

Short Communication

Social Environment and Its Relationship with Juvenile Crimes in Punjab: A Case Study in Borstal Jail Faisalabad (Pakistan)

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to a) investigate the characteristics of juvenile offenders, b) analyze various factors causing law violations, c) suggest various rehabilitation patterns for young offenders, and d) suggest some policy measures for the reduction of juvenile delinquency. The universe for the present study consisted of the juveniles who committed crimes in the Borstal Institute and Juvenile Jail, Faisalabad. There were 105 convicted juveniles prisoners in the jail. The study of whole universe was expensive and time consuming. Therefore, for convenience, only 35 cases were selected. The selection of the sample was made entirely on the basis of their area of origin. Its main purpose was only to find out the different causes as these may vary area to area. There were 105 convicted juvenile prisoners in Borstal Institute and Juvenile Jail Faisalabad. Out of which 35 were interviewed. The researcher only interviewed those prisoners who were convicted by the court. Researcher did not consider those who were still under the judicial trial or still undecided.

Key Words: Social; Environment; Juvenile; Crimes.

INTRODUCTION

The word "crime" has been used so frequently and heard so often that it is taken for granted that every one means the same thing when he uses the term yet definitions of crime differ. In technical usage a crime is any "violation of law" To the administration of justice and to lawyers "A crime is illegal act". Some social scientists tend to equate the term "crime with all behavior that is injurious to society" others view crimes on those acts that deviate greatly from the accepted norms of the society. Religious people regard crime as belonging to the same genre as sin.

Common sense tells us not to expect perfection of children or adults, but neither does it assent to routine acceptance of human imperfection. Rural juvenile delinquency in Pakistan is attributed to illiteracy, poverty, water theft, factions and feuds, land disputes, terrorism, child trafficking, extortion, money grab. The juvenile delinquency in big cities of Pakistan include trial under murder, attempt murder, hurt, dacoity, robbery, burglary, drugs and motor vehicle thefts, in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta (Aulakh, 1999). In Pakistan, it is only recently that the authorities have started thinking seriously about scientific and systematic studies on crime, its causation, prevention and control. So far very little scientific work has been done on crime in general and juvenile delinquency in particular in our society. Even today little attention is being paid by the law enforcing agencies to the growing menace and threat of juvenile delinquency in our urban centers. It is believed that

a big percentage of total violation of law by youthful offenders is either not reported to police or escapes its attention. Police records fail to provide enough data required for scientific analysis of the problem by the sociologists/criminologists. The dearth of scientific literature on crime, especially juvenile delinquency in Pakistan can mainly attributed to the lack of relevant data and funds for research. This study was, therefore, carried out to a) investigate the characteristics of juvenile offenders, b) analyze various factors causing law violations, c) suggest various rehabilitation patterns for young offenders, and d) suggest some policy measures for the reduction of juvenile delinquency.

METHODOLOGY

The universe for the present study consisted of the juveniles who committed crimes in the Borstal Institute and Juvenile Jail, Faisalabad. There were 105 convicted juveniles prisoners in the jail, of which 35 convicted were interviewed. The selection of the sample was made entirely on the basis of their area of origin. For the purpose of data collection a well structured interviewing schedule was used. The collected information was analyzed by using appropriate statistical techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age is the major indicator of social behaviour. Attitude of the individuals changes with passage of time. A

huge majority (74.3%) of the respondents was in the age category of 16-18 years (Table I). Illiteracy or less education is always considered as the cause of almost all criminals' activities. More than half of the respondents were educated only up to primary level (Table I). It was found that 31.5% of the respondents were students, 20% were labourer, 22.8% were attached with business, 14.3% of the respondents were private job holder and 11.4% were those who had no occupation and they spent their time in wandering aimlessly (Table I).

The personality traits of respondents are given in Table II., which reflects that emotional and fiery nature was main cause of their crime committing. Surrounding environment affects the habits and nature of person. The results also indicate the role of relation of respondents with the law violators (Table III).

It is evident from the results (Table IV) that more than half of the respondents 54.3% committed crimes on their own behalf. On one was there to motivate them. A considerable percentage of respondents (25.7%) were those whose friends compelled them into criminal field; 17.1% of respondents were motivated by their relatives to commit crimes; whereas, 2.9% of the respondents were those who did criminal activity on the urge of their parents. It was found that majority (71.4%) of the respondent's fathers attitude was loving, 14.3% of the respondent's fathers attitude was ignoring with their families; 11.4% of the respondents fathers behavior was harsh while 2.9% of the respondents fathers had died. These results reveal that much loving attitude of fathers is bad for their children. Likewise, majority (94.3%) of the respondent's mothers attitude was loving with their family members while 5.7% of the respondent's mothers had died.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Social justice system should be strong and speedy.
2. Economic programs (Professional development programs) aim at development of legal ways of income acquisition. An increase in economic opportunities for adolescents and youth, professional education, new workplaces, assistance in the organization of business can prevent youth involvement in delinquent activities.
3. Education programs help young people form positive self-appraisal, learn how to deal with the conflicts, control the aggression. Such programs uncrown the glamour of gangs and help young people find alternatives to illegal ways of behavior. Another set of programs aims to develop in troubled youth the social and cognitive skills necessary to avoid conflict and control aggression. Children rose in strong families, quality schools and healthy communities typically develop these skills as a matter of course.
4. Recreational and youth developmental activities. A wide range of recreational facilities and services of particular interest to young persons should be established and made easily accessible to them.

Table I. Percentage Distribution of the respondents according to their age, education, income and occupation

Age	Frequency	Percentage
10- 12	1	2.8
13-15	5	14.3
16-18	26	74.3
19-21	3	8.6
Total	35	100.0
Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	8	22.8
Primary	18	51.5
Middle +	9	25.7
Total	35	100.0
Income	Frequency	Percentage
2500- 5000	9	25.7
5001- 7500	7	20.0
7501- 10000	12	34.3
10001 +	7	20.0
Total	35	100.0
Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Student	11	31.5
Laborer	7	20.0
Business	8	22.8
Private job	5	14.3
Any other	4	11.4
Total	35	100.0

Table II. Percentage distribution of the respondent according to their personality trait

Personality trait	Frequency	Percentage
Un-pressed	11	31.4
Emotional	18	51.4
Sensitive	6	17.2
Total	35	100.0

Table III. Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their relation with law violators

Relation with criminals	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	19	54.3
No	16	45.7
Total	35	100.0

Table IV. Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their motivation towards crime

Motivation source	Frequency	Percentage
Friends	9	25.7
Parents	1	2.9
Relatives	6	17.1
Any other (self motivated)	19	54.3
Total	35	100.0

REFERENCE

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