

A STUDY OF JUVENILE CRIMES IN BORSTAL JAIL, FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN

A. Shamim, Z. Batool, M. I. Zafar and N. Hashmi*

Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad Pakistan.

*Department of Statistics, G.C .University Faisalabad.

ABSTRACT

Juvenile crimes is a popular issue of social research. Juvenile crimes slow down the development of a society. The present research aimed at exploring the socio-economic factors of juvenile crime. A sample of 90 juveniles was selected in Borstal Jail Faisalabad through random sampling technique. Study found that majority of the respondents was illiterate and belonged to the age group 16-18 years. Most of them belonged to low income group. This study concluded that poverty and low economic status promotes the rate of juvenile crimes.

Key words: Juvenile crimes, socio-economic factors, attitude towards crime.

INTRODUCTION

Crimes remained always a major problem for society. Crimes violate sacred customs, laws and values. Crimes interrupt the smooth operation of the social and political orders. The cited factors responsible for juvenile delinquency are: broken home, delinquent community environment, bad company of peer/school group, slums with criminal neighborhood, poverty, and unemployment. The rising trend of big crimes and juvenile delinquency amongst youth leads them to arrest by police (Aoulakh, 1999). Children from the poor and working class backgrounds are much more likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

Juvenile reforms such as Child-Saving Movement focused their attentions on urban poor and working-class youths. The experts argued that class background was a significant explanatory variable for delinquent propensities. However, to some resources, delinquency is also quite common among middle class youth. The land dispute, honor killing inferiority complex, large family size, income disparity and friend's motivation are the main determinants of the juvenile heinous crime (Mahmood and Cheema, 2004). It has been shown that children exposed to risk factors such as behavioral problems and family dysfunction, follow a well described and documented path beginning with behavioral manifestations and reactions such as defiance of adults, lack of school readiness and aggression towards peers. This leads to negative short term outcomes including truancy, peer and teacher rejection, low academic achievements, and early involvement in drugs and alcohol. These factors lead to causes school failure and eventual dropout, leading to negative and destructive attitudes such as delinquency, adult criminality and violence (Robert, 2002).

The present study targeted to identify the factors of juvenile crimes within the socio-economic framework

of the society and to present policy measure to reduce the prevalence of juvenile crimes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Borstal Jail Faisalabad was selected as universe for this study. A list of prisoner juvenile delinquents were got from the jail authority. A sample of 90 out of 162 juvenile delinquents was selected randomly. The data was collected with the help of a well designed interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The affect of various independent variables is given as under:

Majority of respondents (70 percent) belong to the age group 16-18 years, 21.1 percent of respondents were in the age of 13-15 years and remaining 8.9 percent of the respondents were in the age of 10-12 years. The study indicates that most of them belonged to age 16-18 years age group. David *et al.*, (1986) reported that children were involving in crimes, at the younger ages (15-18). Study found that 48.9 percent of respondents were illiterate, 16.7 percent of respondents got primary education, 17.8 percent of respondents had middle level of education. Only 16.7 percent of respondents got education up to metric or above. The table shows that 37.8 percent of respondents were students, 23.3 percent of respondents were laborer and 10.0 percent do their own business while 12.2 percent responds were private job holders and 10.0 percent were agriculturists. Only 1 respondent were a gang member and 5.6 percent of respondents were jobless. Low income is a major determinant of respondent's criminal behavior (Donnermeyer, 1982). The above table shows that 24.4 percent of the respondents had family monthly income between the range of 2500 to 5000, 13.3 percent had

between Rs. 5001 to 75000 and 18.9 percent had Rs. 7501 to 10000 while 43.3 percent of respondents had monthly income Rs. 10001 and above.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their age, education, respondent's occupation and family income.

Age groups(years)	Frequency	Percentage
10-12	8	8.9
13-15	19	21.1
16-18	63	70.0
Total	90	100.0
Education		
Illiterate	44	48.9
Primary	15	16.7
Middle	16	17.8
Matric & above	15	16.7
Total	90	100.0
Respondent's occupation		
Student	34	37.8
Laborer	21	23.3
Business	9	10.0
Private Job	11	12.2
Agriculture	9	10.0
Gang member	1	1.1
Nothing	5	5.6
Total	90	100.0
Family income (per month)		
2500-5000	22	24.4
5001-7500	12	13.3
7501-10000	17	18.9
10001 +	39	43.3
Total	90	100.0

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their residential location, family type and family size.

Residential Location	Frequency	Percentage
Rural	55	61.1
Urban	35	38.9
Total	90	100.0
Family type		
Joint	39	43.3
Nuclear	51	56.7
Total	90	100.0
Family size		
3-5	12	13.3
6-8	40	44.4
9-11	24	26.7
12 +	14	15.5
Total	90	100.0

Residential location refers the location (rural/urban) in which the respondent was living. As depicted in Table 2, 61.1 percent of the respondents

belonged to rural areas and other 38.9 percent belonged to urban areas of Punjab. The family type was categorized in to nuclear and joint family. Majority of the respondents were belonged to nuclear family structure (56.7%), while 43.3 percent of the respondents belonged to joint family system. Family size refers to the total number of persons living in a family. Table indicates that 13.3 percent of respondents had 3-5 members in their families. 44.4 percent had 6-8 family members, 26.7 percent had 9-11 members and 12.2 percent of respondents had large family size (12 members or above).

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their father's occupation, mother's occupation and problems which were being faced by their families

Father's Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	36	40.0
Govt. Job	10	11.1
Private Job	10	11.1
Business	19	21.3
Laborer	10	11.1
No job	5	5.5
Total	90	100.0
Mother's occupation		
House hold lady	84	93.3
Working lady	6	6.7
Total	90	100.0
Problems faced by their family		
Financial problems	38	42.2
Father, Mother conflict	3	3.3
Family dispute	28	31.1
No problem	21	23.3
Total	90	100.0

Majority (40.0%) of the respondent' fathers' occupation was agriculture, 11.1 percent government job holders, private job holders were 11.1 percent. 21.3 percent of respondents fathers do their own business and 11.1 percent were laborer only 5.5 percent did not do any job because some of them were dead and few were jobless for any reason. A vast majority (93.3%) of the respondents' mothers was house wives, and 6.7 percent were working ladies. These data show that 42.2 percent of respondents were facing financial problems, 3.3 percent had mother-father conflicts, 31.1 percent answered that they had family disputes and 23.3 percent of respondents reported that they faced no problem in their families.

As shown in table 3, 41.1 percent of respondents committed murder, 4.4 percent of respondents was involved in illicit sexual activities, 5.6 percent of respondents were convicted due to use of drugs, 13.3 percent of respondents were engaged in dacoity, 7.8

percent of respondents committed crime of robbery and 6.7 percent of respondent attempted murder.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to the crimes committed by them, feelings before committing crime and the feelings after committing crime

Committed Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Murder	37	41.1
Illicit sexual activity	4	4.4
Narcotics	5	5.6
Dacoity	12	13.3
Robbery	7	7.8
Murder attempt	6	6.7
Violence	13	14.4
Kidnapping	4	4.4
Fraud	2	2.2
Total	90	100.0
Feelings before committing crime		
Excited	32	35.6
Nervous	29	32.2
Curious	10	11.1
Provoked	9	10.0
Angry	10	11.1
Total	90	100.0
Feelings after committing crime		
Felt guilty	39	43.3
Satisfied	30	33.3
Embarrassed	14	15.6
Worried	6	6.7
Anger	1	1.1
Total	90	100.0

Majority of respondents (35.6%) answered that they were excited before committed crime, 32.2 percent were nervous and 11.1 said that they were curious before committing crime (Table 3). Ten percent of them reported that they were provoked and percent answered that they were in great anger when they were going to commit that crime.

As depicted in Table 3, that 43.3 percent of respondents felt guilty for committing their crime, 33.3 percent said that they were satisfied after committing crime and were not shamed for their act, 15.6 percent of them answered that they were embarrassed after commit crime, 6.7 were worried and 1.1 percent were angry.

Conclusion: The findings of the study leads to conclude:

- i. The adolescents of age 16-18 years are more probable to commit crimes as compared to those with younger ages.
- ii. Illiteracy is a major cause of juvenile crimes.
- iii. An adolescent living in the rural set up is at higher risk to involve in crimes as compared to urban counterpart.
- iv. It is concluded that majority of the respondents belonged to the families with lowest and highest economic statuses.
- v. The young living the joint family system is less likely to involve in juvenile crimes as compared to those living in nuclear type of family.
- vi. 'Mother work' promotes positive attitude in children.

This study recommends to raise the educational levels of citizens, specially in rural areas.

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