

# **Impact of TV Crime Shows on Rob Criminals of District Camp Jail, Lahore: A Critical Analysis of Travis Hirschi's Social Bond Theory**

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## **Abstract**

The present study explores the impact of TV crime shows on rob criminals of District Camp Jail, Lahore and critically analyzes Travis Hirschi's social bond theory in this respect. It attempts to investigate attachment and involvement levels of rob criminals with various social agents and reveals the responsible factor of violent behavior among rob criminals. Survey method was used as tool of investigation and it was found that rob criminals have high level of attachment and involvement with parents, low attachment and high involvement with delinquent peers. Moreover, criminals have low level of attachment and involvement in religion. Exposure to TV crime shows and peers were found main factors of robbery.

## **Keywords**

Crime Shows, Criminal Behavior, Social Agents, Hirschi's Social Bond Theory

## **Introduction**

The violence has become a popular form of entertainment and is cultivated through drama, films, Video games, cartoons and so forth. (Tompkins, 2003; Bryant and Thompson, 2002). The effects of TV violence are pervasive due to its popularity and heavy viewing and it causes aggression among adults and children. Several studies explored causes of criminal behavior that includes poverty and suburbanization (Jargowsky & Park, 2009), resistance by victims in violent situation (Guerette & Santana, 2010), uncaring parenting (Schaffer, Clark & Jeglic, 2009), school characteristics (Wynne & Joo 2011), low self control (Piquero, Schoepfer and Langton, 2010), bad neighborhood, nature of relation with parents and violent peers, (Bell, 2009). Literature also shows positive relation between media and violence and violent media contents were found as a reason of aggressive behavior and provocation of antisocial attitudes among individuals (Paik and Comstock, 1994, and Murray, 2008).

The behavior of a person also depends on parents, religion and peers. Henslin (2006) highlighted the importance of interaction to produce strong social bonds among family members. The adolescents have attachment with parents that has constructive effects and helps to develop life satisfaction among individuals. (Nickerson & Nagle, 2004; Updegraff, et al, 2002; & Devore and Ginsburg, 2005). However, peers have great effects on deviant behavior of individuals. (Meier,

Burkett and Hickman, 1984; Allen et al, 2005; Cleveland & Wiebe, 2003). Moreover, religion plays an important role in behavior formation as Schaefer (2002) stresses religious socialization influence and guide the adults how they organize their lives, moral development and behavior.

Therefore, this study is an endeavor to investigate which factor, either media or any other social agent (parents, religion, peers) is responsible of robbery by studying attachment and involvement level of robbers with various social agents.

## **Objectives**

The study aims to explore level of exposure of rob criminals to TV crime shows, their level of involvement (time & energy) and attachment (sensitivity, interest, affection, respect) with social agents and investigates the most responsible factor of robbery.

## **Limitations**

This study is limited to available respondents so various variable as age, gender, education, psychological conditions and socio economic status of criminals were not considered.

## **Theoretical Framework**

The study applies social learning theory in terms to explain how people learn from observation and social bond theory to explain effects of social bonding on individual's behavior. Social learning emphasizes individual's learning from observation who reenacts observed behavior i.e. '*modeling*'.

Hirschi (1995) viewed power of norms, values and involvement to enforce conventional behavior among individuals, *self-interested human beings*, who get ready to engage in deviant behavior, however, society works as a constraint and if it loses control, self-interested and deviant behavior will emerge (William & McShane, 1994, p. 188). Hirschi argued that the individuals tied to family, school and peers would be less likely to commit anti-social behavior, whereas, individuals who are not bonded to anyone are more likely to commit crime. As Aulakh (2007) asserts that involvement in family, school and peers protect the individual from the criminal behavior (p. 163). So this research examines the bonding of rob criminals with their social groups. Based on Social bond theory study tends to examine following:

RQ1 : Do rob criminals have attachment and involvement with parents?

RQ2 : Do rob criminals have attachment and involvement with religion?

RQ3 : Do rob criminals have attachment and involvement with delinquent peers?

## Research Design

Survey is employed as method of investigation as Wimmer & Dominick (2006) referred, “survey helps to explain why situations exist” (p.147) The rob criminals registered from 2011 to 2013 in the District Camp Jail, Lahore is **population** of study keeping in view the accessibility constraint. **Sample** of 200 respondents were selected by *purposive* technique. **Questionnaire** based interviews were used as instrument to collect data. **Reliability and pre testing of instrument** was tested on 30 filled questionnaires by applying Cronbach's Alpha that reported 81% value, which is considered as a high internal consistency among items. Nunnally (1978) mentioned 70% is a satisfactory scale of reliability (as cited in Santos, 1999)

Table 1: Questionnaire Reliability

Cronbach's Alpha Test	Number of Items	No of Respondents
810	62	30

## Measure of Analysis

*Pearson's Correlation* is applied to test the strength of relationship between exposure to the crime shows and impact on robbers and to test the main factors of robbery, *Exploratory factor analysis (EFA)* is employed.

## Ethical Concerns

The research ensured anonymity, confidentiality, safety and voluntary participation of rob criminals.

## Operationalisation

*Exposure to TV crime shows* incorporates time spent, interest and frequency of watching TV crime shows. *Crime shows* include all the actual and fictional TV crime shows. *violent content* is any tactic of robbery, physical abuse, stunts and any other act which can create threat among audience. *Level of attachment* is operationalized in terms of *Sensitivity*, sympathy and kindness a rob criminal has for his family, delinquent peers and religion, *Interest*, participation in home, outside and religious activities, *Respect*, obeying decisions, and *Affection*, love and care rob criminals have for social agents. *Level of Involvement* is considered as time spent with family home, peers, and in religious practices. *Delinquent peers* are friends involved in antisocial behavior. (Andersen & Taylor, 2006, p. 88). *Rob criminals* are based on Ordinance of Pakistan 1979 which is operationalized as coercion stealing/burglary done by a person against property value of 455 gold of gram (as cited in Aulak & Khan, 2007). Persons having allegation in any sort of robbery in Lahore District Camp jail are considered.

## Hypothesis Testing

**H1:** Exposure to TV violent content of crime shows and attachment with delinquent peers are the main factor of robbery as compared to attachment with other social agents (parents and religion).

Table 2 Explanatory Factor Analysis for Sample Adequacy and Variables Correlation among analyzed factors

Variables Sampling	Adequacy	P - Value	Conclusion
Kaiser Meyer Olkin (KMO)	0.735	.....	Adequate
Bartlette's Test of Sphericity	.....	0.000	Significant
Total Respondents	200	.....	.....

Kaire-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value in the Table 2 indicated that the sample for the test of Explanatory Factor Analysis is adequate (KMO 0.735 > .07). On the other hand, Bartlette's test value illustrated that variables are highly correlated to provide a reasonable ground for explanatory factor analysis ( $p < .05$ ,  $p = .000$ ).

Table 3: Main Factors of Act of Robbery

Items	Variables	Components			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Situations of TV crime shows can apply practically	.725			
2.	Characters seem to real me	.708			
3.	Used to inspired by characters of TV crime shows	.696			
4.	Used to watch TV crime shows	.651			
5.	TV crime shows introduce new methods of robbery	.634			
6.	Used to follow peer suggestions	.613			
7.	Caring for Parents		.732		
8.	Concerned for Parents		.697		
9.	Share my feelings with Parents		.690		
10.	I love my Parents		.633		
11.	Familiar with my religious beliefs and values			.677	
12.	I recite my Holy book			.669	
13.	I follow religious values and beliefs			.624	
14.	Time spend with Peers				.660

Table 3 elaborated the main factors of robbery. The researcher excluded the components less than  $|.60|$ , because the factors loadings less than  $|.60|$  generally considered low. The items one to five have high loadings in each factor. Items one, two, three, four and five intended to reflect the perception of TV crime shows. Even, the items six and 14 under first and fourth components provided the perception of delinquent peers. While in the third component items seven, eight, nine and ten have high loadings which explains that parents are third factor of robbery. Further, religion is the fourth main factor of the robbery. Therefore, **H1** is accepted.

**H2** : Greater the exposure to the TV violent content of crime shows, the greater is impact on the robbers in District Camp Jail, Lahore.

**H2a** : The more robbers watch TV violent content of crime shows, the more characters seemed real to them.

Table : 4 *Correlation for Relationship between Exposure and Characters seemed real*

Variables	Correlation Strength	Sig. 2-tailed	Conclusion
Pearson Correlation	0.783		Strong relationship
P- value		0.000	Significant
Total Respondents	200		

Results of the Correlation test in Table 4 indicated a significant relationship between exposure and characters seemed real to robbers. The Pearson Correlation (r) value also elaborated a strong relationship among both variables,  $r (.783, N=200), p= .000$

**H2b** : The more robbers watch TV violent content of crime shows, the more they think that situations of crime shows can be applied practically.

Table: 5 *Correlation for Relationship between Exposure and Situations of Show can be Applied Practically*

Variables	Correlation Strength	Sig. 2-tailed	Conclusion
Pearson Correlation	0.635		Strong relationship
P- value		0.000	Significant
Total Respondents	200		

Results of the Correlation test in Table 5 indicated a significant relationship between exposure to TV crime shows and perception that situations of show can be applied practically. The Pearson Correlation (r) value also elaborated a strong relationship among both variables,  $r (.635, N=200), p= .000$

**H2c :** The more robbers watch TV violent content of crime shows, the more they learn tactics of robbery.

Table: 6 Correlation for Relationship between Exposure and Learn Tactics of Robbery

Variables	Correlation Strength	Sig. 2-tailed	Conclusion
Pearson Correlation (r)	0.355		Weak relationship
P- value		0.000	Significant
Total Respondents	200		

Results of the Correlation test in Table 7 indicated a significant relationship between exposures to TV crime shows and strengthen the existed beliefs about robbery that determine linear relationship between variables. While the Pearson Correlation (r) value elaborated a weak relationship between variables,  $r (.355, N=200), p= .000$

### Analysis and Discussion

Analyzing attachment and involvement level of criminals with parents, it was found that 49% respondents care, 55.5 % remained concerned, 25.5% share, 71.5% love, and 29 % obey their parents and majority like to spend time at home while 25% never participated in home that shows criminal's high level attachment and involvement with parents. So, It is not necessary that unconventional behavior is only associated with detachment and non involvement with parents that contradict Hirschi's social bond theory.

Exploring religious attachment and involvement levels of criminals, (50.5%) respondents never recite their holy book. (21%) are familiarize with religious values, (85.5%) knew robbery as punishable act, (40%) never participated in religious activities, moreover, (38 %) sometimes follow religious values. While (30.5%) spend less than two hours daily in religious activities. Here findings corresponds Hirschi's causal description of crime as Schaefer (2002) mentioned that religion has an integrative power because it holds a common value.

Investigating delinquent peer attachment and involvement, it was found that majority of the peers never get involved in robbery (68.5%), However, (58 %) respondents never got worried by peer's pain, (58.5 %) never used to participate with peers in outside activities, 54.5% never suggested by peers, 44.5% never felt sympathetic towards peers, 49% never care towards peers, (35.5 %) spend two hours daily. Overall indicators represent detachment of robbers with delinquent peers that contradict Hirschi's causal description of crime that individual's attachment with delinquent peers is the reason of delinquency.

The findings except religion, attachment and involvement with parents, and delinquent peers did not support the Hirschi's explanation of criminality. Even Hirschi's theory is limited for analyzing role of *media as social agent* and this model needs to rebuild. As Jarvis (2007) mentioned that popular culture has been flooded by reality based crime stories, biographies, video games and commodification of violence and is integrated in the popular culture.

## Conclusions

Exploring attachment and Involvement levels of criminals with various social agents, the main responsible factor for act of robbery and impact of TV crime shows on criminals, it is concluded that rob criminals have high level of attachment and involvement with parents, low attachment and high involvement with delinquent peers that is one factor of criminal behavior. The rob criminals were found less aware and detached from religious beliefs even involvement in religious activities was squat. The findings for religious attachment and involvement supported Hirschi's social bond theory that detachment with religion causes criminal behavior while, results for parents and peers attachment and involvement didn't support theory, so Hirschi's model needs to incorporate other responsible factors of criminality along with media. So, exposure to TV crime shows and peers are main while parents and religion are secondary factors of robbery.

It is also concluded that TV crime shows have impact on criminals that amplifies with an increase in exposure. The results are also supported by social learning theory as in reference to 'abstract modeling' in 'observational learning' criminals perceive TV character as real, apply criminal TV situations practically, learn tactics of robbery and their beliefs about robbery are strengthened.

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