Square		
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square		2.739	1	0.098

4.7 Area of Residence and Crime

Area of Residence of Prisoners may also affect Crime rate. The table 8 shows there is an association between the area of residence and the type of crime. The results show that 41 Prisoners who committed property crimes lived in rural areas. 47 prisoners who committed property crimes were belonging to urban areas. 52 prisoners who committed violent crimes lived in rural areas. 32 prisoners who committed violent crimes were from urban areas of Multan. This is also statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square which is 4.058 with 0.044 significance value.

Table 8: Area of residence is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Residence (Area)		
		Rural	Urban	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	41	47	88
	Violent Crime	52	32	84
	Overall	93	79	172
Chi-Square				
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square		4.058	1	0.044

4.8 Education Level and Crime

Education level of Prisoners may reduce Crime rate. Table 9 shows the association between education and the type of crime. The results show that 40 illiterate Prisoners committed property crimes and 19 of them committed violent crime. As education level increases, the crime rate reduces it shows negative relationship between education level and crime rate. This result is statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square.

Table 9: Education is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Education							
		Illiterate	1-5	6-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	Master and above	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	40	8	7	8	6	10	9	88
	Violent Crime	19	9	9	10	12	13	12	84
	Overall	59	17	16	18	18	23	21	172
		Chi-Square							
		Value	df			Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)			
Pearson Chi-Square		10.738	6			0.097			

4.9 Good Friendship and Crime

Good friendship is the society may also reduce Crime rate. Table 10 shows the association between good friendship and crime. 60 Prisoners who committed property crimes think that having good friends will reduce the probability of committing crime. 28 Prisoners who committed property crimes think that having good friends will not reduce the probability of committing crime.50 Prisoners who committed Violent crimes think that having a good friend will reduce the probability of committing crime. 34 Prisoners who committed violent crimes think that having some good friends will not reduce the probability of committing crime. This result is statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square.

Table 10: Having good friends will not commit a crime

		People think that having a good friend will not execute the crime		
		No	Yes	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	28	60	88
	Violent Crime	34	50	84
	Overall	62	110	172
		Chi-Square		
	Value	**df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**	
Pearson Chi-Square	10.738	6	0.097	

4.10 Lack of Support by the Family and Crime

Lack of Support by the family may also affect Crime rate and its results are reported in table 11. It shows that 58 prisoners who committed property crimes confronted lack of support from the members of family and friends. 30 prisoners who committed property crimes did not face lack of support from family and friends. 41 prisoners who commit violent crimes faced lack of support from the members of family and friends. 43 prisoners who committed violent crimes and did not face lack support from the members of family and friends. So, it is concluded that lack of support by the family and friends may increase the crime of any type in the society. This result is statistically significant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square.

Table 11: Lack of support is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Lack of Support		
		No	Yes	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	30	58	88
	Violent Crime	43	41	84
	Overall	73	99	172
Chi-Square				
	Value	**df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**	
Pearson Chi-Square	5.144	1	0.023	

4.11 Social Deprivation and Crime

Social Deprivation may also affect Crime rate and its results are reported in table 12. It shows that 51 Prisoners who committed property crimes felt socially deprived. 37 prisoners who committed property crimes did not feel socially deprived. 50 prisoners who committed violent crimes felt socially deprived. 34 prisoners who committed violent crimes did not feel socially deprived. So, it is concluded that social deprivation may also increase the crime of any type in the society. This result is statistically insignificant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square.

Table 12: Socially deprived is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Feel Socially Deprived		
		No	Yes	Overall
Crime (Type)	**Property Crime**	37	51	88
	Violent Crime	34	50	84
	Overall	71	101	172
		Chi-Square		
	Value	**df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**	
Pearson Chi-Square	.044	1	0.834	

4.12 Job Status and Crime

Job Status may also affect Crime rate and its results are reported in table 13. It shows that 12Prisoners who committed property crimes were unemployed, 8 of them were government servants, 13 of them were Semi-Govt. service holder, 32 were private service holder and 23 of them were self-employed. 11 Prisoners who committed violent crimes were unemployed, 18 of them were government servants, 9 of them were Semi-Govt. service holder, 23 were private service holder and 23 of them were self-employed. This result is statistically insignificant as per value of Pearson Chi-Square.

Table 13: Job status is likely to be related to the type of crime

		Job Status					
		Unemployed	Govt. Service	Semi-Govt. Service	Private Service	Self Employed	Overall
Crime (Type)	Property Crime	12	8	13	32	23	88
	Violent Crime	11	18	9	23	23	84
	Overall	23	26	22	55	46	172
Chi-Square							
		Value		df		Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	
\multicolumn{2}{c}{Pearson Chi-Square}	6		4		\multicolumn{2}{c}{0.199}	

5.   Conclusion

In the analysis of purely crime-related variables in District Jail Multan, mostly prisoners commit property and violent crimes from 1 to 5 times. When prisoners commit property crimes, they are mostly punished for 1 to 5 years and when prisoners commit a violent crime, they are mostly punished for 16 to 25 years. In the Multan jail mainly, the prisoners are convicted from 0 to 5 years by committing property and violent crimes. The results exhibit that many social and economic factors including social conflicts, money, unemployment, and family-related issues are responsible for crime motivation. Most prisoners here are not persuaded by the other people in jail to commit crimes again. The prisoners who have committed property crimes do not tend to take revenge while on the other side the persons who are involved in violent crimes have a propensity to take revenge.

In the analysis of socio-economic variables in District Jail Multan the persons from joint families mostly commit property crimes and others commit violent crimes. According to the area, rural people mostly commit violent crimes and urban people mostly commit property crimes. The prisoners who are the household heads have been thrashed out in crime involvement. The education of the person has been pointed out as the main factor of crime as most people who have committed the crime are illiterate people. The prisoners believe that a good friend is the blessing of God and if they have good friends with them, they will not commit a crime. Most people commit wrong acts when they face a lack of trust or lack of support, most prisoners in this jail believe that they face any lack of support or trust. Non-observance of religion has not been pointed out as a determinant of crime in the Multan jail.

In the same fashion, another interesting result is that the prisoners do not believe that disliking by others is not the factor or motivation of crime for themselves. Moreover, many prisoners have good relations with their family members, but they have committed the crime. It is also interesting to note that the people who commit crimes are those in private service or self-employed. Social deprivation has turned into crime commitment.

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