SOCIO–ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF CRIME AMONG MALES WITH REFERENCE TO CENTRAL PRISON KARACHI

Rana Saba Sultan[*]
Tahir HameedUllah Khan[**]
Ambreen Akber[***]

Abstract

The crime rate in Pakistan has increased drastically within the last decade. It may be because of high unemployment, increasing poverty, rising inflation and urbanized setups. Few non-economic constraints are also responsible for it. The people who are victims of a crime suffer at times heavy losses but those who are yet to be victim, suffer from restlessness with preoccupation of worry and fear. This situation affects the whole apparatus of productive working and routine life. The selected study has been made with the reference to 'Central Prison Karachi.' The 301 convicted male prisoners were selected via stratified sampling method. The data was collected by interviewing them. The questions were mostly close-ended, while some were open-ended. For each question, tables and their percentages were drawn, and chi-square method was adopted to find out the possible relationship between variables and to test the validity of hypothesis.

Keywords: terrorism, sexual assault, crime against property, victim

Introduction

Crime is a serious subject of Pakistan that affects everybody in society. It affects the victims, perpetrators and their families. Crime has increased radically within the last decade such as robbery, hate crimes, and crime against property, murder, kidnapping, sexual assault, terrorism & violence. Crime is a deliberate act or omission in infringement of criminal law, committed with no defense or rationale and sanctioned by the state as a criminal act or offense (Tappan 1960, A social problem is a societal condition that affects a large number of people, and is perceived to require some type of solution (Light, 1999, 30). Crime is a learned behavior that equates: Environments + Individual = Crime (Sutherland, 1924). Crime is the commission of an act forbidden or the omission of an act obligatory by the penal system of an ordered political state." (Swanson, Chamelin, & Territo, 1996).

Crime takes place due to many reasons, some of which are the following;

In Pakistan, the crime monitoring and regulation system is debilitated and extremely weak. In most cases, justice to the victims is denied and the criminals easily get away

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[*] Rana Saba Sultan, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Karachi
[**] Tahir HameedUllah Khan, Ph.D. **Visiting Faculty, Pir Meher Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi.**
[***] Ambreen Akber, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies, Sindh Madarsatul Islam, Karachi.

unpunished. This encourages them further and incurs hatred among the victims who maybe then compelled to break laws in order to take revenge or attaining justice by hook or by crook. The crime figures of Pakistan clearly indicate the country's miserable state in all fields whether cultural, moral, political, technological, socio-economical or environmental.

Pakistani society is divided into two basic classes; the rich and the poor. People belonging to the under-privileged families, with/without the crucial issue of drug addiction or alcoholism, are direly in need of funds to fulfill their requirements or to progress in life. Due to this, they may bother the rich to acquire money (Pakistan: Home Department, 2003). Political affiliation and diversified ideas of different factions are also the reasons behind crime occurrences.

Neglected children also often indulge in wrong companies leading them to attempt offenses intentionally or unintentionally. Owning illegal weapons, made easily available at black-markets, are also a key reason of criminal activities. The immoral feels safe and powerful with it and uses them in opposition to innocent people (Joe. M. ,2004). Many men are driven by their discontentment and greed to commit crimes in order to forcefully make what may legally belong to others.

The two important particulars to be remembered are include, crime depends upon definite subjective and purpose-based elements, and be inclined to increase or decrease without much consideration to police shield. As long as there are corrupt people, easy victims and social imbalances in society, there will be crimes. The rate of crimes taking place is also related to economic and social atmospheres of society. The eradication of criminal activities from society is a very difficult task and requires a clearer understanding of its root causes. It is not just limited to illiterate and deprived classes of society but is also prevalent among the well-off and educated.

Types of crime

Crime against Person(s)

Crimes against person(s) are variedly committed and accordingly titled as Murder, Attempt to murder, hurt, rioting, Public servant assault, Rape or sexual offence, Kidnapping and abduction. The victims and/or those related to victims undergo different emotional experiences varying in severity according to type of crime and the person or persons concerned.

Murder

Emotions are anger, guilt, depression and at times suicidal among those who have lost their one all of a sudden and unexpectedly. The damages caused can be legally invoked for financial compensation. The motives of the crime could be anger, revenge, loot etc

Sexual Assault

This creates devastating emotional experience accompanying shame and embarrassment among the victims who at times try to hide such incidence. The victims can suffer life long suffering and they may find it difficult to eat and sleep. Reported incidence can invoke legal financial compensation.

Hate Crimes

These crimes are also termed as Bias motivated Crimes. These crime occur against a member or members of certain social groups identified on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, class, 14 gender, age, ethnicity, disability, nationality and political association. The incidents could be physical stabbing, bullying and annoyance, black mail and vocal violence.

Violence

This is intentional and forceful physical injury or verbal abuse.

Crime against Property

The crime against property could be street robbery, bank burglary, fuel pump theft, other robbery, burglary, car and other vehicles' robbery and also theft of different types.

Robbery

Robbery is taking away the goods of some body by use of violence and intimidation with intention to permanently deprive the person(s) from the possession of valuable(s). The robbery is different from theft in its use of fear generating means i-e arms etc. (Bureau of Police Research & Development,(2012) ministry of interior.

Determinants of Crime

Social determinants

Crime when considered for explanatory reasons must not be emphasized to be purely an individual based phenomenon. Though the individual traits are important but most of them are acquired from the environment people are living in. The interaction with people around and the living conditions in a particular area, influence positivity and negativity of behavior. This observation is made in defiance to scholars, who attach criminal behavior to personal biology of the offender; that is they stress that behavior of people is a biological phenomenon. If the situation is reviewed with recorded facts in view, it is found through our research that in Pakistan rural area dwellers are more prone to criminal activity than the people living in urban areas. It is a fact that criminal behavior is associated with the socio-ecological interactions. The rapidly developing "IT" technology is causing lack of requisites among people to prosper, and this sense of inequality creates disobedience, malfunctioning, eventually leading to criminal behavior(Mooney, L. 2011, 371). There are many modern scholars who claim that poverty is out of undesired, correctible acts, carried out by people who by not taking initiatives, and blaming others for their downfall, unduly get into trouble and remain therein. Moreover, there are situations where people of powerful sections make polices and laws which suit their people, thus discriminating the low class or so called middle class people in Pakistan rendering them helpless to move up-words. They suffer from

problems such as; joblessness low income, poor housing, poor schooling and low-standard clinical services etc. This incurs in them frustration which in many cases result in delinquent and criminal behavior. The big cities of Pakistan have undesirable conditions (Eglin, 1992, 13).

Economic determinants

The three main economic indicators of crime are unemployment, poverty and inflation. In Pakistan, these three aspects constitute the major reason for high level of crimes. Rate of unemployment is a gauge of earning opportunities in the labor marketplace. The high unemployment rate means less income-earning opportunities, as is the case in Pakistan. The various researches reveal that unemployment is related to crimes in society (Fielding, N., Clarke, Witt, 2000, 83). In Pakistan, the ever-increasing population has made it extremely difficult for employment seekers to gain employment. But the most important factor contributing to this joblessness is law and order situation in the country, which is worsening day by day. The big source of employment opportunities has been Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which has declined markedly in the last few years, especially due to the poor law and order conditions and unstable economical and political systems of the country. The foreign investors are not inclined to invest into new business, because they do not trust the political and economic system of the country. The new employment opportunities are thus, not being generated, whereas the number of job-seekers is constantly rising. Besides FDI, agriculture is also suffering from problems such as, shortage of water, unpredictable climate changes and technological backwardness, further worsening the problem of unemployment (Siegel, 1998, 1999). The agricultural short-coming is the biggest cause of unemployment, as the majority population belonging to the rural areas is suffering the most. This results in criminal involvement of people to provide succor to themselves and their family. Another sector which is traditionally ideal for educated and skill people, as well as for the semi-educated, is industrial employment. But this too is unable to respond to the need of job-seekers duly, as a decrease in demand is taking place, coupled with acute shortage of energy, resulting in short-fall of production. In addition, the world economic depression and American war against terrorism has caused negative effects on our economy. Because of this a large fraction of financial assets are spent on the army and other warfare-related interests. It has defamed Pakistan internationally, further discouraging the foreign investments. Therefore, employment opportunities for citizens have greatly reduced. Further to what has been said, the governmental spending on education and research is meager and insufficient to create vacancies in the required number. This reflects upon the poor economic policies adversely affecting the poor and other poverty-related issues like crimes. Population-rising is also a contributive factor to the great discomfort of society which is suffering from poor quality of education, feudalism and corruption at all levels. The low income thus generated in society results in low saving and low standard of living. Low income and high cost prices (inflation) is generating a criminal tendency among people forcing them to commit crimes to fulfill their needs.

Literature Review

The social disagreement theory emerges because human resources are discouraged in a capitalist society and are fixed up in a ruthless cycle, and a course that leads them towards crime and violence. Social conflict theory is a reflection of the fact that the people cannot be contented in a system that exploits them (Messner and Rosenfeld, 1994). According to Marx, people are brought up in a civilization, few rule and others are to be ruled upon. This has always been a thrash among societies in history, such as, the link between masters and slaves, between lord and the serf, between what he called the industrialist and the working class or proletariat. Marx have recognized structures in the financially viable society that manage human relations, and social aggression is simply the reaction of the powerless, showing anger against the unfair.The social disorganization theory stated that communities with disorganization, differentiated by population, heterogeneity, poverty, and residential mobility, weakened the usefulness of social controls. Shaw & McKay, (1942) stated that, weakened social controls led to the failure of communities to resolve problems, which, consequently led to increase in crimes.Skinner(1953) stated in Operant conditioning theory, that the return-based proceedings can formulate the preferred actions of an individual, and therefore also supplies vital information in expressions for the avoidance of felony. His theory is based on the thought that wisdom is a process of modification in explicit behavior. Altered behaviors are driven by an individual's reactions to situations (stimulus) that happenin the surroundings.Cohen (1955) stated in Criminal culture theory that antisocial behavior from youngsters was against the supposed culture of middle-class society. For this reason they are unable to accomplish their goals rightfully. Youngsters belonging to low-class families practice a structure of society that Cohen argues tags status aggravation. Kitsuse & Dietrick (1958), stated that criminal behavior in his vision is the communally prepared interconnection between the objective of mature standing and the resources to achieve them.Miller (1958), stated lower-class culture as a generating milieu of gang in criminal behavior. The lower-class central apprehension that includes six factors: smartness, trouble, fate, toughness, autonomy, and excitement.

Objective of the Study

To explore the social determinants of crime among males. and the economic determinants of crime among males.

Hypotheses

1. Age is likely to be related with motivator of crime

2. Age is likely to be related with the type of crime

3. The level of education is likely to be related with the type of crime.

4. Marital status is likely to be related with the cause of crime.

5. Occupation is likely to be related with the type of crime.

6. Family income is likely to be related with the cause of crime.

Research Methodology

The present study is exploratory, and comprises of four main segments to derive a method for analyzing the socio-economic determinants of crime among males. The four segments are: (1) Interview Schedule (2) Sampling (3) The data collection from the proposed research methodology and information (4) Statistical analysis of data. The universe of present study was "Central Prison Karachi." 301 male convicted prisoners were drawn through stratified sampling method for data collection. The interview schedule method was used for data collection which consisted of 49 questions. Most of the questions were close-ended according to need, but few were open-ended. Simple tables were made representing each question, and percentages were drawn. In order to test the validity of hypothesis, chi-square method has been used to test the possible relationship between variables.

Results

CONTINGENCY TABLE 1

H_o = There is no relationship between age of respondents and motivation of crime.
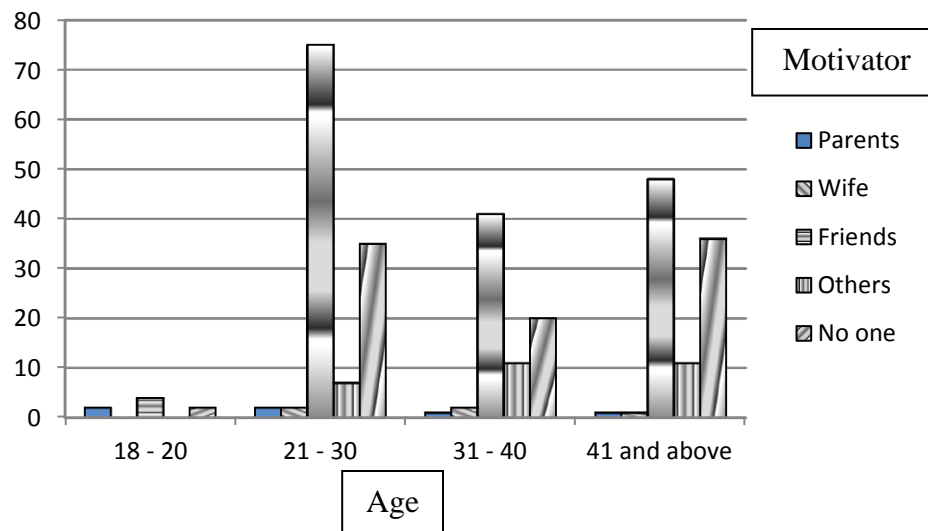
H_A = Age of male is likely to be related with motivator of crime.

Q.No. 1 & 39

Table No. 1 & 39

Cross Tabulation

Age in Years	Motivator of crime					Frequency
	Parents	**Wife**	**Friends**	**Others**	**No one**	
18 – 20	2	0	4	0	2	8
21 – 30	2	2	75	7	35	121
31 – 40	1	2	41	11	20	75
41 and above	1	1	48	11	36	97
Total	6	5	168	29	93	301

Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.715a	12	.022
Likelihood Ratio	16.749	12	.159
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.743	1	.053
No. of Valid Cases	301		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 1, and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square rejected the model of independence, and indicate that there is a strong significant relationship between age of males and their motivator of crime. Therefore, we will accept that age of males is likely to be related with motivator of crime.

CONTINGENCY TABLE 2

H_o = There is no relationship between age of respondents and type of crime.
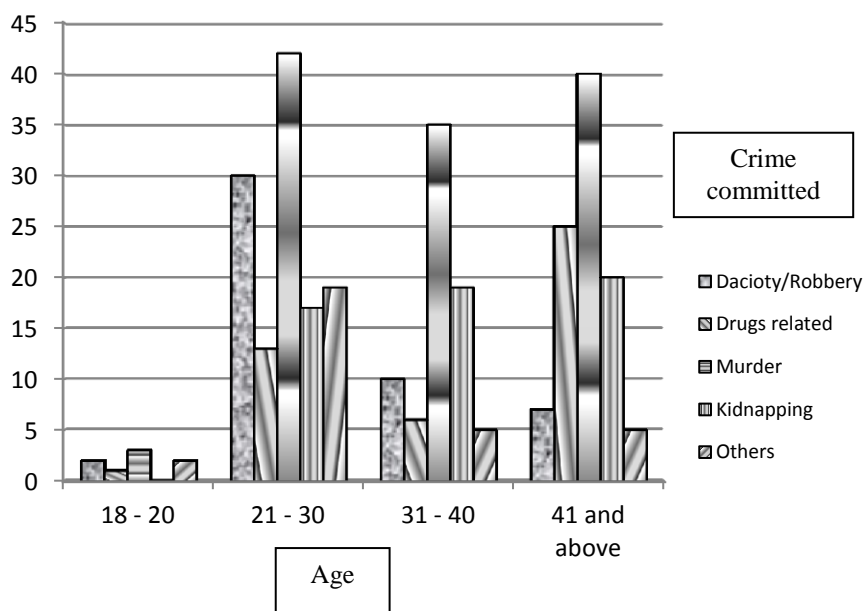
H_A = Age of respondents is likely to be related with type of crime committed by them.

Q.No. 1 & 38

Table No. 1 & 38

Cross Tabulation

Age in Years	Type of crime					Frequency
	Decoity/ Robbery	Drugs Related	Murder	Kidnapping	Others	
18 - 20	2	1	3	0	2	8
21 - 30	30	13	42	17	19	121
31 - 40	10	6	35	19	5	75
41 and above	7	25	40	20	5	97
Total	49	45	120	56	31	301

Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.490[a]	6	.036
Likelihood Ratio	14.620	6	.023
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.994	1	.084
No. of Valid Cases	299		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 2 and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square rejected the model of independence and that there is strong significant relationship between age of males and type of crime. Therefore, we will accept that age of males is likely to be related with type of crime committed by them.

CONTINGENCY TABLE 3

H_o = There is no relationship between educational level of respondents and type of crime.
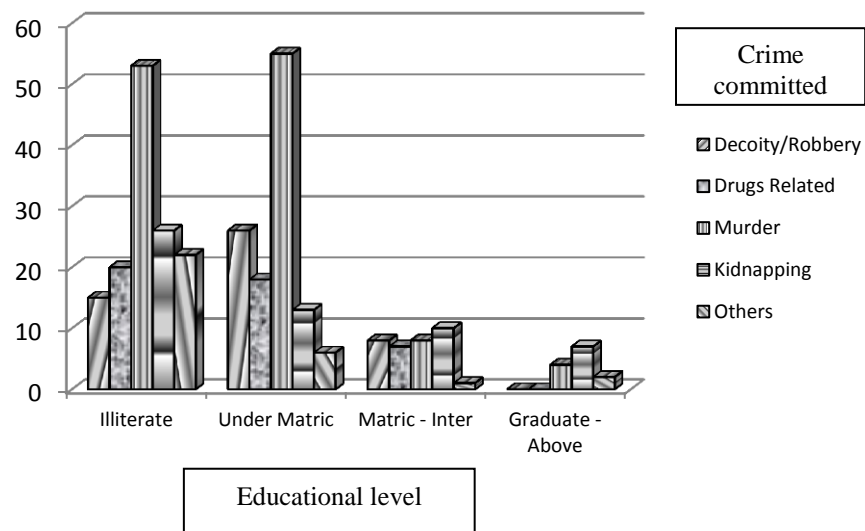
HA = Educational level respondents is likely to be related with type of crime.

Q.No. 6 & 38

Table No. 6 & 38

Cross Tabulation

Education	Type of crime					Frequency
	Decoity/Robbery	Drugs Related	Murder	Kidnapping	Others	
Illiterate	15	20	53	26	22	136
Under Matric	26	18	55	13	6	118
Matric - Inter	8	7	8	10	1	34
Graduate - Above	0	0	4	7	2	13
Total	49	45	120	56	31	301

Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	35.569[a]	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	38.801	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.283	1	.257
No. of Valid Cases	301		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 3, and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square rejected the model of independence, and indicate that there is a strong significant relationship between educational level of males and the type of crime committed by them. Therefore, we will accept that the educational level of males is likely to be related with the type of crime committed by them.

CONTINGENCY TABLE 4

H_o = There is no relationship between marital status of respondents and cause of crime.

H_A = Marital status of respondents is likely to be related with cause of crime.

Q.No. 10 & 39

Table No. 10 & 39

Cross Tabulation

Marital status	Cause of crime						Frequency
	Money	Revenge	Defense	Pleasure	Satisfaction	Mistake	
Married	87	38	4	9	0	10	148
Un Married	76	39	10	13	0	10	148
Others	0	3	0	0	2	0	5
Total	163	80	14	22	2	20	301
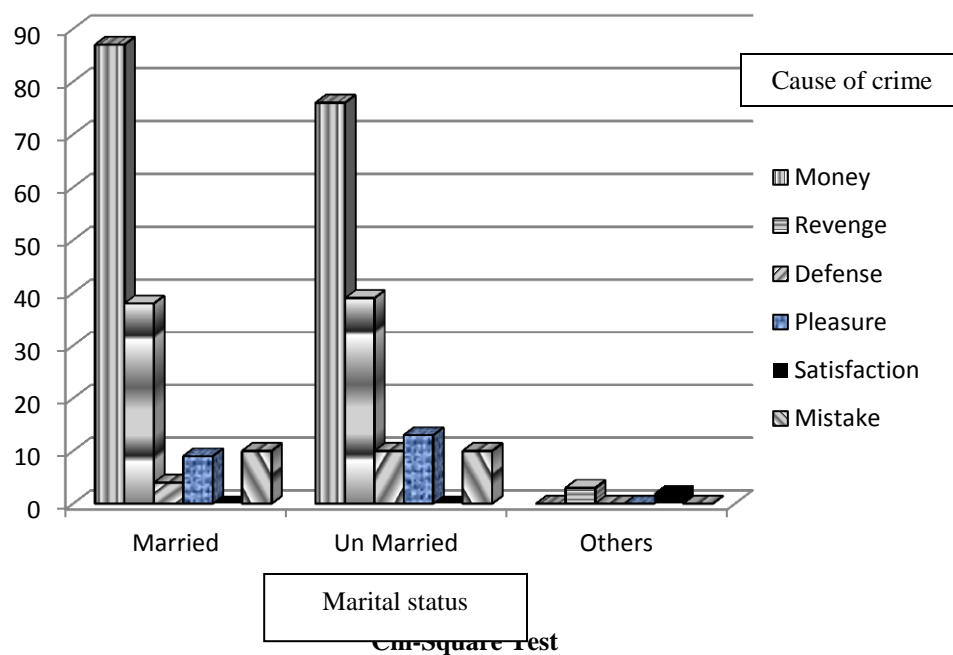
Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.954[a]	8	.015
Likelihood Ratio	18.415	8	.018
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.899	1	.168
No. of Valid Cases	301		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 4, and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square accepted the model of independence, and indicate that there is no significant relationship between marital status of males and the cause of crime committed by them. Therefore, we will accept that marital status of males is not related with the cause of crime committed by them.

CONTINGENCY TABLE 5

H_o = There is no relationship between occupation of respondents and type of crime.

H_A = Occupation of males is likely to be related with type of crime committed by them.

Q.No. 7 & 38

Table No. 7 & 38

Cross Tabulation

Occupation	Type of crime					Frequency
	Decoity/Robbery	Drugs Related	Murder	Kidnapping	Others	
Govt. Service	2	3	2	0	0	7
Private Service	38	27	80	45	24	214
Own Business	8	13	29	9	4	63
Job-less	1	2	4	0	0	7
Others	0	0	5	2	3	10
Total	49	45	120	56	31	301
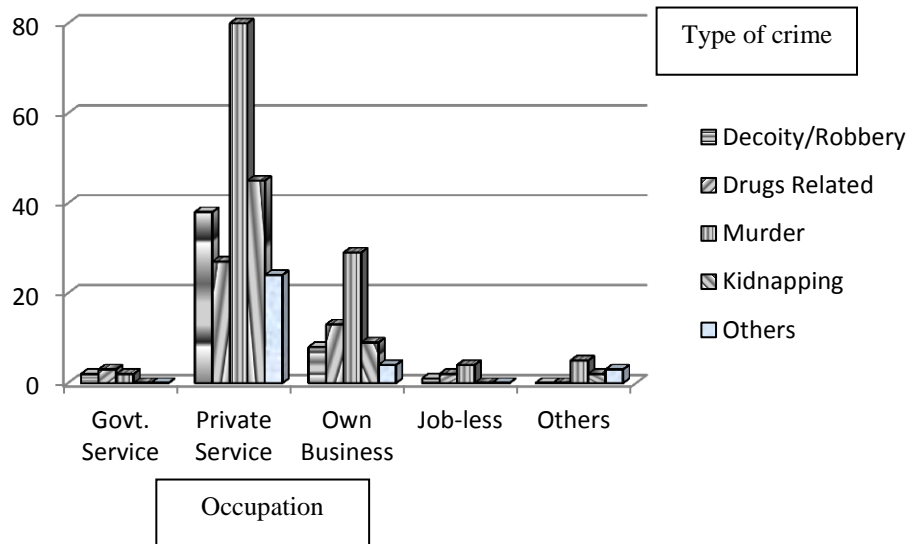
Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.428[a]	16	.103
Likelihood Ratio	27.792	16	.033
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.724	1	.189
No. of Valid Cases	301		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 5, and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square accepted the model of independence, and indicate that there is no significant relationship between occupation of males and the type of crime committed by them. Therefore, we will accept that occupation of males is not related with the type of crime committed by them.

CONTINGENCY TABLE 6

H_o = There is no relationship between family income of males and cause of crime.

H_A = Family income of males is likely to be related with cause of crime.

Q.No. 18 & 39

Table No. 17 & 39

Cross Tabulation

Family income	Cause of crime						Frequency
	Money	Revenge	Defense	Pleasure	Satisfaction	Mistake	
Below 6000	71	35	12	15	0	11	144
6001 - 9000	43	17	1	6	0	8	75
9001 and Above	49	28	1	1	0	1	80
No Response	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	163	80	14	22	2	20	301
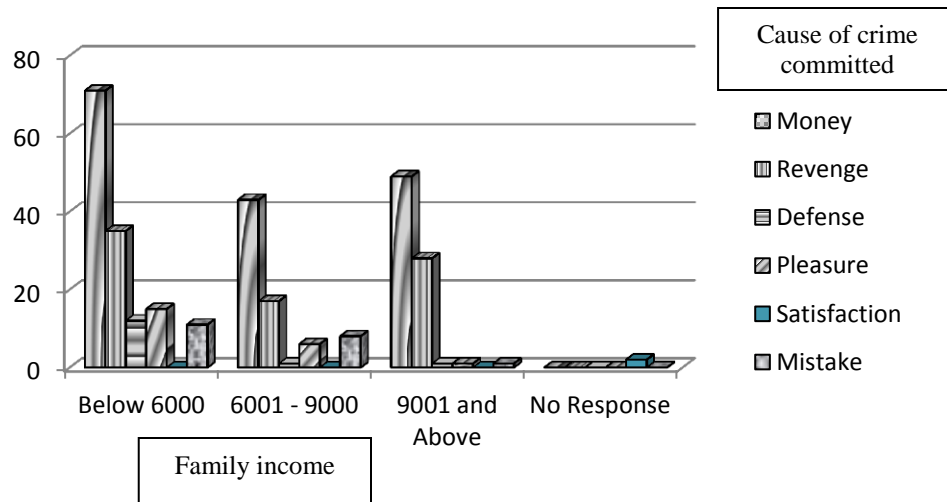
Chi-Square Test

	Value	df	Assumption Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20.433[a]	8	.009
Likelihood Ratio	23.059	8	.003
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.322	1	.004
No. of Valid Cases	301		

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
c. Based on normal approximation.

The test of independence has been applied on the data given in the contingency table No. 6 and the chi-square test is used to test the respective variables' independence. Results of Pearson Chi-Square rejected the model of independence, and indicate that there is a strong significant relationship between family income of males and the cause of crime committed by them. Therefore, we will accept that family income of males is likely to be related with the cause of crime committed by them.

Findings of Simple Table

Data reveals that40.2 percent of the respondent (convicted criminals) belong to age 21 to 30 years, followed by 41 and above at the ratio of 32.2 percent. The respondents with the age of 31 to 40 years were at 3rd majority with the ratio of 24.9. The mean age was 34 years, while the median age was recorded as 33 years.

It was found that 57.1 percent respondents belonged from middle-class family and 40.05 percent were from lower-class family. Only 7 out of 301 convicted criminals were from the upper-class family. 55.8 percent respondents had rural background while 44.2 percent belonged to urban areas. The figure shows that the intensity of crime is higher by 11.6 percent in rural areas than in urban areas. It was found that 45.2 percent respondents were illiterate and 39.2 percent were under matriculation, whereas only 4.3 percent were graduate and above. Majority of the respondents i.e. 71.1 percent, were directly engaged in private service, while 20.9 percent respondents were having their own business. 2.3 percent respondents were from government sector or jobless.

Data reveals that the ratio of married and unmarried convicted criminals is the same as 49.2 percent. It was observed during research that themarried convicted criminals had different logic and motives for committing crimes as compared to unmarried convicted criminals. It was found that47.8 percent respondents' family monthly income was less than 6000/- rupees, where as 26.6 percent respondents' family monthly income was between 6000 to 9000 rupees and 4.9percent respondents' family monthly income was 9000/- and above. It is significantly very clear that low monthly income is a strong

motivator towards committing crimes. It was found that 59.5 percent respondents were not drug-users, only 29 percent respondents were taking drugs, whereas 10.6 percent respondents were using drugs off and on. This over-all data reflects that the drug use is not a strong motivator for crime

Data reveals that 54.2 percent respondents of committed crimes for the urge of money, whereas 26.6percent committed crime for ravage. It is interesting to note that 7.3 percent and 6.6 percent of the respondents committed crime for the sake of pleasure and by mistake respectively. While 39.9 percent convicted respondents had committed murder, while 18.6 percent respondents were involve in kidnappings, 16.3percent respondents committed robbery and 15percent of the respondents were involved in drug-related crimes. 10.3 percent were involved in other crimes such as disputes, forgeries, sexual offence etc. It is observed during research survey that highest suaveness of crime intention was murder.

Conclusion/Discussion

The research span covers the measurable operant of social, economic and family perspectives of the convicts, and explains the correlation of each in contrast with crimes and criminals. Where, the social setups briefly describe about their upbringing conditions, the surroundings they lived in, their friends and peers that lived around, the views and ideas they share, the elementary, secondary and/or higher schools they attended. The economic angles describe aspects like, their job status and salary ranges, their economic status, their immediate family's economic constraint related to job and income, with their affordability and their dispensability, their specific family attachments, behaviors and background etc.

The brief and targeted research concerning the hypothesis, to testify correlation among the variables identified, is carried with all the carefully chosen standardized procedures and with continuous consultation of experts from fields, and supervisors' assistance. The research was commenced to find out the social and economic determinants of the crime by criminals convicted. For this purpose, various convicts were interviewed. Most of which responded positively and talked about their involvements. However, some were not convinced to share their crime and their facts. It was found that the majority of convicts belong to the age group of 21 to 30 years, at the age of committing crime. The majority with the demographic constraints of rural resident are found. And mostly are Urdu language speaker followed by Pushto, Punjabi and Sindhi speaking respectively. Literacy and unawareness could be termed as a key factor pointing highlights on the convicts. It was also found that they had different motives when it comes to their marital statuses. The usage of drugs was not found to be a major provocation cause behind the crimes. The majority were not drug user, but they were the second majority. The strongly pointing factor was low-income that was found to be the key motivator towards committing crime. Majority of the respondents fall into the category of income less then Rs. 6000. While the second percentile was between the income Rs. 6000 to 9000. The maximum respondents were having financial issues since the economic crisis globally left Pakistan as no exception. Thus the financial – ranges fluctuates largely and inconstantly due to several uncountable deriving factors.

Recommendation

Educational foundations of citizens plays a critically vital role in the development of civic and social sense with responsibility and dutifulness. Where an individual learns to identify between the right and the wrong.

The concerned authorities should introduce various socio-economic welfare programs as the remedial policy to reduce poverty, and by introducing opportunities of employment.

Government, NGO's and social working agents from the community should put in their best efforts to stop the drugs' availability and by creating awareness.

Families and circles should follow the best moral and social practices by encouraging positively and informing negative circumstances of felonious mean.

The system of courts should be reorganized as to ensure the prompt and in time delivery of justice. A better coordination between enforcement authority and courts can help decrease crime trends.

Inside the prison, general physical conditioning should be improvised to facilitate the tasks of rehabilitation of convicts.

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