

## **Role of Economic Position and Electronic Media on Juvenile Delinquency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

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### **Abstract**

Juvenile delinquency is a major problem in Pakistani society. Many factors contribute the phenomena. Economic position and media are important factors in the socialization of children. Generally, better the economic position better would be the schooling and grooming environment for children. Similarly, media have both positive and negative impacts in the socialization of child. Present study was conducted to find out the impact of economic position and media on juvenile delinquency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The data for the present study were collected from 222 law breaking youths who were imprisoned in three jails in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the context of economic position the results showed significant association of juvenile delinquency with the prisoners who had poor family background, insufficient income to meet family expanses, low economic conditions, unemployed and greed for high economic status. In case of electronic media significant association of juvenile delinquency was found with not only a direct impact of media on juvenile's personality but also its power to control people from deviations and rehabilitate the juveniles.

**Key words:** Juvenile, Delinquency, Juvenile and Economic Position, Media and Deviation

### **Introduction**

Juvenile delinquency is becoming a global problem in the world today (Schwartz and Johnson,2012). Delinquency a legal term for criminal behavior carried out by a juvenile is often the result of escalating problematic behavior. It has been defined differently by three perspectives on delinquency. According to first perspective or from a parental view it is a disruptive and delinquent behavior as disobedience fighting with siblings, destroying or damaging property, stealing money from family members, or threatening parents with violence. Second perspective or educational view cite it through school staff members often regard delinquent behavior as that which interrupts or disturbs classroom learning violates the school code of conduct and threatens the safety of faculty and students. Third perspective is mental health view about juvenile delinquency (Steinberg, 1996). Juvenile delinquency include not only those minor acts who actually broken the law but also those who are likely to do so. It includes whose attitude to other

individuals, to the community to law full authority is such that it may lead him/her to breaking the law (Changizi, 2007). Juvenile delinquency is thus an anti-social personality disorder which is really harmful for society it is deviant behavior that emerges usually by the age of 15 and goes along through adolescence and adulthood (Muhammad, 2012).

Poverty has a strong association with the crimes. Low income level people have high level of alienation as compare to high income people so they are more likely tend to commit crimes (O'Donnell et al. 2006; Smith and Bohm, 2008). The relationship between poverty and violence holds across different sorts of violent crimes including murder, assault and domestic violence (Kelly, 2000; Martinez, 1996; Parker, 1989; Pride more, 2011). Lower class youth more likely to commit crimes as compare to upper class because they lack immediate material wealth (i.e., income), social recognition, and social standing relative to middle and upper class; hence, they engage in delinquent behaviors like theft, violence, and vandalism to oppose inequalities (Piff et al. 2012; Reay 2005). High income families' children parents have good occupation and studying in quality educational institutions. This decrease their chances of indulgence in juvenile delinquency as compare to their opposite counterparts (Uche, 1994). Various studies reported that poverty is the main cause of crime and criminals often belong from poor family background. Further, the boys who run from homes and live on streets for survival have been involved in stealing goods or properties (Prior and Paris, 2005). Many other social factors compel a person to become juvenile delinquents. Socio-cultural change, political instability, financial uncertainty and governmental bad policies negatively affect young people mind (Postman, 1982). Also financial problems, economic inequality and instability are usually associated with unemployment among youth which further increase the probability of their involvement in delinquency (Mooney linda et al., 1997). A Cambridge study found that among 16 to 18 years olds delinquency rate was three times higher while unemployed than employed. These unemployed delinquents offended only for material gains. Further it revealed that low status job employed youth have much greater rate of offences than high status job youth (Farrington et al., 1986).

One of important cause of the emergence of violent behavior is invention of television. Aggressive programs on television and other channels not only lead to aggression but also create problems such as character building problems in juvenile (Huesmann and Miller in Savage, 2004). Media may have both positive and negative impacts on every individual but children in particular are not fully mature regarding the impacts therefore they are the most affected by such kind of material (Sana et al., 2013). There is a strong association among media violence, emotional and behavioral problems. General Aggression Model

(GAM) put emphasis that social learning process take place in daily life when we interact in our daily social life with family, peer group and public places or even in imagine situation (e.g. when someone expose to violent media). Thus every violent act if it is in real life or imagined make a fast learning experience, and individual prone to such violent acts produce behavior in aggressive manner. The GAM further explained that juvenile delinquents who have a real life violent history will at more risk to media violence (Anderson *et al.*, 2006). Aggressive movies in this regard not only contribute to aggression but also shape aggressive behavior in the subject. Both children and adolescents tend to imitate their favorite characters in the movies, imagine themselves as heroes of these movies and implement in real life what they see in the films (Bandura *et al.*, 1963).

### Research Methodology

The study was conducted in 2015 was based on primary data collected from three Prisons namely Central Prison Peshawar, Central Prison Haripur and District Prison Mansehra. The main reason for selecting these prisons was due to easy access to juvenile delinquents imprisoned in the selected Prisons. According to the recent Prisons record at the time of survey, there were 222 juveniles in the selected prisoners. All the prisoners up to 18 years of age in the three selected prisons were respondents of the study. For further clarification see table 1.

**Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents**

S.No.	Name of prisons	No. of prisons
1	Central Prison Peshawar	102
2	Central Prison Haripur	40
3	Central Prison Mansehra	80
4	Total	222

Source: Survey

### Conceptual Framework

The following were the dependent and independent variables of the study.

**Table 2: Conceptual Framework**

Independent Variables	Dependent Variable
Economic factor	Juvenile delinquency
Electronic media	

**Methods of Data Analysis**

After the collection of data, it were first coded and then entered in computer by using SPSS software for analysis. The analysis of the data was made at uni and bivariate levels. The univariate analysis comprised of frequency distribution and percentages of the sampled respondents. Bivariate analysis was carried out to measure the association between dependent and independents variables. Chi-square and Fisher Exact tests were used to measure the association. The Chi-squared test statistics for the test of independence summarizes how close the expected frequencies fall to the observed frequencies. It is represented by the symbol  $\chi^2$ . Karl Pearson introduced the statistics in 1900 and used in sociological studies to test the degree of independence (Tai, 1978). The formula used to compute Chi-square is given in the following:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$$

Where  $\chi^2$  is chi-square,  $o_{ij}$  is observed frequencies in  $i^{th}$  row and  $j^{th}$  column.  $E_{ij}$  is expected frequencies in  $i^{th}$  row and  $j^{th}$  column whereas  $r$  is number or rows and  $n$  is number of column. The large summation sign,  $\Sigma$  (capital sigma), tells us to compute the fractions for each cell and then sum over all cells to get  $\chi^2$ .

Fisher exact test was used when the frequencies in the table was less than 5. Following was the formula of the test.

$$\text{Fisher Exact Test} = \frac{(a+b)!(c+d)!(a+c)!(b+d)!}{N!a!b!c!d!}$$

Where a, b, c and d were the observed numbers in contingency table while “n” were the total number of observations.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

This section first describes the uni-variate and bi-variate results. At uni-variate level, it states the results regarding independent variables i.e economic factor and electronic media. It is followed by the association between Juvenile delinquency and the two independent variables.

### Uni-Variate Analysis

#### *Economic Position and Juvenile Delinquency*

Table 3 while describing the various tendency leading to juvenile delinquency among the sampled respondents’ reported that 48.6, 51.4 50.9, 63.5 and 45 percent of the respondents were agreed that poor living, low economic conditions, economic insecurity, poverty, income disparity and unemployment were the factors leading juvenile delinquency respectively. Further, 48.6, 42.8 and 53.6 of the respondents reported that irregular income, poor background and insufficient income to meet the family expenses encourages juvenile towards delinquency respectively. Another 52.3 and 44.1 percent of the respondents also reported that they were unemployed before got imprisoned and greed for high economic status leads juvenile towards delinquency. The table as a whole reveals that economic insecurity led juvenile towards delinquency, where income disparity among public provoked juvenile delinquency. The lower economic conditions on the other hand had negatively affected the juvenile along with poverty.

The results having similar findings as by Prior and Paris (2005) who found that those juvenile involved in delinquents act are poor, had poor family background and often involved in petty offences like stealing goods or properties.

**Table 3:- Role of Economics Position and in Juvenile Delinquency**

S.No.	Statements	Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Poor living style leads towards juvenile delinquency	108(48.6)	67(30.2)	47(21.2)
2	Lower economic conditions negatively affect the juvenile	114(51.4)	66(29.7)	42(18.9)
3	Economic insecurity haveled juvenile towards crimes	118(53.2)	73(32.9)	31(14.0)
4	Poverty is real cause of child delinquency	113(50.9)	69(31.1)	40(18.0)
5	Income disparity in society provokes juvenile delinquency	141(63.5)	51(23.0)	30(13.5)
6	Unemployment leads to juvenile delinquency	100(45.0)	76(34.2)	38(17.1)
7	Irregular incomes encourages juvenile delinquency	108(48.6)	76(34.2)	38(17.1)
8	Poor background produces the urges for delinquency	95(42.8)	90(40.5)	37(16.7)
10	Your family income did not meet the family expanses	67(30.2)	119(53.6)	36(16.2)
11	You were on job before imprisonment	106(47.7)	116(52.3)	
12	The greed for high economic status led juvenile towards delinquency	98(44.1)	88(39.6)	36(16.2)

Source: Survey2015

### **Media and Juvenile Delinquency**

Table 4 while describing the various tendency leading to juvenile delinquency among the sampled respondents reports that 50.9, 40.5, 52.3, 50.9, 58.1 and 49.1 percent of the sampled respondents reported agreed to statement that electronic media negatively affected the juvenile, it didn't significantly influence the juvenile, respondents parents never stopped them from watching movies, liked aggression oriented movies, their ideal actors were violence movies heroes and

violent media have directly impacted their personality respectively. While highlighting the role of media, a total number of 43.2, 47.3, 47.3, 52.3 and 43.7 percent of the respondents were found agreed that electronic media cannot rehabilitate juvenile, it have the power to control people from deviations, it is positively playing its role, it should be limited and its reports must be scrutinized.

Results as a whole describes that electronic media had negatively affected the juvenile, parents of juvenile never stopped them from watching movies and the sampled respondents ideal actors were violence movies heroes.

**Table 4:-Role of Media in Juvenile Delinquency**

S.No.	Statement	Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Electronic media negatively affect the juvenile	113(50.9)	80(36.0)	29(13.1)
2	Electronic media significantly influence the juvenile	89(40.1)	90(40.5)	43(19.4)
3	Your parents never stopped you from watching movies	116(52.3)	78(35.1)	28(12.6)
4	You like aggression oriented movies	113(50.9)	85(38.3)	24(10.8)
5	Your ideal actors are/were violence movies heroes	129(58.1)	77(34.7)	16(7.2)
6	Violent media made direct impact upon your personality	109(49.1)	86(38.7)	27(12.2)
7	Electronic media can rehabilitate juvenile	82(36.9)	96(43.2)	44(19.8)
8	Electronic media have power to control people from deviations	105(47.3)	88(39.6)	29(13.1)
9	Electronic media is positively playing its role	105(47.3)	99(44.6)	18(8.1)
10	Electronic media should be limited	116(52.3)	59(26.6)	47(21.2)
11	There should be limitations on electronic media	97(43.7)	94(42.3)	31(14.0)

*Source: Survey 2015*

## Bi-variate Analysis

### *Association between Economic Position and Juvenile Delinquency*

Table 5 presents the association between economic role and juvenile delinquency. The results show a significance association between irregular incomes encouraged juvenile delinquency ( $p= 0.001$ ), along with poor background produces the urges of juvenile delinquency ( $p= 0.010$ ), your family income meet the family expanses ( $p=0.001$ ), unemployment leads to juvenile delinquency ( $p= .019$ ), the greed for high economic status leadsto crime  $p= (p=0.014)$  and lower economic conditions have negatively affected the juvenile ( $p= 0.032$ ). On the other hand, a non-significant association of juvenile delinquency was found between poor living style leads towards juvenile delinquency( $p=0.320$ ), economic insecurity have led juvenile towards delinquency ( $p= 0.037$ ), poverty is real cause of child delinquency ( $p= 0.210$ ), income disparity among public provokes juvenile delinquency ( $p= 0.264$ ), you were on job before got imprisoned ( $p= 0.592$ ).

From the above discussion it is concluded that the factors encouraged juvenile delinquency included poor background, low economic conditions, and unemployment and families' high expenses. The findings are supported by O'Donnell et al. (2006), Smith and Bohm (2008), Kelly, (2000), Martinez (1996), Parker (1989), Pridemore (2011), Piff et al. (2012), Reay (2005), Prior and Paris (2005), Postman (1982), Mooney et al., (1997) and Farrington et al. (1986).

**Table 5:- Association between Economic Position and Juvenile Delinquency**

S.No.	Statement	Juvenile Delinquency			Chi squire P=vale
		Yes	No	Don't know	
1.	Poor living style leads towards juvenile delinquency				
	Yes	56(25.2%)	36(16.2%)	16(7.2%)	$X^2=4.694^a$ ( $p=0.320$ )
	No	37(16.7%)	22(9.9%)	8(3.6%)	
	Don't know	19(8.6%)	16(7.2%)	12(5.4%)	
2.	Lower economic conditions have negatively affected the				

	juvenile				
	Yes	66(29.7%)	37(16.7%)	11(5.0%)	$X^2=10.546^a$ (p=0.032)
	No	25(11.3%)	24(10.8%)	17(7.7%)	
	Don't know	21(9.5%)	13(5.9%)	8(3.6%)	
3.	Economic insecurity have led juvenile towards crimes				
	Yes	65(29.3%)	40(18.0%)	13(5.9%)	$X^2=10.231^a$ (p=0.037)
	No	37(16.7%)	19(8.6%)	17(7.7%)	
	Don't know	10(4.5%)	15(6.8%)	6(2.7%)	
4.	Poverty is real cause of child delinquency				
	Yes	65(29.3%)	33(14.9%)	15(6.8%)	$X^2=5.854^a$ (p=0.210)
	No	30(13.5%)	24(10.8%)	15(6.8%)	
	Don't know	17(7.7%)	17(7.7%)	6(2.7%)	
5.	Income disparity in society provokes juvenile delinquency				
	Yes	77(34.7%)	40(18.0%)	24(10.8%)	$X^2=5.240^a$ (p=0.264)
	No	20(9.0%)	23(10.4%)	8(3.6%)	
	Don't know	15(6.8%)	11(5.0%)	4(1.8%)	
6.	Unemployment leads to juvenile delinquency				
	Yes	42(18.9%)	36(16.2%)	22(9.9%)	$X^2=11.773^a$ (p=0.019)
	No	38(17.1%)	26(11.7%)	12(5.4%)	
	Don't know	32(14.4%)	12(5.4%)	2(0.9%)	
7.	Irregular incomes encourages juvenile delinquency				
	Yes	66(29.7%)	35(15.8%)	7(3.2%)	$X^2=19.284^a$ (p=0.001)
	No	27(12.2%)	28(12.6%)	21(9.5%)	
	Don't know	19(8.6%)	11(5.0%)	8(3.6%)	
8.	Poor background produces the urges for delinquency				
	Yes	46(20.7%)	27(12.2%)	22(9.9%)	$X^2=13.173^a$ (p=0.010)
	No	49(22.1%)	36(16.2%)	5(2.3%)	
	Don't know	17(7.7%)	11(5.0%)	9(4.1%)	

9.	Your family income did not meet the family expanses				
	Yes	30(13.5%)	20(9.0%)	17(7.7%)	$X^2=19.633^a$ (p=0.001)
	No	72(32.4%)	33(14.9%)	14(6.3%)	
	Don't know	10(4.5%)	21(9.5%)	5(2.3%)	
10.	You were on job before imprisonment				
	Yes	57(25.7%)	32(14.4%)	17(7.7%)	$X^2=1.050^a$ (p=0.592)
	No	55(24.8%)	42(18.9%)	19(8.6%)	
11.	The greed for high economic status led juvenile towards delinquency				
	Yes	58(26.1%)	25(11.3%)	15(6.8%)	$X^2=12.562^a$ (p=0.014)
	No	32(14.4%)	40(18.0%)	16(7.2%)	
	Don't know	22(9.9%)	9(4.1%)	5(2.3%)	

#### ***Association between Role of Media and Juvenile Delinquency***

Table 6 presents the association of media with juvenile delinquency through application of Chi-square statistical test. The results show a highly significance association between juvenile delinquency and the statement described electronic media significantly influence the juvenile (p= .000), electronic media have power to control people from deviations (p= 0.001), electronic media can rehabilitate juvenile (p= 0.007), violent media have direct impact upon your personality (p= .008), electronic media should be limited (p=0.020) and electronic media reports must be scrutinized (p= 0.023). On the other hand, a non-significant association was found between juvenile delinquency and your parents never stopped you from watching movies (p= .244), electronic media negatively affected the juvenile (p=0.300), you like aggression oriented movies (p=0.863), your ideal actors are violence movies hero (p=0.851), and electronic media is positively playing its role (p= 0.275).

The table reveals that electronic media significantly influenced the juvenile. It had power to control people from deviations, and not only negatively affected the juvenile, but also can rehabilitate the juvenile. The same were the findings of Huesmann and Miller (2004), Sana et al. (2013), Anderson et al. (2006) and Bandura et al. (1963).

**Table 6:-Association between Media and Juvenile Delinquency**

S.No	Statement	Juvenile Delinquency			Chi square P=vaile
		Yes	No	Don't know	
1.	Electronic media negatively affected the juvenile				
	Yes	53(23.9%)	36(16.2%)	24(10.8%)	$X^2=4.877^a$ (p=0.300)
	No	42(18.9%)	28(12.6%)	10(4.5%)	
	Don't know	17(7.7%)	10(4.5%)	2(0.9%)	
2.	Electronic media significantly influenced the juvenile				
	Yes	43(19.4%)	36(16.2%)	10(4.5%)	$X^2=30.141^a$ (p=0.000)
	No	34(15.3%)	31(14.0%)	25(11.3%)	
	Don't know	35(15.8%)	7(3.2%)	1(0.5%)	
3.	Your parents never stopped you from watching movies				
	Yes	64(28.8%)	31(14.0%)	21(9.5%)	$X^2=5.455^a$ (p=0.244)
	No	37(16.7%)	30(13.5%)	11(5.0%)	
	Don't know	11(5.0%)	13(5.9%)	4(1.8%)	
4.	You like aggression oriented movies				
	Yes	59(26.6%)	34(15.3%)	20(9.0%)	$X^2=1.288^a$ (p=0.863)
	No	41(18.5%)	31(14.0%)	13(5.9%)	
	Don't know	12(5.4%)	9(4.1%)	3(1.4%)	
5.	Your ideal actors are/were violence movies heros				
	Yes	65(29.3%)	44(19.8%)	20(9.0%)	$X^2=1.358^a$ (p=0.851)
	No	40(18.0%)	23(10.4%)	14(6.3%)	
	Don't know	7(3.2%)	7(3.2%)	2(0.9%)	
6.	Violent media made direct impact upon your personality				
	Yes	68(30.6%)	25(11.3%)	16(7.2%)	$X^2=13.754^a$ (p=0.008)
	No	34(15.3%)	36(16.2%)	16(7.2%)	
	Don't know	10(4.5%)	13(5.9%)	4(1.8%)	
7.	Electronic media can rehabilitate the juveniles				
	Yes	34(15.3%)	28(12.6%)	20(9.0%)	$X^2=14.119^a$ (p=0.007)
	No	60(27.0%)	29(13.1%)	7(3.2%)	
	Don't know	18(8.1%)	17(7.7%)	9(4.1%)	
8.	Electronic media have power to control people from deviations				
	Yes	63(28.4%)	34(15.3%)	8(3.6%)	$X^2=18.410^a$ (p=0.001)
	No	40(18.0%)	31(14.0%)	17(7.7%)	
	Don't know	9(4.1%)	9(4.1%)	11(5.0%)	
9.	Electronic media is positively playing its role				

	Yes	60(27.0%)	32(14.4%)	13(5.9%)	$X^2=5.122^a$ ( $p=0.275$ )
	No	42(18.9%)	37(16.7%)	20(9.0%)	
	Don't know	10(4.5%)	5(2.3%)	3(1.4%)	
10.	There should be limitations on electronic media				
	Yes	66(29.7%)	32(14.4%)	18(8.1%)	$X^2=11.638^a$ ( $p=0.020$ )
	No	19(8.6%)	29(13.1%)	11(5.0%)	
Don't know	27(12.2%)	13(5.9%)	7(3.2%)		
11.	Electronic media reports must be scrutinized				
	Yes	59(26.6%)	23(10.4%)	15(6.8%)	$X^2=11.367^a$ ( $p=.023$ )
	No	41(18.5%)	35(15.8%)	18(8.1%)	
Don't know	12(5.4%)	16(7.2%)	3(1.4%)		

## CONCLUSIONS

Both economic position and media were found the major determinates of crimes among youth imprisoned in three jails in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The findings report that it was poverty and media that pushed the majority of respondents to offence such as juvenile delinquency. In case of economic position, the tendency of juveniles towards crime was more with families having insufficient income to meet family expanses, lower economic conditions, unemployment and greed for high economic status. Similarly, media especially the television and movies also motivated them towards crimes and they admitted that violent media not only have direct impact upon their personality but also have the power to control the crimes and rehabilitate the criminals. The study recommends that Government should give more attention to reduce the root cause of crimes such as poverty. The crimes in the society can be reduced through targeting poverty and lack of employment opportunities in the country. Electronic media was the also most influencing agent. Emotional videos often lead children to become involved in criminal activities. It is therefore recommended that efforts should be made for enhancing mass literacy for children in particular educational institutions about media use. The producers of programs for televisions have great responsibility in today world. The issues should be taken seriously and best effort should be made to sensitize producers and broadcasters for improving the quality of movies or whatever they are bringing to young generation.

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