

Role of Family on Juvenile Delinquency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is a massive problem throughout the world. There are so many factors contributing to this evil however, the family institution is the most contributing factor to the phenomena. Although the family institution is the prior informal agent of child socialization due to their negligence most of the children become delinquent. The three prisons of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were the universe of the study for the aforementioned study namely Central Jail Haripur, Central Jail Peshawar, and District Jail Mansehra. A significant association was found between juvenile delinquency with the family that has negatively affected the juveniles, criminal background of children leads to delinquents' acts, Illiterate parenting leaves a flaw in juveniles' socialization and weak attachment between parent and child leads to delinquent behaviour among juveniles. Majority of the parents were on job and due to their negligence, their children were involved in delinquent activities. It is therefore suggested to the family that they should be careful about their children's socialization and give proper time for their children. Government and other organizations also need to launch awareness programs about how to better socialize delinquent children.

Keywords: Juvenile, Delinquency, Prison, Family, and Socialization.

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency cannot be given a proper definition apart from juvenile courts. In 1899 first juvenile court was established in Cook County III. After that different juvenile courts were established in all states of the US and other world countries. There is another name for these juvenile courts as family courts (Colliers, 1987). The age of the criminal is still not defined across the globe which varies from one country to another. Although in this modern era there is no consensus regarding the age of criminal responsibility. One of the lowest ages

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which is seven in Pakistan and it was the first time in 2000 ordinance the juvenile justice system (JJSO) defines that a child is a person whose age is coming under the umbrella of 7 to 18 years at the time of commission will be deal differently as compare other criminals. This relief has been given just for the sake to give a chance for juveniles to reintegrate with society and live a normal citizen life (SPARC, 2003).

According to Malik and Riaz (2010) Pakistan has 90 prisons out of which 41 were established by the British government, further KP has 2 jails, Punjab 32 Sindh has 22 and the remaining jails are in the Province of Baluchistan. In Pakistan, the conditions of juveniles jails are so worse due to limited resources in that sectors. Juvenile jails have very bad conditions due to not enough resources which lead to problematic situations especially space issues which further lead towards health issues. Efforts have been made in some regions to improve its condition like in Karachi trade training is being managed for young prisoners. This was possible due to joint effort with the collaboration with some non-governmental organization between concerned authorities because different NGOs focused to deliver non formal education in the hope that when they came out from jail and then capable to live a normal life (Asia, 2011).

Khan and Aziz (2007) reported four detention centers in Punjab having a population of 150 juvenile prisoners but having no governmental support for school structure. The policy of Praha Likha Punjab which was introduced by the former Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in 2004 has not been applied to these juvenile prisoners. In some places like Sargodha and Muzaffargarh physical condition of juvenile in jails has deteriorated have been kept in the dirtiest places. Authorities presented excuses of lack of funds for building separate blocks for these minor prisoners.

Family institutions playing important role in children's socialization. The family institution can produce a productive member of society but if the family failed to play their role so they affect the child's personality a lot. Moreover, family is considered is the most important factor behind juvenile delinquency. Important factors within the family that cause the development of delinquents include aggressive behaviour, financial conditions, conflicting environment among parents, abuse, minimum counselling (Saleem et al., 2013).

Loeber and Loeber Stout hammer (1986) opined that many research studies have found the association between different family factors and crime. For instance, in most families they are not focusing on their children's socialization so they become involved with a bad peer group, also some juveniles are observing violence in their respective families which badly influences the juvenile mind. Parents are role model for their children but some juvenile parents are drug addicts

due to this their children follow their parents which have bad effects on their children.

A conflictive environment between children and their parents leads to juvenile delinquency. Khalid and Cheema (2004) found in their research study conducted in Faisalabad prison reported that 70 % of juveniles caught on the charges of murder, belonged to such families where they experienced difficult domestic life and their parents had a regular conflict of social and economic nature.

Mahmood and Cheema (2004) also found the same result that class affiliations have a significant association with delinquency, as according to other research findings middle-class children are also more likely to be involved in delinquent activities. The root cause behind this phenomenon includes land dispute, honor killing inferiority complex, large family size, income disparity, and friend's motivation is the main determinant of the juvenile heinous crime. Youth is considered an important asset of any country and society and we can say that the development of any society greatly depends on its youth. Developed countries spend a lot on researches to dig out causes of delinquency and they have been found that broken homes, lack of good relationship between parents and children, and size of the family (Demuth and Brown, 2004); Hoffman and Johnson, 1998; Derzon and Lipsey, 2000).

Jillani, Anees (2003) further discovered that family disorganization, parent's death, parents separation, or divorce is the most important cause that generates delinquents in a given society. Other multiple reasons include large family size, family history of crime, and irregular income also generates criminals in society. Laub and Sampson (2003) suggested that delinquency caused by broken homes can be easily controlled by informal social control. He further discovered that weak attachment between children and parents may cause parents less interest in child-appropriate growth and development and their well-being on other hand children may also have little desire to please their parents

Research Methodology

This study was carried out in 2015 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa three prisons namely Peshawar jail, Haripur, and district jail Maneshra to find out the role of a family in juvenile delinquency. The aforementioned jails were selected due to easy access to juveniles and the sole purpose was to find out the role of a family in juvenile delinquency. At the time of the survey, the total numbers of juveniles were 222 in the aforementioned jails. Up to 18 year age juveniles were the study respondents. For detail of the respondents see Table 1.

Table1. Distribution of the respondents regarding Jail

S.No	Name of Jail	No of Jails
1	Peshawar Jail	80
2	Haripur Jail	102
3	Mansehra Jail	40
4	Total	222

Survey Source: 2015

Table 2: Conceptual Framework

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable
Family factor	Juvenile delinquency

Methods of Data Analysis

A comprehensive interview schedule was designed. In the light of study objectives, it was pre-tested before actual data collection and necessary changes were made based on inputs from the pilot survey. The data was entered into SPSS software to reach inferences, furthermore, the results were reported through frequency and percentage. Moreover, the Chi-Square test and Fisher Exact tests were used to measure the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable were also applied at the bivariate level.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Uni-Variate Analysis

Family factor and Juvenile Delinquency

The family institution has a key role in children's socialization. Table 3 reports that 56.3 % of the sample respondents stated that family has negatively affected the juveniles. However, 23.3 % of the respondents disagreed with the statement. A 43.7 % were agreed yes that their parents were on job. Regarding parents' negligence leads to delinquent acts, 55% of respondents stated agreed with the statement whereas 15.8 % reported no. A 60.4 % reported that the criminal background of children leads to delinquent acts while 27 % stated no. Regarding parents' illiteracy leaving a flaw in juvenile's socialization, 59.9 % were in favour of the statement whereas 27.5 % stated no. A 54.5 % of the respondents agreed to the statement that the large size of family leads to delinquent actions while 31.1 % replied no. Regarding single parents who can't control their kids from delinquent actions, 53.2 % found agree while 37.8 % replied no. A 48.2 % stated yes to the statement that weak attachment between

parent and child leads to delinquent behavior among juveniles whereas 35.1 % of respondents reported no to the statement. A 48.2 % again reported that weak attachment between parent and child leads to delinquent behavior among juveniles while 35.1% replied no. Regarding familial factions leading the children towards delinquencies, 55 % replied yes while 36.5 % reported no to the statement. A 41.4 % again found that improper parental monitoring let the children move towards delinquencies whereas 36 % reported no to the statement. Regarding the Criminal background of parents is a pathway for juvenile delinquencies 45.5 % of the respondents found yes to the statements while 30.2 % were reported no to the aforementioned statement.

The above-mentioned table as a whole divulges that the family had negatively affected the juveniles, where their parents were on job, had a criminal background and the large size of a family led to delinquent actions.

The result has similar findings as by Mahmood and Cheema (2004) who reported that those juveniles who have a large family size, low living standard, fewer facilities are much more likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

Table 3 :- Role of Family and Juvenile Delinquency

S.No	Statement	Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Family have negatively affected the juveniles	125(56.3)	53(23.3)	44(19.8)
2	Your parents were on job	71(32.0)	97(43.7)	54(24.3)
3	Parents negligence leads to delinquent acts	122(55.0)	35(15.8)	65(29.3)
4	Criminal background of children leads to delinquents acts	134(60.4)	60(27.0)	28(12.6)
5	Illiterate parenting leaves a flaw in juveniles socialization	133(59.9)	61(27.5)	28(12.6)
6	Large size of family leads to delinquent	121(54.5)	69(31.1)	32(14.4)

actions					
7	Single parents can't control their kids from delinquent actions	118(53.2)	84(37.8)	20(9.0)	
8	weak attachment between parent and child leads to delinquent behavior among juveniles	107(48.2)	78(35.1)	37(16.7)	
9	Familial fictions lead the children towards delinquencies	122(55.0)	81(36.5)	19(8.6)	
10	Improper parental monitoring let the children move towards delinquencies	92(41.4)	80(36.0)	50(22.5)	
11	The criminal background of parents is a pathway for juvenile delinquencies	101(45.5)	67(30.2)	54(24.3)	

Survey Source -2015

Bi-variate Analysis

Association between Family and Juvenile Delinquency

Those statements found significantly associated included family has negatively affected the juveniles ($p = .000$), your parents were on job ($p = .006$), criminal background of children leads to delinquents acts ($p = .001$), illiterate parenting leaves a flaw in juveniles socialization ($p = .000$), single parents can't control their kids from delinquent actions ($p = .045$), weak attachment between parent and child leads to delinquent behavior among juveniles ($p = .006$). Contrary to the above non-significant association was found between parents negligence leads to delinquent acts ($p = .077$), the large size of family leads to delinquent actions ($p = .791$), familial fictions lead the children towards delinquencies ($p = .692$), improper parental monitoring let the children move towards

delinquencies ($p=.701$), and criminal background of parents is a pathway for juvenile delinquencies ($p=.412$) with the dependent variable juvenile delinquency.

From the above table, it was concluded that the family had negatively affected the juveniles, as the tendency towards crimes was found more among juveniles who have a criminal background, as illiterate parents left a flaw in juvenile's socialization because of weak attachment between parent and child.

The results are supported by the findings of Jillani and Anees (2003) who reported that the weak attachment of parents with their children leads them juvenile delinquency. Moreover, Loeber Stout hammer (1986) stated that the criminal background of children leads them to delinquency.

Table:- 4 Association between Family and Juvenile Delinquency

S.No	Statement	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY			Chi square P=vale
		Yes	No	Don't know	
1.	The family have negatively affected the juveniles				$X^2 = 24.446^a$ ($p=0.000$)
	Yes	46(20.7%)	50(22.5%)	29(13.1%)	
	No	35(15.8%)	12(5.4%)	6(2.7%)	
	Don't know	31(14.0%)	12(5.4%)	1(0.5%)	
2.	Your parents were on job				$X^2 = 14.560^a$ ($p=0.006$)
	Yes	45(20.3%)	17(7.7%)	9(4.1%)	
	No	49(22.1%)	29(13.1%)	19(8.6%)	
	Don't know	18(8.1%)	28(12.6%)	8(3.6%)	
3.	Parents negligence leads to delinquent acts				$X^2 = 8.442^a$ ($p=0.077$)
	Yes	65(29.3%)	40(18.0%)	17(7.7%)	
	No	20(9.0%)	13(5.9%)	2(0.9%)	
	Don't know	27(12.2%)	21(9.5%)	17(7.7%)	
4.	The criminal background of children leads to delinquent acts				$X^2 = 18.865^a$ ($p=0.001$)
	Yes	79(35.6%)	41(18.5%)	14(6.3%)	
	No	21(9.5%)	27(12.2%)	12(5.4%)	
	Don't know	12(5.4%)	6(2.7%)	10(4.5%)	
5.	Illiterate parenting leaves a flaw in juveniles socialization				$X^2 = 20.468^a$
	Yes	74(33.3%)	46(20.7%)	13(5.9%)	

	No	20(9.0%)	21(9.5%)	20(9.0%)	(p=0.000)
	Don't know	18(8.1%)	7(3.2%)	3(1.4%)	
6.	The large size of a family leads to delinquent actions				
	Yes	63(28.4%)	40(18.0%)	18(8.1%)	$X^2=1.701^a$
	No	41(18.5%)	28(12.6%)	13(5.9%)	(p=.791)
	Don't know	8(3.6%)	6(2.7%)	5(2.3%)	
7.	Single parents can't control their kids from delinquent actions				
	Yes	56(25.2%)	42(18.9%)	20(9.0%)	$X^2=9.716^a$
	No	50(22.5%)	25(11.3%)	9(4.1%)	(p=.045)
	Don't know	6(2.7%)	7(3.2%)	7(3.2%)	
8.	weak attachment between parent and child leads to delinquent behavior among juveniles				
	Yes	55(24.8%)	27(12.2%)	25(11.3%)	$X^2=14.449^a$
	No	34(15.3%)	34(15.3%)	10(4.5%)	(p=0.006)
	Don't know	23(10.4%)	13(5.9%)	1(0.5%)	
9.	Familial fictions lead the children towards delinquencies				
	Yes	64(52.5%)	36(29.5%)	22(18.0%)	$X^2=2.240^a$
	No	38(17.1%)	31(41.0%)	12(5.4%)	(p=.692)
	Don't know	10(4.5%)	7(3.2%)	2(0.9%)	
10.	Improper parental monitoring let the children move towards delinquencies				
	Yes	50(22.5%)	29(13.1%)	13(5.9%)	$X^2=2.192^a$
	No	39(17.6%)	29(13.1%)	12(5.4%)	(p=.701)
	Don't know	23(10.4%)	16(7.2%)	11(5.0%)	
11.	The criminal background of parents is a pathway for juvenile delinquencies				
	Yes	56(25.2%)	27(12.2%)	18(8.1%)	$X^2=3.959^a$
	No	31(14.0%)	25(11.3%)	11(5.0%)	(p=.412)
	Don't know	25(11.3%)	22(9.9%)	7(3.2%)	

Conclusions

Though Family institutions play a vital role in children's socialization, however, based on the aforementioned study the family factor was found a causative factor for juvenile delinquents in all three Jails in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The finding reports that it was the family that affects the Juveniles negatively. Similarly, the majority of the parents were on job and due to their negligence, their children were involved in delinquent activities. Moreover, Illiterate parent leaves a flaw in juveniles' socialization. Family is the first and foremost agent of socialization. Family injects norms and values into a child's mind. It is therefore suggested to the family that they should be careful about their children's socialization and give proper time for their children. Government and other organizations also need to launch awareness programs about how to better socialize delinquent children.

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