

Editorial

An Adventure in Criminology in Pakistan

In this editorial, apart from introducing the articles in the issue, which I do toward the second half, I briefly highlight Fasihuddin's initiative of introducing criminology in Pakistan, which culminated in the establishment of a criminology society and the beginning of this research journal. Borrowing the title of Sir Leon Radzinowicz's book Fasihuddin calls his initiate an "adventure in criminology" in Pakistan (Radzinowicz, 1999). Since the current editors are working hard to redesign and upgrade the journal to HEC's X category, I take the opportunity to throw light on the early efforts of introducing criminology in Pakistan. I want to document these efforts, especially the bureaucratic hurdles, for the purpose of reference for the students of criminology in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Journal of Criminology (PJC) is the only journal so far in the field of criminology in Pakistan. It started in April 2009 when its first print issue was published. However, the idea of starting such a journal had been on the mind of Fasihuddin for several years by then. In 2005 when Fasihuddin went to do a short course offered by United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) and got the opportunity to meet the world famous criminologists, especially Sir Anthony Bottom, Hans Jurgen Kerner, and Irvin Waller, his idea began to materialize. Moreover, during this course he not only developed keen interest in the field of criminology, but also felt the lack of a similar academic and research forum in Pakistan.

At that time Fasihuddin was serving as the District/Commanding Officer Frontier Constabulary in Bannu. The repercussions of the War on Terror across the border in Afghanistan had not yet visibly crept in the tribal areas or the adjacent settled districts. However, there were clear signs that the Taliban and their affiliates were present in both South and North Waziristan. Fasihuddin wrote a number of times to his Commandant, Frontier Constabulary, about these signs and the larger fear of a war soon going to begin on the Pakistani side of the border. He

especially made suggestions to equip the police force by revitalizing the old forts and pickets of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as preemptive defensive measures. However, no concrete measures were taken on his suggestions. Nevertheless, Fasihuddin could see and bring to light the increasing significance of the field of criminology in Pakistan.

In August 2005 Fasihuddin got an opportunity to attend the 14th World Congress of Criminology in the US. Here he meets Chris Eskridge and Lawrence Sherman who further appreciate his idea of a Pakistani society of criminology and encourage him to take concrete steps toward making it. In the morning when the congress began there was a ceremony of carrying flags to the stage. In this ceremony the representatives of different national societies of criminology and others members carried their flags and walked on stage. The ceremony was so impressive that Fasihuddin wished that someone should have carried a Pakistani flag on the stage as well. On the sides of the congress, Fasihuddin talks to Professor Chris Eskridge and explains him the rough plan he had to starting a society of criminology in Pakistan. The latter encourages Fasihuddin to take the initiative. When Fasihuddin asks him how he could begin with the idea, Professor Eskridge tells him to model his new society on the pattern of the ASC. Fasihuddin then searches for a copy of the constitution of the ASC and after finding and reading it begins to prepare a draft constitution for his society.

When the draft constitution was prepared and rest of the deskwork done, the arduous task of getting the society registered with the provincial government began. Because Fasihuddin was a serving police officer, so it was not easy for him to get the society registered without first getting permission from his police department. To add to his difficulty, there did not exist any precedent on the basis of which he could defend his case. This was an original and different case. The bureaucracy suspected Fasihuddin's ambitious step. It took considerable time to explain and convince the bureaucracy on various levels before Fasihuddin could get permission from the concerned departments. After getting the permission Fasihuddin's application in the office of the Director of Directorate of Social Welfare began to move forward. It took almost six months before the lengthy process, which includes police verification of the members of the society and evaluation of the

resources needed for running the society, could be completed and society registered.

But this was not the end of the process. There were two more steps to go: making of a website and registration of the journal. Back then (in 2005 through 2008 when Fasihuddin was working hard on his initiative) there were hardly any website-hosting companies in Peshawar. On the other hand, Fasihuddin had no credit card with international transaction facility on it to purchase a website online. Moreover, website designing was not yet common in Peshawar. Therefore, it proved difficult to purchase a website and design it. However, after the society got registered and a website put together, Fasihuddin wrote back to Prof. Eskridge to share his achievements. Fasihuddin also asked Prof. Eskridge what he should do next. The latter asked Fasihuddin to start a research journal under the society. So Fasihuddin began to work on the journal. He thought it to be the “backbone” of the society, and expected that it would generate local Pakistani literature of criminology.

While the efforts for starting the journal were going on, Fasihuddin came across an article entitled, “The ABC of Criminology in Australia” published in the British Journal of Criminology. In this article the authors discuss how the field of criminology began in Australia. The article helped Fasihuddin to reflect on the difficulties faced in the process of introducing the academic field of criminology in a developed country. He thought that he might also face similar or even graver problems in the process of his own initiative in Pakistan. On the other hand, his reading of criminology literature made him interested in developing a detailed course for graduate level (MSc) students of criminology in Pakistan. His course led to writing a book length manuscript, which he published on his own using the forum of his newly established society (Fasihuddin, 2008).

One of the most difficult, and somewhat shocking, aspects of the bureaucratic process involved in registering the society and the journal was facing the questioning of the identity and security verification team that came to his house. The district police officer of Fasihuddin’s native district wrote on the report, which was eventually prepared, that the applicant (Fasihuddin) was a serving police officer and that his request to start a journal needed proper governmental permission. The verification report thus threw a fresh challenge of getting the cumbersome permission from the higher

offices of the IG and the Secretary Home Department of the provincial government.

The second step was to get the journal registered with the Press and Information Department. Fasihuddin faced similar questions, especially the one why he wanted to step in the field of media while he was a government servant in the police department. Fasihuddin had to once again explain that his journal was an academic and research endeavor, and that his initiative was not like other commercial media: it would not invite advertisements; rather it would be a non-profit community service. However, it took another six months to take the Press and Information Department into confidence, before they gave a certificate of registration. This long bureaucratic procedure, and the involvement of a number of offices, often left Fasihuddin frustrated. However, he did not lose hope and persevered in facing the difficulties. Today the *PJC* is a well-reputed journal in Pakistan and recognized by HEC in Y category.

Now I want to introduce the articles published in this issue. The issue begins with Peter Gottschalk's analytical essay on the evaluation process of misconduct and financial crime in private and public organizations. Gottschalk writes that organizations hire law and audit firms and spend considerable amount of money to know, understand, and stop misconduct and crime. However, he argues that often times it becomes difficult to assess the work of firms due to lack of integrity, objectivity, and accountability. Therefore, he goes on to suggest a number of criteria, which he thinks can help in the process of such internal assessment of the work of firms. Furthermore, he develops a model—maturity model—for internal investigation assessment.

The second essay in the issue deals with the social issue of honor killing. Authors, Sadia Huda and Anila Kamal, focus on the portrayal of honor killing by local electronic media. They argue that while media is quick to bring to spot light cases of honor killing, it does not create enough understanding of the complexities behind this social menace. The authors believe that in order to cope with honor killing we have to first understand and the role and responsibility of media. Carrying out semi-structured interviews and employing grounded theory method the authors conclude that local media does not present the problem of honor killing with

objective and disinterested approach. Rather it sensationalizes the issue.

Third essay by Saira Batool, Rabia Ali and Sadia Mehmood investigates the prevalent tool of corporeal punishment in secondary schools in Rawalpindi and Rawat districts. They carry out a survey of six different school using mix method. They find out that corporeal punishment is often preferred for maintaining classroom discipline as compared to other techniques that require time, patience and skills. On the use of corporeal punishment teachers give a number of reasons: large class size, non academic activities, poor school infrastructure, low availability of teaching tools, and high teaching workloads. On the other hand, students strongly oppose corporeal punishment as viable tool or even ethical. They say that it develops the sense of fear, decreases their motivational level, lowers their confidence in their thoughts, and even causes low self-respect. The authors argue that corporeal punishment has adverse implications for schooling.

The fourth essay by Amber Firdous and Nadia Hafeez take up the critical issue of the poor personality development faced by children of incarcerated women inside Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. They study a group of third mothers who have children living with them. Firdous and Hafeez find out that these children develop fear of the police, learn abusive language, and engage in quarreling with other children and even with mothers. Over time they either develop aggressive behavior or lose confidence. Due to lack of basic facilities for the upbringing and education of children at Adiala jail, these children do not find healthy environment for their safety, health and personality development.

The last essay in the issue by Muhammad Tahir engages in a “socio-ecological analysis” of the social crime of polluting the Karachi port and coastline. He describes that the core issue of coastal pollution in Karachi is the dumping of land-based pollution in the ocean. Much of this pollution comes from industries, which discharge untreated chemical wastes directly into drains, streams, and rivers. This toxic waste slowly makes its way to the ocean. Apart from industrial wastes, a big portion of city’s waste is also dumped in the harbor. Tahir argues that this pollution is partly the result of ignorance and non-enforcement of marine pollution laws

and treats it as a social and environmental crime, which is adversely affecting the ecology of Karachi harbor and coastline.

References:

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