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Street Crimes: A Case Study of District Swabi (KP)

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Abstract: *The study focused on street crimes in Swabi city, KP, exploring their profound impact on societal stability. Street crime, encompassing criminal activities in public places, poses significant threats to social integrity, limiting residents' open movement. Perpetrated mostly by deviants within neighborhoods, street crimes are symptomatic of legal, economic, educational, and moral declines. The study covered residents from five police jurisdictions in Swabi, including Swabi, Kalu Khan, Yar Hussain, Parmolo, and Chota Lahor Swabi KP, with 50 male residents interviewed using an interview schedule for data collection. Employing a quantitative approach, the research aimed to uncover the causes and consequences of street crimes. Findings revealed a correlation between drug use and street crimes, with respondents highlighting the role of inadequate child socialization. Common offenses in Swabi included mobile snatching and bike theft. Moreover, the study provided evidence linking poverty and lack of education as significant contributors to the prevalence of street crimes within the community.*

Key Words: Street Crime, District Swabi, KP, Police, Public Places

Introduction

Street crimes have been a persistent challenge in many urban areas, often threatening the safety and security of public spaces and the well-being of their inhabitants. This study delves into the specific context of District Swabi, located in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan, to investigate the dynamics and implications of street crimes in this region. Street crimes encompass a wide range of criminal activities that occur in public places, including but not limited to theft, robbery, assault, vandalism, and drug-related offenses.

Understanding street crimes is essential as they disrupt the social fabric and harmony of communities, eroding the sense of safety and trust that individuals have in their neighborhoods. The prevalence of street crimes is often rooted in a complex interplay of socioeconomic, educational, and cultural factors, making it a multifaceted issue that warrants in-depth examination.

District Swabi, with its diverse neighborhoods and unique sociocultural dynamics, serves as an intriguing case study for understanding the causes and consequences of street crimes. This study aims to shed light on the factors contributing to the occurrence of street crimes in this specific region, as well as their broader impact on society.

Swabi is the largest city in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa according to census 2017 total population of District Swabi is approximately 1625477 (Sixteen lacs, Twenty-five thousand and seventy-seven). In total population males are 815828, females are 809850. Due to Terrorism in KP the social and economic situation has been badly effected since last 10 years. Now there is full army and police control there but still peoples face some serious obstacles in the way of living their lives which are known as "Street Crimes". Besides

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snatching of cellphones. motorcycles. pickpocketing, car lifting and child abduction the most terrible crime is looting of a house by looters in the form of beggars.

In Swabi District, there are 10 police stations. We chose respondents from five sensitive police stations in Swabi city, namely Kalu Khan, Parmolo, Chota Lahor, Yar Hussain, and Swabi. The main purpose of the study is to highlight these problems in order to capture government attention towards the solution for these problems.

Purpose of the Study

Due to high population in Swabi the street crime is increasing day by day. The Study was carried out for the purpose to aware the Government and other local organizations about the different kinds of street crimes which are committed in Swabi District and to find the socio economic causes behind the commission of street crimes. Furthermore, we would be able to highlight these problems to the government. In short after studying this the government can plan in better way to ensure street crimes.

Objectives of the Study

- To know about the different kinds of street crimes which are committed in Swabi District.
- To find the socio economic causes behind the commission of street crimes.
- To seek the opinion of local people of sampled area towards street criminals.
- To recommend the possible measures of street crimes control on the basis of study findings.

Significance of the Study

The study was carried out for the purpose to aware the people and local government about these problems which disturb the day to day activities of people. It will provide the reliable data to government institutions and other. Local communities about social, economic background of the social criminals. It will help the government and local welfare communities to identify the street criminals. Furthermore, we would be able to know about the faces that inspire these criminals through media to cease the crime and to live straight forward life. In short, the government and other organizations after studying can benefited and can plan in better way for peace of Swabi City.

Limitations of the Study

There are some limitations of this research work.

The study is limited to the residents from the jurisdiction of five sensitive police stations of Swabi City. The study is conducted only on male residents. The study was limited to District Swabi due to time frame, financial resources, and accessibility problem of the researchers.

Literature Review

Crime can be defined as an international act or omission that violates criminal law, committed without defense or justification, and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor (Tappan, [1960](#)). Crime is a multifaceted concept, as it involves breaking both the law and social norms within a society. This makes crime a social construct, shaped by the community's collective definition of right and wrong. While some crimes, like murder, are universally condemned, there are other actions that some people may view as acceptable, such as speeding or illegal movie downloads. It's essential to differentiate between crime and deviance; deviance pertains to unacceptable behavior within a specific cultural context or situation, such as truancy (Alexander, [1956](#)).

Types of Crime

Crimes are defined by criminal law, a set of federal and state regulations that prohibit behavior deemed harmful to society. Common types of crimes include personal crimes (against individuals), property crimes (against property rights), inchoate crimes (incomplete crimes requiring a substantial step toward completion), and statutory crimes (violations of specific state or federal statutes) (Graham, [1995](#)).

The discussion here touches upon Peter Hitchens' perspective on crime. He contends that the "liberal elite"

has captured the government, media, and educational system, leading to a breakdown in authority, increasing crime rates, and a loss of cherished freedoms. Hitchens advocates for stricter law enforcement and even supports the death penalty as a deterrent to murder (Hitchens, 2003).

Street Crime

Street crime refers to criminal offenses committed in public places, often associated with acts like robbery, theft, pickpocketing, drug dealing, prostitution, graffiti, vandalism, and assaults. Street crime can be committed by individuals or loosely formed groups seeking immediate financial gain. It can impact communities, businesses, and social dynamics (Qadri, 2009).

Types of Street Crimes in Pakistan

Street crimes in Pakistan encompass various activities, including:

Mobile Snatching: The act of snatching mobile phones from individuals at gunpoint.

Vehicle Theft: Stealing motor vehicles or bikes.

ATM Looting: Robbing cash from ATMs, often involving identity fraud.

Gang Rape: Involves multiple individuals participating in the rape of a single victim.

Arson: Deliberately setting fire to buildings, vehicles, or other property.

Attempt of Murder: Planning or attempting to commit murder.

Bhattachori (Illegal Tax): Demanding money through phone calls or letters with the threat of harm (Galelo, 2001).

Street Crimes in Pakistan No. wadays

Street crimes are on the rise in Pakistan, with incidents like mobile phone snatching and vehicle theft increasing. While there have been improvements in other aspects of law and order, street crimes remain a significant concern. The prevalence of street crime is a reflection of economic and social challenges faced by the population (Siyar, 2016)

Street Crimes in Karachi

Street crimes, including mobile phone snatching and vehicle theft, have increased in Karachi, despite progress in other areas of law and order. While targeted killings and bombings have decreased due to political operations, citizens still face risks on the streets. The rise in street crimes in Karachi is a matter of great concern (Hameed, 2018).

Street Crimes in Peshawar, KP

Peshawar has witnessed a surge in street crimes, with incidents of mobile phone snatching and robbery becoming a common occurrence. The government's claim of depoliticizing the police stands in stark contrast to the police's indifference toward these street crimes. Concrete measures are needed to address this menace and protect the people of Peshawar (Nadir, 2016).

Causes of Street Crimes

Street crimes have multiple underlying causes:

Poverty

Economic deprivation and the widening gap between the rich and poor can drive individuals to commit crimes as a means of survival.

Family Conditions

Poor family conditions, neglect, and a lack of attention can push individuals, especially youths, into criminal activities.



Peer Pressure

Youths may engage in crime due to peer pressure, wanting to fit in with their peers who are involved in criminal activities.

The Society

Society's glorification of wealth, opulence, and success, without concern for the means by which it is achieved, can drive individuals to crime.

Drugs

Drug addiction can lead individuals to commit crimes to sustain their habits.

Unemployment

High levels of unemployment force individuals to turn to crime to support themselves.

Politics

Politicians may arm youths with weapons during political campaigns, leading them to commit crimes in the post-election period.

Unfair Judicial System

An unfair judicial system can lead innocent people to resort to crime as a form of rebellion against society (Morgan, 2002).

Powerful Deterrent Against Street Crime

Surveillance Cameras

Installing security cameras at street corners helps the police catch criminals. It acts as a deterrent, reducing street crime. Studies have shown that crime rates can drop significantly when surveillance cameras are in place. Even if a crime occurs, the camera footage helps the police investigate and identify the culprits. Criminals like drug dealers tend to avoid areas with cameras.

Police Patrolling

Regular police patrols on the streets create a sense of fear among potential criminals. When they know that law enforcement is actively monitoring the area, they are less likely to commit crimes. Areas with frequent police patrols often have lower crime rates.

Education

Educating our society is essential to combat street crime. A well-educated and literate population contributes to a stronger and more peaceful nation. Parents play a crucial role by teaching their children about the negative consequences of criminal activities. Responsible spending habits can also discourage people from resorting to crime. Saving money for the future is more beneficial than spending on unnecessary luxuries.

Religious Guidance

Returning to the core principles of one's religion can help eliminate social evils. Embracing values like equality, moderation, justice, and peace can lead to positive changes. It's important to remind people of their religious duties and accountability for their actions. With honesty and sincerity, we can work together to overcome these challenges.

The goal is to approach these issues with optimism and take steps toward a safer and more harmonious society (Sheikh, 2001).

Research Design

The research design for this study entails a clear definition of the study's universe, which is delimited to the geographical scope of five police stations in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region of Pakistan: Swabi, Kalu Khan, Yar Hussain, Parmolo, and Chota Lahor Swabi. It specifically targets male residents within these areas and focuses on investigating street crimes, including their causes, effects, and nature. To gather data, a non-probability sampling technique known as convenience sampling was adopted, where respondents were selected based on the researchers' accessibility. Data was primarily collected through interviews using an interview schedule, as some respondents struggled to comprehend certain questions related to street crimes. A pretesting phase was conducted to ensure the questionnaire's validity. Subsequently, data collected went through a series of analytical stages, including editing, classification, data entry into SPSS, tabulations, diagram generation, and the formulation of findings and suggestions. The study was conducted over a three-month period, during which data collection, analysis, and reporting took place. In summary, this research design provides a comprehensive framework for investigating street crimes in the specified regions, outlining the study's boundaries, objectives, sample size, data collection method, and analysis process, with a focus on convenience sampling and interview-based data collection.

Findings

from the data analysis are as follows:

1. **Age:** The majority of respondents (28%) were in the age group of 25 years.
2. **Education Status:** Most respondents (60%) were literate.
3. **Level of Education (Among Literate Respondents):** Among literate respondents, the majority (36%) had completed their graduation.
4. **Profession:** The majority of respondents (34%) were government servants.
5. **Awareness of Street Crime:** The majority of respondents (90%) were aware of street crimes.
6. **Victims of Street Crime:** Most respondents (68%) reported that they were not victims of street crimes.
7. **Types of Street Crime Experienced:** Among those who were victims of street crime, bike lifting was the most common (12%).
8. **Causes of Street Crime:** The primary cause of street crime, as reported by respondents, was poverty (42%).
9. **Groups Most Likely to Commit Street Crime:** Respondents believed that drug addicts (34%) were the most likely group to commit street crimes.
10. **Impact of Lack of Proper Socialization:** A significant majority (72%) believed that the lack of proper socialization of children resulted in street crime.
11. **Effects of Street Crime on the Community:** Street crime was perceived to cause insecurity to people (56%) and threaten social respect (22%).
12. **Lodging F.I.R against Street Crime:** A majority of respondents (68%) reported that people in their area did lodge F.I.R against street crimes.
13. **Measures to Decrease Street Crime:** The most suggested measure to decrease street crime was through education (44%).
14. **Satisfaction with Police:** More than half of the respondents (54%) were satisfied with the role of the police.
15. **Police Actions for Decreasing Street Crime:** Respondents believed that police protect them (16%) and perform their duty well (6%) as measures to decrease street crime.
16. **Police Patrol in the Area:** The majority (78%) of respondents reported the presence of police patrols in their area.
17. **Frequency of Police Patrol:** Most respondents (38%) reported that police patrols occurred once a day in their area.
18. **More Stop and Searches:** A significant number of respondents (42%) agreed that there should be more stop and searches to prevent street crime.
19. **Government and Local Efforts:** The majority of respondents (66%) believed that the government had taken steps to prevent street crimes in their area.



Conclusions

Street crime has the jeopardized impacts on the social order and social structure of the society. It is lying on the roots of the nations development, and economy of the country is badly affected. If the youth is provided basic needs of life, like education, health, skills etc. then there is no doubt about the brilliant future of the country. It has been observed that due to financial problems, as they cannot provide good life to their children they commit crime so that they can provide food, shelter and other necessity. The Study also proved that majority peoples satisfied from the role of police, because police are available 24/7 for them and they protect our lives liberty and rights. According to respondents if education rate is higher then there is no chance to anyone to commit a crime because in order to bring an end this evil we must educate our society because only educate and literate can make up a strong and peaceful nation. We must also build a strong family fabric. The parents should give time to their children and make them aware of the negative effects of these crimes. Mostly drug users commit street crimes because drugs are too expensive so it is difficult for the person to arrange money for drugs. Mobile Snatching and Moter/Bike lifting usually occurs in Swabi. Street crimes causes insecurity and people feel insecure. Many peoples blamed unemployment because the skyrocketing unemployment in the country is another reason the youths take to crime to support themselves. A situation where one goes through school and end up jobless for many years is a clear invitation into a world of crime. In some cases, victims are not agreeing to lodge an FIR because they think that police can do nothing for them. During this research it was proved that poverty and lack of education are equally responsible for the existence of street crimes.

Suggestions

The following enumerated suggestions may be a part in the reduction solution of the curses of street crimes for the wellbeing of the society.

- State plays a pivotal role in the behavior of its citizens. If poverty, unemployment, loot, plunder is controlled.
- Executive body should play their role effectively to control street crimes
- Until and unless we purify our souls and guide our young generation to convince them of the hereafter. The criminals are well aware about the crimes and they know about thereafter effects.
- Children should be brought up in a true Islamic environment. The parents should be mentally, socially and religiously well trained so as to groom their kids properly.
- Government should provide basic needs/necessities of life i.e food, cloths, shelter to avoid indulgence of masses in crimes.
- Proper check and balance from the family side, to keep their children away from the company of bad peoples.
- proper check and balance should be imposed by the government on the concerned authorities i.e. law enforcement agencies.
- Seminars should be arranged against street crimes.
- The government should implement the criminal laws, which will help to tackle the street criminals.

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Annexure

Interview Schedule

A Survey of Street Crimes in Swabi

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) Respondent No _____</p> <p>2) Age _____</p> <p>3) Education status of the respondent?
 (a) Literate
 (b) illiterate</p> <p>4) If literate level of education
 (a) Primary
 (b) Middle
 (c) high
 (d) intermediate
 (e) Graduation
 (f) Master degree
 (g) Any other</p> <p>5) Profession
 (a) Government servant
 (b) Businessman
 (c) Student
 (d) Any other</p> <p>6) Do you known street crime?
 (a) Yes
 (b) No</p> <p>7) Have you ever been a victim of street crime?
 (a) Yes
 (b) No
 (c)</p> <p>8) If yes, then specify _____</p> <p>9) What could be the causes of street crime?
 (a) Poverty
 (b) Unemployment
 (c) Illiteracy
 (d) Poor socialization
 (c) Bad company
 (d) Any other</p> | <p>10) What do you think who are more vulnerable to the street crimes?
 (a) Females
 (b) children's
 (c) Employed
 (d) aged people
 (e) upper class
 (f) all of them</p> <p>11) Does there any police patrol in your street or area?
 (a) Yes
 (b) No</p> <p>12) How many times does the police patrol in your Area?
 (a) Once a day
 (b) twice a day
 (c) once in a week
 (d) once in a month</p> <p>13) Are you satisfied from the role of police?
 (A) Yes
 (b) No</p> <p>14) What do you think is the most likely group to commit street crime?
 (a) Drug addicts
 (b) unemployed
 (c) Teenagers
 (D) immigrants
 (e) others please specify.....
 (f) all the above are equally able to commit street crime</p> <p>15) Do you think no proper socialization of children results in street crimes?
 (a) yes
 (b) no</p> |
|--|--|



- 16)** If yes, How?
(a) lack of guidance
(b) No proper check on children
(c) Peers
(d) due to lack of proper education
(e) any other
- 17)** Which kind of street crime usually occurs in your area?
(a) mobile snatching
(b) Bike/ moter vehicle lifting
(c) any other
- 18)** Do you think there should be more stop and searches in your area to prevent street crimes?
(a) Yes
(b) No
(c) Not sure
- 19)** Is there any steps taken by govt/local people in prevention of street in your area
(a) yes
(b) No
- 20)** How street crime effect the community?
(a) Causes insecurity to the people
(b) It is a threat to the social respect of the people
(c) It vanishes the sense of confidence among the people.
- 21)** Do people lodge Fir against street crime in your area?
(a) Yes
(b) No
- 22)** If yes, what are its impacts in decreasing the street crimes
- 23)** What would you suggest that how street crimes can be controlled/decreased?