AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF CAUSING CRIMES: A STUDY CONDUCTED AT SARGODHA & SHAHPUR JAILS

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to analyze the causes and socio-economic factors that are possibly responsible for crimes in Pakistan. Crimes have always overwhelmed every society in human history. The history of crime is as old as history of mankind. The present study was conducted on the prisoners of Sargodha and Shahpur jails. Major constructs were i.e. socio-economic factors and unemployment. 200 respondents were selected, 100 from each jail. A well structured interview schedule was used to collect the data. Certain statistical techniques were used to reduce and analyze the data. Results show that majority of the respondents said that weak structure of judiciary and administration promotes crimes. Findings show that more than half of the respondents said that property is the main cause of crimes. Results of the study show that most of the respondents were agreed that unemployment is responsible from the crime in society. Overall situation was alarming; mostly crimes were committed because of poor socio-economic condition among prisoners at Sargodha and Shahpur jails.

Key Words: Crimes, Sargodha and Shahpur, Jail.

INTRODUCTION

Legally, crime can be defined as a contravention of the law, to which a punishment is attached and imposed by the state (Velzen, 1998). In other words, crime is an act, which is forbidden by the law, and if detected, is likely to be punished. The act of criminality gives rise to the feeling of insecurity and fear to those who have not been a victim as well. This sense of panic of being victimized generates negative effects on well being. A majority of the society members suffers from the side

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effects of crimes (Logan, 1994). Rao, (2002) has rightly opined that "Man is a social animal. He lives in social groups, in communities and in society. Human life and society almost go together. Man cannot live as man, without society. Lonely life is intolerable for man. Man is biologically and psychologically equipped to live in groups, in society". While living together in groups, there are possibilities of the clashes of the interests. The groups and societies have certain rules and regulations which in their understood form are norms of behavior and in their open form, are the laws which guide the behavior of an individual and its destruction is considered as crime or deviance from expected behavior. Furthermore, it is believed that most of criminals are unemployed and majority of people who decide to engage in criminal activities are employed. Thus, we focus on these aspects trying to give a wider viewpoint of the relationship between crime and unemployment. Income inequality is likely to be one of the major causes of crime. Criminal activities are determined by economic motivations and a very important and related aspect is represented by the division of income across workers and more in general across society. An outstanding number of papers deal with this topic and in recent years interesting and valid works have been written about the relationships between inequality and crime (Kelly, 2000; Juhn et al. 1993).

Crime appears to be strictly related to the level of education attained and to individuals' economic and social background. Numerous studies showed that criminals tend to be less educated and from poorer economic backgrounds than non criminals. Thus identifying low education as a determinant of criminal behavior would allow us to design effective and proper policies aiming at increasing the level of education and schooling in order to reduce crime rate. This is closely linked to other aspects that determine and influence crime rate such as age and inequality. In fact agents decide their educational demand in their youth and in doing this, they are influenced by their social and economic background and by the level of education of their parents (Wilson and Herrnstein, 1985). Poverty and crime have been issues in society since civilization began. They are also both issues that can be reduced, but never eradicated. Poverty and crime always exist in the world, but the effects of them can certainly be minimized. There have been great efforts made to reduce poverty worldwide, and they have been generally successful. While there are still high rates of poverty worldwide, the numbers have been declining over the last twenty years. Crime rates have also been generally falling over that same time period.

This research has been selected as a social problem because it needs our attention and solution. Although this research is considered as a norm and has an infamy and dishonor with it, yet truth must be disclosed however bitter it may be. Criminals who are in or out of jails form a large portion of our society, therefore, how can we avoid or shut our eyes towards them? Reality must be faced and dealt with boldness and clarity. The research will show cause and effect of criminology. Root cause of crimes in society will be found out. People and authority will find awareness through this research. After this research a gauge will be there to call a person criminal or innocent. Research

will give a conclusion and finally result to the socio economic factors behind the crime and criminals. It will also give measures to curb these factors.

Objectives

- To identify the socio-economic factors behind the crimes.

- To find relationship between crime and socio-economic conditions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in order to discover socio-economic factors that are responsible for crimes in Pakistan. In that research quantitative approach is used to find out Research objectives. In this study universe selected the district jail Sargodha and as well as Shahpur jail. Respondents were only male community of these two jails. The data was collected from district Sargodha jail and district shahpur jail from 200 respondents. Data was collected through sample survey. Sampling is a based on theory of probability, and inducting reasoning. Probability is the chance likelihood or plausibility of something's happening. The methodology was used simple random sampling, because the nature of universe. The coded data were analyzed through SPSS. Uni-variate and Bi-variate analyses were done by using appropriate statistical techniques to draw the conclusions and interpret the research findings and to suggest measures for improvement. In order to bring the data into comparable form, percentage of various categories of data were worked out in the present study. Chi-square test was applied to examine relationship between independent and dependent variables. If the calculated value of chi-square was equal to or higher than the table value at 0.05 level of probability at the given degree of freedom, the relationship was statistically significant. If it is less than the table value (0.01 level of probability) it is termed as highly significant. Where the calculated value is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. It is declared as non-significant. The value of Gamma shows the strength and direction of the relationship between independent and dependent variables. 20 respondents were taken for pre-testing. After filling the research questionnaire, and taking the response of respondent, the reliability of alpha was (0.656).

Data Analysis

According to Table-1, 21.5% respondents were in the age of 15 -22 years and 35% were in the age of 22 -29 years 32% in the age of 29 – 36 years and 11.5% were in the age of 36 – 49 years. This data shows that in the middle age 22-36 years respondents were made victim of crimes. This tale shows that 39% respondents were illiterate and others were educated. In those educated respondents 43% metric and 10% intermediate and 4% graduate and 4% master. This data shows that mostly prisoners were educated. Major reasons of their crime were unemployed and poverty. Others who were illiterate and made criminals because of poverty, lack of skills and financial problems. This table reveals that 18.5% of the respondents belonged to the nuclear family. 57%

belonged to the joint family and 25.5% respondents belong to extended family. This data shows that mostly respondents were belonged to joint family. This reflects that 40% respondents family monthly income were between Rs. 5000 – Rs. 15000 and 35.5% were between Rs. 15000-25000 and 14% were between Rs. 25000 – Rs. 35000 and 10.5% were between Rs. 35000 – Rs. 45000. It is not surprising because their family income is not sufficient.

Table-1: Demographic Information

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age (in years)	**Frequency**	**Percent**
15-22	43	21.5
22-29	70	35.0
29-36	64	32.0
36-49	23	11.5
Education	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Illiterate	78	39.0
Metric	86	43.0
Intermediate	20	10.0
Graduation	8	4.0
Master	8	4.0
Family type	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Nuclear family	37	18.5
Joint family	114	57.0
Extended family	49	25.5
Family monthly income	**Frequency**	**Percent**
5000-15000	80	40.0
15000-25000	71	35.5
25000-35000	28	14.0
35000-45000	21	10.5
Total	**200**	**100.0**

MAJOR FINDINGS

Results show that 41% were somehow satisfied with the conditions of jail, 9% was somehow disagreed with this view. Results indicate that 15% were strongly agreed and 45.5% were somehow agreed with statement that they feel themselves responsible for crime. 30.5% were strongly disagreed. Research findings narrate that 42% respondents were strongly agreed and 40% were somehow disagreed with the view that lack of education is accountable for crimes. Findings also

indicate that a huge majority of 62.5% was strongly agreed and 25.5% were somehow agreed that unemployment is responsible for crimes. It also shows that 7.5% were strongly disagreed and 5% were somehow disagreed. Findings of study show that 47.5% respondents were strongly agreed and 32.5% were somehow agreed that disparity between the rich and the poor is responsible for the crimes. 38.5% respondents were strongly agreed and 27.5% were somehow agreed that aggression and exploitation are responsible for crimes. 12.5% respondents were strongly agreed and 29% were somehow agreed that disappointment and frustration are responsible for crimes. 35% were neither agreed nor disagreed and 15.5% were strongly disagreed and 7.5% were somehow disagreed.

26.5% respondents were found to be habitual criminal while 57% were strongly disagreed with this notion. More than half i.e. 51% of the respondents were not satisfied with food given to them in jails. Research findings reveal that 57.5% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement "Property is bone of contention of crimes. This is very high strength of respondents. Because their opinion that property is the major factor for made them criminals. While 25.5% were somehow agreed and 4% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It also shows that 9.5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 3.5% were somehow disagreed. 26.5% of respondents were strongly agreed and 36% were somehow agreed that socio-economic conditions are responsible for crimes while 10% of the respondents were strongly disagreed. A major proportion i.e. 61.5% of the respondents was strongly agreed with the statement "weak structure of judiciary and administration prompted crimes". While 5% were strongly disagreed. Research findings show that 55.5% of the respondents were strongly agreed. A number of respondents were satisfied their previous life and 20.5% were somehow agreed and 12% were neither agreed nor disagreed. 35.5% of the respondents were found to use drugs.

Results reveal that 24.5% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "I feel guilty at my crime now" and 11% were neither agreed nor disagreed. While 32.5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 3.5% were somehow disagreed. 14.5% of the respondents were strongly agreed and 22.5% were somehow agreed their peer group encouraged for crimes. While 29% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 11% were somehow disagreed that they feel that peer group encourages committing crimes. Research findings show that 29.5% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "lack of affection or harshness of parents encourages to crime" and 31.5% were somehow agreed and 11.5% were neither agreed nor disagree. It also shows that 22% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 5.5 % were somehow disagreed. A major proportion i.e. 58.5% of the respondents was strongly agreed with the statement. Poverty is the main cause of crime and 20% of the respondents were somehow agreed and 11.5% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It also shows that 8% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 2% were somehow disagreed. So poverty is the main case of crime. 27% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "lack of religious education lead people to crime" and 36% were somehow agreed and 22.5% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It shows that 8% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 6.5% were somehow disagreed. 40.5% of the

respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "absence of healthy recreational facilities caused crimes" and 33.5 % were somehow agreed and 18% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It indicates that 4.5 % of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 3.5% were somehow disagreed. Results reveal that 26% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "unequal distribution of resources forces people to engage unlawful activities" and 35 % were somehow agreed and 23.5% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It shows that 10% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 5.5% were somehow disagreed.

Results of study show that 19% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "urbanization is the major cause of crimes" and 20% were somehow agreed and 29% were neither agreed nor disagreed. This reports that 21% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 11% were somehow disagreed. 22% of the respondents were agreed with the statement "I think that lack of basic needs is the cause of crimes" and 40% were somehow agreed and 22% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It exposes that 8.5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 7.5% were somehow disagreed. A major proportion of respondents i.e. 54% were strongly agreed with the statement "I think that economic pressures of family needs are the cause of crimes" and 24% were somehow agreed and 9% were neither agreed nor disagreed. The results indicate that 5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 8% were somehow disagreed. Results of research reveals that 45% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "lawlessness is the cause of crimes" and 28.5% were somehow agreed and 13% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It shows that 10.5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 2.5% were somehow disagreed. The results point out that mostly respondents were agreed lawlessness is the cause of crimes. 14% of the respondents were strongly agreed with the statement "I am satisfied with the police behavior towards prisoners" and a major proportion i-e 40 % was somehow agreed and 20.5% were neither agreed nor disagreed. It also shows that 12.5% of the respondents were strongly disagreed and 13% were somehow disagreed.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESE

Hypothesis-1: Lack of affection and harshness of parents develop revenge towards society

Table-2: Descriptive Statistics

		Lack of affection and harshness of parents encourages crimes			
		Low	Medium	High	Total
I am revengeful towards the society.	Low	0	7	19	26
	Medium	7	25	65	97
	High	4	35	38	77
Total		11	67	122	200

Chi-square = 10.221	d.f = 4	Significant = 0.037	Gamma = -0.301

Table-3: Chi-Square Test

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	d.f	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.221[a]	4	0.037
Likelihood Ratio	11.512	4	0.021
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.483	1	0.019
No of Valid Cases	200		

The Table-3 presents the association between respondents the revenge full behavior towards the society lack of affection or harshness of parents encourages to crimes**.** The chi-square value (10.221) shows significant (Prob. value = 0.037) respondents the revenge full behavior towards the society lack of affection or harshness of parents encourages to crimes' hours. Gamma value also shows (-0.301) and significant (Prob. value = 0.007) a no relationship between the variables. So the hypothesis "There is an association between respondents the revenge full behavior towards the society lack of affection or harshness of parents encourage to crime" is accepted.

Hypothesis-2: There is an association between respondent's lack of job opportunities, recreation and weak social binding urges for high economic status

Table-4: Descriptive Statistics

		I think that weak social binding in family cause of the crime			
		Low	**Medium**	**High**	Total
lack of job opportunities	Low	0	4	0	4
Medium		24	41	11	76
High		59	56	5	120
Total		83	101	16	200

Chi-square = 2.044	d.f = 2	Significant = 0.360	Gamma = -0.146

Table-5: Chi-Square Test

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	d.f	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.044[a]	2	0.360
Likelihood Ratio	2.677	2	0.262
Linear-by-Linear Association	.368	1	0.544
N of Valid Cases	200		
a. 2 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.68.			

The Table-5 presents the association between respondent's lack of job opportunities, recreation, and weak social binding urges for high economic status**.** The chi-square value (2.044) shows a - significant (Prob. value = 0.0360) respondent's lack of job opportunities, recreation, and week social binding urges for high economic status. Gamma value also shows (-0.146) and significant (0.427) a relationship between the variables. So the hypothesis "There is an association between respondent's lack of job opportunities, recreation, and week social binding urges for high economic status" is accepted.

Hypothesis-3. Family with more disputes is more inclined towards crimes

Tabble-6: Descriptive Statistics

	In certain situations my family has a tendency to indulge into crimes			
	Low	**Medium**	**High**	Total
Family disputes like inherited property issues put the whole family into crimes — Low	4	9	0	13
Medium	4	60	24	88
High	8	69	22	99
Total	16	138	46	200
Chi-square = 57.472[a]	d.f = 14	Significant = 0.000		Gamma = -0.207

Table-7: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	d.f	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	57.472[a]	14	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	42.675	14	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.001	1	0.005
N of Valid Cases	200		
a. 11 cells (45.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.			
Chi-square =57.472[a]	d.f = 14 Significant = 0.000		Gamma = - 0.207

The Table-7 reports the association between respondents in certain situation of family disputes like inherited property issue put the whole family into crimes. The chi-square value (57.472) shows a - significant (Prob. value = 0.000) association between respondents satisfaction with their occupation and their working hours. Gamma value also shows (-0.207) and significant (0.038) a relationship between the variables. So the hypothesis "There is an association between respondents in certain situation of family disputes like inherited property issue put the whole family into crime" is accepted.

CONCLUSION

This paper concludes that our society needs complete overhauling of social economical and prison system. This can not be done overnight and not by one person. It needs revolution at all levels of society. The researcher studied the relevant material and visited the eager places like the jails of Sargodha and Shahpur. He interviewed the prisoners and observed their conditions and the behavior of staff with them and reached his conclusion often all this effort. That criminals and prisoners are not alive. They are also one of us and we should consider them as citizen of Islamic republic of Pakistan.

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