

Socio-economic Factors of delinquent behavior among juveniles in Baluchistan, Pakistan

**Manzoor Ahmed¹,
Mohammad Yousuf Barech²,
Dr. Ghulam Farooq³,**

Abstract:

Juvenile delinquency is the most dominant social problems among all other social problems. Socio-economic conditions of family play an important role in the increasing and decreasing rate of juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquent is a person whose age is less than 18 years on the commission of an offence. The main aim of this article is to analyze the socio-economic conditions of juvenile offenders and to analyze the social factors contributing to delinquent behavior among juveniles. The study is quantitative in nature, while it has strictly been conducted in the 3 main prisons (Mach, Quetta and Loralai) of Balochistan. The results of the study revealed that 32.5% of respondents has committed a crime in the age of 16 years. Furthermore, the results said that 77% of respondents agreed that poor economic conditions of family is the cause of juvenile delinquency. A large number of respondents said that parental neglect is the leading cause of juvenile delinquency. The article suggest to the policy makers that the elevation of poverty and strict laws related to family planning could resolve the issue of juvenile delinquency.

Key words: Juvenile delinquency; Juvenile courts; Social factors; Economic factors; Balochistan:

Introduction; In 21st century beside other social problems, juvenile delinquency is the most harmful social problem. Our youth badly affected

¹ M Phil scholar (Social Work) Baluchistan Study Center, University of Balochistan. Email: kakarahmed0340@gmail.com

² Lecturer, Department of Social Work, University of Balochistan, Quetta. Email: usuf.barech@gmail.com

³ Assistant Professor, Balochistan Study Centre, University of Balochistan, Quetta

in this issue. Youth is believed to be the future of a nation while juvenile delinquency as a social problem has already threatened it. This term is more complex and complicated to deliberate upon. According to UNCRC in 1989 in their draft for children defined Child or Juvenile as any human being under the age of 18 (Singh M., 2006). Pakistan also adopted the age of a juvenile as the age according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child UNCRC, as any human being under the age of 18 is child. The word delinquency has been derived from Latin word “*delinquer*” which means omit. Romans used this term to refer to the failure of person to perform the assigned task or duty; it was William Cox-son in 1484 who used delinquent to describe a person found guilty of customary offence (Singh M., 2006). “Juvenile deviancy refers to a large variety of disapproved behavior of teenage and adolescents whom the society does not approved of, and for which some kind of punishment or corrective measure is justified in the public interest”. “Certain acts such as-begging, truancy, vagrancy, stealing, hijacking, kidnapping, drinking and gambling etc. are included within the meaning of the term juvenile delinquency” (Paranjape N. V., 1998). Amadioha (2010) stated that “juvenile delinquency refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling, by depriving them of opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school permanently or requiring them to combine school attendance with excessive, long and heavy workload. United Nation has defined juvenile delinquency as any act, which is committed by any individual who is under the age of 21, which is not according to the law of society, and which violate codified law of any country.

Literature Review:

Concepts related to juvenile delinquency:

Juvenile court:

Juvenile courts are also defined in the meaning of children’s court that specially delivered the cases and issues of delinquency, negligence and maltreated children. These special courts bring about the government role as a substitute parent, in case if there is no juvenile court in the country, then other courts accomplish the need of juvenile courts (Goldson & Muncie, 2012). These special courts trial the cases of those juveniles under

the age of 18 or according to the law of specific country. Juvenile courts in Pakistan are established under section 4 of the constitution of the republic of Pakistan.

Juvenile courts proceed two fundamental types of cases such as “civil matters, usually concerning care of an abandoned child or one whose parents can’t support him and criminal matters arising from antisocial behavior by the child or a juvenile”.

Juvenile justice system:

A juvenile justice system is the combination of criminal legal system, which treats with the offences committed by children, typically between the age group of 10 to 18. This limitation of age varies from country to country and set by each state of juvenile justice system. Juvenile offence is any type of crime that is taken by child/adult, which is typically a juvenile (Spannhake, 2018).

Borstal house;

“Borstal Institution” is an institution where a minor criminal has kept to educate and trained for their mental, moral and psychological development (JJSO, 2000).

Juvenile delinquency in Western countries:

Data are available for some of the countries of Western Europe, in which arrests of juvenile delinquents and under-age offenders increased by an average of around 50% between the mid1980s and the late 1990s. Report on child and juvenile delinquency stated that the rate of violent crimes committed by juveniles doubled from 7 % to 15 % in 1990 (Pfeiffer, 1997). The countries in transition have also witnessed a dramatic rise in delinquency rates; since 1995, juvenile crime levels in many countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States have increased by more than 30 percent (World Youth Report, 2003). According to Bendit R. et al (2000) those children whose age is b/w 15 to 25 commit more than half of offences and crimes. Secondary data further revealed that the condition of European states are not so disturbing as same the condition of USA. According to a report conducted by Chaudhary I.A. stated as cited by “Turkish scholar Nephhan Saran’s observation, that during 1956-68, in Istanbul, burglary, violence, sexual offences, smuggling and pick pocketing were the most prevalent crimes and these delinquency was

concentrated in the age group of 16 to 18 years” (Chaudhary I. A., Aug. 2016). Bendit R. et al (2000, pp. 37) stated in his report written for Germany and the Netherland that social workers of the municipal youth office recorded the reports of juvenile involved in, were 2513 cases in 1995 and 2496 cases in 1996. He further explained in the same report that the general social services have reported the cases of 405 juvenile offenders in 1988 and 601 in 1996.

The number of children in especially difficult circumstances is estimated to have increased from 80 million to 150 million between 1992 and 2000. Destitute children are certainly a problem in India, but juvenile delinquency has yet to reach the proportions it has in other countries (Dasgupta & Jayshree, 1981). The tenure of juvenile deviancy varied in India. “The states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were largely affected by juvenile delinquency in 1996. That time theft and burglary constituted 39.6% of total IPC crimes. Juvenile murder showed significant increase in Madhya Pradesh”. In New Delhi very huge amount of crimes committed by juveniles in 1996, however, the total number of crimes has reduced in the state of Delhi. Apart from this, Tamil Nadu faced high percentage of crimes under local and special law in the tenure of two years such as 1995-96 (Paranjape, 1998). Tesfay S. Z. (May, 2016) in his thesis work for master of social work described that deviancy is not only a serious issue but it is expanding day by day as compare with the adult crimes. Tesfay written in his thesis that in the tenure of 10 months between 1993 to 1994 there were 143 and 169 recorded cases in the state of India respectively. In these recorded cases juveniles between 16 to 18 years of age group committed 11.3% as the majority of crimes (Tefay, 2016). In recent years, the issue of mal-adjusted children became too much problematic in Bangladesh that influence our social life negatively. However, this issue is not only caused by individual factors but also our existing social system, ways of life (culture), and the unequal distribution of wealth is responsible. “Daily Naya Digonta” issued a paper on minor criminal in Bangladesh on 27 October 2004. The paper shed light on the situation of children that they participate in illegal activities. These juveniles participate in “theft, pick-pocketing, murder, arms and bomb caring, drug supply” etc. The reason behind this illegal activities are lack

parental supervision, poverty and the high profile criminals particularly utilize their (juvenile) weaknesses of poverty (Naya digonto, 2004).

Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan:

The situation of delinquency in Pakistan commenced as a result of social discrimination, differences on the basis of class such as upper, middle and lower classes, various shapes of development in rural and urban societies, lack of employment and under-employment, illiteracy and lack of parental and school supervision to child (Talpur & Shah, 2011). The Daily Times published a report of the Society for the Protection of the Rights of Child SPARC written by Rafique A. (Sep. 2017) that overall 1500 to 2000 juveniles are imprisoned in the various prisons of Pakistan, but under-trial figures of juvenile criminals are not included. The report said that there are only two borstal houses for the imprisonment of children in Punjab, which are insufficient for juvenile deviants. According to National Human Development Program report launched by UNDP (May, 2018) that Pakistan is the world youngest country which has the 29 to 30% population of youngsters from the age group between 15 to 29 years. Gul S. stated as cited by Daily Times “as per World Justice Project Pakistan is placed 5th out of 6 countries in the region and 106th out of 113 countries and jurisdiction worldwide” (Gul S. Aug. 2017). The report said that there are only two ‘borstal’ houses for the imprisonment of children in Punjab, which are insufficient for juvenile deviants. A report further explained that till the end of 2012, there are 815 juveniles imprisoned in various prisons and borstal houses of the Punjab, in Sindh 303 juveniles and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 233 juveniles are imprisoned in various prisons of the provinces (Talpur et al, 2012). The situation of juvenile delinquency in Baluchistan is in its alarming state. that there is no borstal house for juveniles in the province everywhere. Shujaat Q. compiled a report and said that in various jails of Balochistan 107 juveniles, 49 juvenile offenders in Mach jail were imprisoned under harsh conditions of the violation of human rights and the violation of JJSO 2000 and JJSA 2018 (Shujaat, 2015). According to The Nation Newspaper 70, underage juveniles arrested in Quetta central Jail separate from other criminals (Ramzan J. 20 Nov. 2016).

Factors contributing to Juvenile delinquency:

There is a stream of various researchers who explored the factors that affect juvenile delinquency in the world. Kohen (1955) said that sometimes juveniles made their own sub-culture due to which they make their-self according to their culture and commit crimes, so peer pressure is the leading factor in this culture. It is said that some children belong to lower classes in society, when they enter into this culture and they acknowledge that it is generally wrong, but they do as they valued this negative society's trait (Miller W. B., 1958). Ren & Hangowel 2016 stated that deviant sub-culture has been highlighted in most of the studies in United States where the youngsters adopt a new area of attitude, values and norms. Cloward and Ohlin (1960) in his report 'Delinquency and Opportunities' pointed out that some children involved in criminal activities because of getting life changing opportunities through illegal way in their own environment. With the passage of time they became hooligan and street brawlers. Another study conducted by Ombato and Onyango (2013) shed light that poverty & absence of quality of education are the societal factors that affect youth deviancy.

The World Youth Report of the United Nations Organization for the global situations of juveniles in his 2004 publication claimed that now a days overall young people are better off than that of previous generations. However, also in today's generations some youth are facing because of lack of education, poverty, health vulnerability, unemployment and the greater impacts of conflict.

Hawkins's five most responsible factors that destroy the future of youth:

Hawkins et al (1998) reported that there are five factors most responsible for youth unrest-ness and crime.

Individual factors; Internalizing disorder, worrying and anxiety, nervousness/withdrawal. Aggressiveness, early initiation of violence and delinquency. Other antisocial behavior, attitude and belief.

Family factors: Poor family management practices, parent child involvement and interaction. Parental criminality, child maltreatment, family bonding. Family attitude favorable to violence, residential mobility.

Stressful family event, separation from family and broken families are some of the factors.

School factors; High rate of delinquency in school, truancy and dropping out of school. Academic failure, school transition, low bonding at school. Occupation aspiration/preferences and our syllabus are some of the factors related to school in the accordance to juvenile delinquency.

Peer related factors; Delinquent peers, gang membership and delinquent siblings.

Community and neighborhood factors; Availability of drugs, neighborhood adults involved in crimes. Community disorganization, low neighborhood attachment, exposure to violence. Exposure to racial prejudiced, community consequences for violence and poverty are some factors that strongly contribute to child delinquency.

Objectives of the study;

To analyze the socio-economic conditions and social factors contributing to delinquent behavior among juveniles.

Methodology:

This article is based on quantitative data, while conducted research on juvenile offenders of the Balochistan. The overall respondents of this study is those children (male) who are under the age of 18 years and committed acts against the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In the various prisons of the Balochistan, only three prisons were selected, such as Central Jail Quetta, Mach Jail Quetta and the Jail of Lorelai. The total number of respondents for this study are 40 juvenile offenders. The respondents were interviewed with structured questionnaire, which was structured based on objectives of the overall study. All the data used in this article is related to the socio-economic factors contributing towards delinquent behavior among juveniles. The data has been analyzed in SPSS.

Results and discussions:

Bio-data of respondents:

Balochistan is a province where the ratio of development in each sector is slow as compare to the other provinces of the state of Pakistan. Social problems are deep rooted in the entire province, which destroy all the institutions of the executive and government. Juvenile delinquency is a

serious issue, which is destroying the future of the nation of Balochistan. This issue became an alarming after the less implementation of the laws passed from the general assembly of the government of Balochistan.

This study has been conducted in the three main prisons of Balochistan such as Mach jail, Central Jail Quetta and Loralai jail. In Mach jail and Central Jail Loralai all the juvenile offenders were kept with adult criminals and there were no separate barrack for minor criminals. Only in Central Jail Quetta, there was a separate Barrack for juvenile offenders in which they face various difficulties. They were treating like major criminals and there were no moral and psychological training for their moral development.

Marital Status:

In these prisons, all the juvenile offenders were male under the age of 18 years. The primary data revealed that major portion of respondents 77% are unmarried while the very small portion of respondents 23% are married.

Education:

The intensity of juvenile delinquency is more and more observed on the education level of respondents. As the respondent's education from first class to fifth class considered as primary educational level, from sixth class to eighth class considered as Middle education level and from ninth to 10th class considered matriculation. According to the result, high percentage (40%) of respondent's educational level is from sixth class to eighth class while collectively they considered as Middle level of respondents. However, the small percentage (12%) of respondents are illiterate. High rate of literacy will result in lower rate of juvenile delinquency.

Ethnicity:

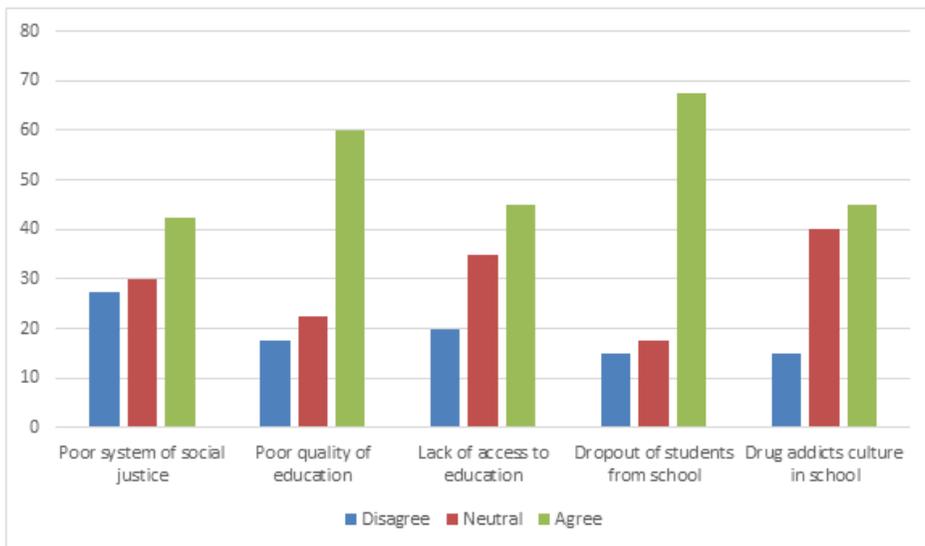
This study has conducted in Balochistan. However, Balochistan is the homeland of Pashtoon and Baloch, which are the two major ethnic groups of the Province. Apart from this, various cultural minorities are present in the province such as Punjabi, Sindhi, Hazara, Non-Muslims, Christians, Uzbek etc. According to the statistics 25% of respondents of the study consist on Pashtoon. It was observed that the figure of this ethnic group increased due to the reason of Afghan refugees. Sindhi and Baloch were 20%, 20% respectively. While very small portion of respondents (10%)

consist on other ethnic groups in Balochistan and 10% respondents were Hazara, while 15% of the respondents were Punjabi.

Acceptance of criminal responsibility:

The psyche of criminal always differ from a normal person of society. The purpose of this question was to know about the criminal psyche of the respondents. As the statistics revealed that 65% of the respondents were not accepting their crime while 35% of the respondents consciously stated that they are accepting their crime.

Table No 1: Responses related to social issues resulting delinquency:

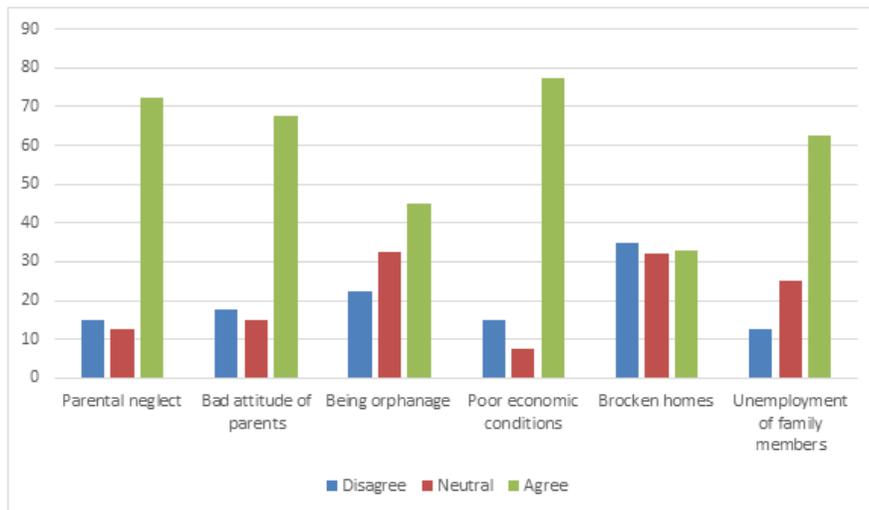


(Field survey)

The primary and secondary data proves that social factors strongly contribute to juvenile delinquency. The field survey while collecting data from respondents said that the poor quality of our education system is a contributory factor in the high rate of juvenile delinquency. The figure in this chart indicates that 60% respondents agree with the statement. On the other side of this phenomenon, 67% of the respondents agreed that dropping out from educational institutions is the cause of juvenile delinquency. In this regard dropping out from schools or other educational institution is considered an entrance to delinquency. This is the result of the failure of our educational system, which has no preventive measures related to the elevation of social problems.

Juvenile delinquency is not only the cause of the failure of our educational institutions. However, there are other problems like poor prevailing system of social justice. In this regard, 42% respondents agreed that lack of provision of social justice is the cause of juvenile delinquency. 45% of respondents said that the culture of drug addiction in school is another cause of juvenile delinquency.

Table No 2: Responses related to familial issues resulting delinquency:



(Field Survey)

The table explore the negative role of family as a leading cause of juvenile delinquency. According to the statistics of the table poor economic conditions of family is the most relevant factor that increase the rate of juvenile offenders. 77 % respondents agreed to the statement that poor economic conditions of family leads to juvenile delinquency. Apart from this figure, 62 % of respondents said that the unemployment in family members is another causative factor of juvenile delinquency. These figures are the evidence that the rate of juvenile delinquency is higher, if the rate of poverty is high. Both are going side by side with each other.

Treatment of parents to their children play an important role in the responsible citizenship of the state. However, parental neglect and bad attitude of parents towards children is the cause of juvenile delinquency. In this regard, 72% respondents agreed that parental neglect is the cause of juvenile delinquency, while 67% of respondents agreed with the statement

that bad attitude of parents towards children is the cause of juvenile delinquency.

Separation of parents from one another and early orphanage are contributory factors of juvenile delinquency. In this respect, 45% respondents agreed to the statement that early orphanage of children causes to deviancy. The one-third (33%) respondents agreed that broken homes are causative factors in the high ratio of juvenile delinquency.

Conclusion:

Juvenile delinquent is a person whose age is less than 18 years on the commission of an offence. The lowest age of criminal responsibility is 7 years in the constitution of Pakistan while the age of child is 18 years. Juvenile delinquency is a serious issue among all others social problems on this planet. Juvenile deviancy could be more and more observed in developing countries specially and generally in the whole world. This problem has caused by various social, economic, psychological and biological factors. In developing countries, this issue is caused by social factors such as school failures, dropout from schools, poor economic conditions of family, separation of couples from one another, drug users and drug abuse culture in neighborhood etc. there are some psychological explanations for the problem of juvenile delinquency. These factors include social maladjustment, mood instability, violent nature of the affected person, loneliness of children at home, parental discouragement to their children etc. generally juvenile delinquency in Pakistan is caused by poor economic conditions and specially maltreatment of authoritative people. Juvenile delinquent according to Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000 and Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 must be kept in Borstal Institution, but there is no proper borstal institution in each district. In overall Balochistan there is no borstal institute in the province and juvenile offenders are kept with the major criminals where there is no proper treatment of these offenders. According to the findings of the study, it is suggested that elevation of poverty and proper family planning this issue can be resolved.

References:

- Singh M. (2006) *Juvenile delinquency in India, UK and USA*, Paranjape N.V, (1998). *Criminology and Penology*. Darchanga Colony, Allahbad-2. Central Law Publications. Vol. no. 107.
- Amadioha, S. W., (2010). *Synthesis of Modern Curriculum Studies*. Port Harcourt, Rokin Publishers.
- Rep. World youth report, (2003). *Juvenile delinquency*, vol. # 189.
- Pfeiffer C., (1997). *Juvenile crime and juvenile violence in European countries*, Hannover: Kriminologisches forschung institute Neidersachsen,
- Bendit R., Erler W., Nieborg S., Schafer H., (2000). *Child and juvenile delinquency: strategies and prevention in Germany and the Netherland*,
- Chohdary I. A., (Aug 2016) *Causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh, A sociological analysis*, Delhosie University, Vol # 04.
- Dasgupta, S. and Jayshree, M., (1981). *Some environmental and personal factors among delinquents*. Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalisticx, 1 (1).
- Tesfay S. Z., (May, 2016). *Causes of juvenile delinquency*. Indira Gandhi National Open University, department of social work press.
- The Daily News Paper Naya Diganta, (27 Oct. 2004). *Report on Juvenile Delinquency in Bangla-Desh*,
- Talpur F. P., Shah P., (2011). *Examining the causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan*. Annual Research journal Vol. 4.
- Rafique A. Daily Times, (Sep. 2017) SPARC, *Report on juvenile delinquency in Pakistan*.
- Rep. UNDP. *National Human Development Program*, (May 2018).
- DC. Rep. Gul S. (25 Oct. 2018). *Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan* (Aug. 2017), Daily times,
- Talpur, F., Pathan, P. A., & Shah P., (2012). *Examining the causes of the juvenile delinquency in Pakistan*. The Women-Annual Research Journal, 4, 33-43.
- Shujaat Q., (2015). *The state of children in Pakistan: Juvenile Justice in Balochistan*. ONCC and UNICEF publication.
- Rep. Ramzan J. (20 Nov. 2016) *No borstal institute in Baluchistan*, The Nation Daily newspaper.

- Kohen A. K., (1955). *Delinquent Boys the Culture of Gangs*, The Free Press, p.3.
- Miller W. B., (1958). *Lower Class Sub- culture as a Generating Mileu of Gang Delinquency*. Journal of Social Issues, 14.
- Ren L. & Hangowel Z., (2016) *Delinquent Subculture and Juvenile Offenders' Attitudes Towards Police in China*, Police Quarterly.
- Cloward R. and Ohlin L., (1960). *Delinquency and Opportunity*. New York: Free Press.
- Ombato J. & Onyango G. O., (2013). *Factors Influencing Youth Crime*, International Journal of Research in Social Sciences. March, 1 (2),
- Hawkins J.D., Herrenkhol T., Farrington D. P., Brewer D., Catalano R. F. & Harachi T. W., (1998). *A review predictors of youth violence; serious and violent juvenile offenders*, Thousand Oak, London, New Delhi Sage,
- Goldson B., Muncie J., (2012). *Towards a global child friendly juvenile justice*. International journal of law, crime and justice.
- Spannhake J. J., (Sep., 2018). Criminal law: definition of juvenile justice system. *Legal Beagle online press*. (approached 4 Nov. 2019).