

# Explore the factors behind Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan: A research conduct in juvenile jail of Rawalpindi, Pakistan

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**Abstract**—The word juvenile delinquency is used for those children who are under the age of 18, where if they constrain any prohibited action, they are considered as delinquent due to age factor. The first objective of the study was to identify the characteristics of Juvenile Delinquency. Second is to investigate the Psychological reason of Juvenile Delinquency. And last one is to investigate the relationship between socio economic instability and Juvenile Delinquency. Theoretical framework was Hirsch's (1969) control theory of delinquency is a theory which is based on an individual's development of social and inner control. In this research every person was not the target in the jails, but only those persons selected who were under the age of 18. Simple random sample was selected for the data collection. The tool of data collection was a structured interview schedule, where the closed-handed questions were formulated. The total sample size in this research was 100 respondents. In the result the following factors may be included in that: Socialization, psychological factors, parental responsibilities, educational background, societal framework, economic conditions and many other factors motivate them to do so for crime.

**Index Terms**—: juvenile, delinquency, children, instability, Psychological, Socialization, economic condition

## 1. Introduction:



In Pakistani society the juvenile delinquency is growing day by day, which is conflicting the attentions of our youths from their educations and sports. They are receiving more and more persuade towards harmful actions than the positive actions. This painful condition is causing to destroy the career of our young citizens, that have pushed them into darkness in there exists. The word juvenile delinquency is used in a joint meaning, where juvenile means the person who is not measured as matured both physically and mentally, i.e. he has not crossed his eighteenth birthday, and delinquency means not following the rules of the society. So, jointly, it means a person who commits a crime, yet not became mature enough to cross his eighteenth birthday. Juvenile delinquency occurs throughout the world, but in this research, the researcher concentrated on Pakistani society where different causes of juvenile delinquency were arranged out, where some cases were more visible than the others, i.e. the socialization of the child plays the most crucial role in affecting his delinquent performance than the economic factor.

#### **History of juvenile delinquency law:**

The history of juvenile delinquency is as ancient as the man himself. But it could be copied back to the age of period of Elizabeth, the former queen of Great Britain. As Shoemaker (2013) has argued that: the earliest law ever found on the topic of juvenile delinquency was projected by Elizabeth in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century in England when she approved the law named "the poor law" which shapes that parents should take care of their children and socialize them well so that they could be able to escape the delinquency since children are not themselves answerable for their actions. Hence, whatever they are doing, their parents are accountable for their actions. The similarity is probable from the children when raised up, and their parents become old, then it becomes the children's duty to take care of their parents. Accordingly, by poor law the children were called as the delinquents not the criminals.

Rutter (1995) argued that the associations between family conflict and conduct Disorder in children are discussed with respect to the need to differentiate between risk Indicators and risk mechanisms, the conceptualization of risk mechanisms, measurement issues, and the research strategies needed to test causal hypotheses. The focus must be on children's effects on parents, Person-environment interactions, non-shared environmental effects, causal chain effects, and the need to use natural experiments. There is now abundant evidence that serious Family discord provides a good risk indicator for the Conduct disorder in children. On the other hand, it is equally possible that the weak associations mean that, although family discord is indeed a Risk indicator, it does not represent a risk mechanism. Rather, it could be that the risk processes Involve features that are associated with dis-cord, instead of the discord itself.

Dresner and Knight (2006) Have threw light on the juvenile delinquent who are mentally not sound, and are in need of treatment. They have discussed the drawbacks in juvenile justice system regarding juvenile in urgent need of mental treatment and or faced with ethnic discrimination. They have pinpointed the flaws in the system which is dealing with the mentally ill juvenile offenders. They have highlighted their mental issues, strategies to confront such cases, their future prospects and a no protective system for mentally unfit juveniles.

Sharma (2001) says that there are some psychological factors of juvenile delinquency where the juveniles between the age of 15 and 18 adopt some illogical role where they wish to release the material goods of others by force, and they sometimes wish to give damage the public property without reasons where the psychologists consider that there are some causes, which make the juvenile force to do delinquent acts.

Agnew et al. (2008) results however suggested that low socio-economic status is not putting adolescences at high risk, but somewhat the economic problems that get up from it. They found that there was very little or no relationship between socio-economic status stages and delinquency, but they found high economic problems to be connected with delinquency. The economic problems in their study used a measure that emphases on problems such as paying bills, having to borrow money, having to change their home to an economy alternate. Galloway and Skardhamar (2010) further tested on the relationships between parental income and offending. The authors noted that previous studies on family socio-economic status and delinquency were regularly found to be non-significant or weakly linked. In their study, they attentive on analyzing the relationships between several antisocial behaviors to dissimilar levels of parental income over the period of unevenly 6-8 years from when the cohort turned 10 to the year 2004 in which the most efficient data was available for the analyses. They found that the suggestion was present only when they looked at long-term income, as opposite to short-term income. The cause, they proposed, is that taking a short picture of a family's income may not reproduce the family's overall financial position. Furthermore in this study, the authors were able to test parental instructive level and socioeconomic status together. When parental educational level is not measured, the relationship between socioeconomic status and delinquency drops, and the levels that still calculate delinquency are only the two lowest supports in the income variety.

#### **1.Factors behind juvenile delinquency:**

Juvenile delinquency is a mixture of two words, which are used in the same flow of meaning as juveniles, which is said to the person who is under the age of 18 and the other word is delinquency. There are several factors behind, which can be said as accountable for the juvenile delinquency as the following:

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### 1.1 Social factors

Social factors mean the socialization which comprises all those things which are directly influenced on an individual when he leftovers in a group and pick up these delinquent actions during the socialization development, it may be the family, neighborhood, etc. These factors permanently exist in the neighboring of the individual where they play their role to follow the group member to their collective behavior as a total culture. Here one does not need to learn the behavior that the other people are having. These actions are straight inculcated into the character of an individual, when he is a follower of any group, culture. But, if we search it analytically, it comprises the following:

#### 1.1.1 Disorganization in family

The family is considered as the most notice able organization, where the youth is born and learns all those actions which are in exercise within the family. Whatsoever the actions the father was having that is openly moved to the elder son through the process of socialization and culture. If the father was involved in the positive activities and he keeps a close relationship with his children, then the child will not compel any negative act, but, if the father was criminal and involved in the negative activities, then the chances of juvenile delinquency are increased. Delinquency is not transferred from parents to children; it can be transported mostly from elder brothers to the younger brothers.

#### 1.1.2 Broken families

Broken houses include those houses which are run by single parents (mother or father), working parents, divorced parents, or dead parents, where the children remain out of direct watch or control of their parents and thus they get the chance to do immoral activities.

#### 1.1.3 Parent-child relationship

If there is an unattached parent-child relationship, the youngster's probabilities of delinquency increases, the disconnected relationship may be to a smaller degree of direct interaction between the parents and children, the ignoring of children or to the smallest extent friendliness from parents to their children.

#### 1.1.4 Defects of school system

If the atmosphere of the school is expressed very harsh and the physical punishment to the child arises, then the child will get fearful of going to school. Hence, he stops going to school. In these conditions, the parents force him to go to school. Then the child comes into the mental dilemma, if his stop over at home the parents will beat him. Thus, the youth leaves both his home and the school.

#### 1.1.5 Social Disorganization

If the groups do not participate in the society, then the children can become delinquent. In social disorder, the children are less focused how to act and what to do and what to escape because in disorder, the anomie overcomes in the society where the child finds the society as the worst place and starts doing whatsoever comes into his mind.

## 2. Psychological Factors

These reasons are regularly linked to the individual himself, where his mind provides him the orders that how to act and what to do if a certain condition develops. It embraces those causes which are purely connected to the individual mind as the following can be said as the psychological factors of juvenile delinquency.

### 2.1 Mental diseases

Few persons are identified as mentally ill, therefore, they commit illegal acts as the juvenile delinquent, because they tend rather to commit inaccurate activities than the right one, because such types of persons are often depressed one, and they eventually tend to do the inaccurate activity.

## **2.2 The characteristic of personality**

There are few appearances, which are included in one's personality as rude and un-submissiveness. These features make the person delinquent, because impoliteness makes the person proud and that proud behavior causes the person to compel the juvenile delinquent.

## **2.3 Emotional instability**

There are few persons that are by nature very much aggressive, who cannot bear even the slightest punishment. Therefore, if a minor punishment is assumed for them, it reasons to make them delinquent.

## **3.1 Economic factors**

Through economic causes are less accountable for juvenile delinquency, yet it plays some role in juvenile delinquency. If a child feels that he has no food to eat, and his ego is about to be tainted in the society, and his neighborhood is charming, so strong as compare to his family set up, here the teenage can feel the idea to get wealthy, so most of the time he chooses the wrong way because of an individual, it is impossible to be wealthy in a short time. In this condition, the person joins the gang group and becomes delinquent.

### **Theoretical framework:**

Hirsch's (1969) control theory of delinquency is a theory which is based on an individual's development of social and inner control, which then will reflect on that individual's actions in relations to delinquency. In developing his version of social control theory, Hirsch claims that the primary task of delinquency theory is to explain conformity, not delinquent behavior. In fact, this is a basic theme of all social control theories. The control theory marks its explanation of attachment on educating, as suitable development could serve as a hurdle for children from rebellious experiences. Much of the argument is based on the development of the superego. Development, proper discipline, and attachment to others give us the limitations and teachings of social rules that we tolerate in order to cooperate peacefully with each other. Lack of attachment is also connected with lack of superego, or the inner control which should have been developed given that the individual had a form of bond or attachment with another individual. An individual without any bond or attachment is lying in the way of isolation from others.

### **Research Methodology:**

In this research, the researcher used quantitative form of research, where structured questions were asked of the respondents. The simple random sample was used, where a list of the juveniles was provided by the jail superintendent. The questions were randomly asked from the respondent in Central jail Rawalpindi through the interview schedule. The total population of the juveniles in Central jail Rawalpindi was approx 32; of which 25 respondents were randomly selected. The results were analyzed through SPSS.

### **Result and Discussion:**

Delinquency is not caused by any single factor, but many factors. Many of the variables studied here were interrelated, and it is difficult to identify the cause and effect. Juvenile delinquency is a very massive subject in the field of crime where the person, as planned by the different definitions, under the age of 18. Adolescent delinquency is basically a crime not a deviancy, because here the child violates the law and rules of the society which is concerned with the legitimacies of rules and regulation rather than the social aspect of the rules and regulations. But, yet we cannot call it the crime, because the person, above the age of 18, commits a crime, he is considered as criminals who can be penalized to prison for the corporal punishment and or other punishments as taking money as a bale, etc., which is not done in the case of the juvenile delinquents, because they are the persons that are not accountable for act, because their actions are the consequence of some other factors, which make the child compel to do some prohibited acts, which tag them as the juvenile delinquents. In this research, the researcher has tried his best to dig out all those factors which can be called as responsible for the act of juvenile delinquency.

Previous researches are done in the field of juvenile delinquency, but the wonder of juvenile delinquency is not a field of natural science, where the things of the similar nature produce the same results, but it is the field of social science where the conclusions in any field as juvenile delinquency is, the results must differ from place to place, time to time and persons to persons, consequently, those respondents who were asked the question in district jail Quetta, they almost responded in

different ways with each other. This is the cause why overview is impossible in the field of artless delinquency. But, there are certain factors, which can be overgeneralized as there is a hypothesis that one remains with their peer group the more will be the chances of his juvenile delinquency.

The researcher has found out that juvenile delinquency is often the product of non-conformist children, who most of the time fails to, conform to the norms of their family and the norms of their school. They often wish to express their own way of life as proposed by Robert K. Merton are displaying the acts which label them as the rebellion that neither accepted the rules and regulation of the society, nor they say that these rules and regulations are null there one must have to reject it, but they rather say that their behavior must not be well-organized by the other persons as their parents and their teachers most of the time struggles to do. It is also appropriate from the finding of this research that juvenile delinquency is higher in those children who are illiterate, because if the child feels that the school environment, and the strict rules and regulation of the teachers are often the restriction on the freedom of the child, and they think who the hell are teachers and their guardians that punish them for those actions which are belonging to the individual self of the children.

#### Conclusion:

Juvenile delinquency is the singularity of the modern world, where the role and actions of the juveniles are illustrious from the mature. This concept was not occurring in the traditional age as in the 16th century, the children and the adults were treated alike if they obligate the equal level of crime, but in the present era, children are notable from the adults, because they are non-responsible persons, who commit the crimes or whatever the action is just because of the other factors which made him compel to do that action or behavior, if we talk of that factor, the following factors may be included in that: Socialization, psychological factors, parental responsibilities, educational background, societal framework, economic conditions and many other factors motivate them to do so. Application of Hirschi's (1969) social control theory of rehabilitation requires an understanding of how the social conditions of disability results in greater vulnerability to substance abuse. Many factors of social isolation of persons with disabilities can be explored in the context of Hirschi's four elements of social bonding. More specifically, Hirschi's elements can be used to hypothesize how social isolation and weak bonds can place persons with disabilities at higher risk for deviant behavior such as drug abuse.

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