

An Analytical Study on Causes of Developing Delinquent Behaviour Among Adolescents in Tehsil Okara, Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract

This study was conducted with an aim to find out causes of delinquency among male adolescents in Pakistan. Quantitative research method was used and research data were collected through survey research techniques with the help of structured interview schedule. Data were collected after getting permission from adolescents, their parents and school officials

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to find out the causes of developing delinquent behaviour among male adolescents in Pakistan's society. The adolescent is that period of age when human emotions and physical structure is in the growing process to become an adult. Through association with a peer group, family members and teachers the behaviour is learned, without determining as negative or positive by the adolescents. Self-reported modified delinquency scale used to measure the delinquent behaviour among adolescents. Data were collected through the survey research technique with the help of a structured interview schedule. The sample size was selected through quota sampling which consisted of 250 male respondents. It founds that, in Pakistan out of 250 male adolescents 82(32.8%) are delinquents, it means out of every 8 adolescents 3 are delinquents. Peer group motivation, ineffective parent's and teacher's practices are influencing delinquent behaviour among adolescents. Through this research, it is found that lower economic status is not closely related to delinquent behaviour. The study suggests more crucial and grassroots approaches ought to be implemented by the parents, government and non-profit organizations against this growing threat to the society or development of future organized criminal behaviour.

KEYWORDS

Antisocial behaviour, Causes of delinquency in Pakistan, Delinquent behaviour among adolescents, Developing delinquent behaviour, Ineffective parent's and teacher's practices, Peer group motivation

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INTRODUCTION

“ May Allah show leniency toward the person who helps his children towards nobility by regarding him, speaking to him, showing him information, and preparing him” (Ali [R.A])¹¹Ali (Radhe Allaho-ann) ibn Abi Talib, the cousin of last Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and the fourth caliph of Islamic Empire..

Adolescent age is more comprehensively defined by the World Health Organization as between 10 to 19 years old (WHO, n.d.). In fact, it is a learning process where socio-economic, situational and environmental factors directly influence it (Gold,1966; Obaro, 2013). Indeed, it is where an adolescent is in a circumstance to adapt right or wrong. The wrong behaviour which is found out by adolescents might be immediate his or her to pick deviant behaviour, which must prompt criminal behaviour among adolescents (Siegel, 2010). Delinquency is related to criminal behaviour, it is done by an adolescent that is an unlawful act or not accepted by others (Cambridge dictionary online. 2019). Sutherland and Cressey (1978) defined it

“Criminal behavior is behavior in violation of criminal law. Criminal behavior or anti-social behavior is related to human behavior and has much in common with noncriminal behavior. A criminal act occurs when a situation appropriate for it, as defined by the person is present.”

Family is an essential institution where various practices are found out by adolescents either negative or positive. Actually, adolescence is the ego perfection age duration as clarified by Freud (1989). Positive behaviour which is adopted by the adolescent leads him to move toward becoming like a good person and on the opposite side if an adolescent gets antisocial training from family turned out to be a criminal person just as a terrorist. Patterson, Debaryshe, and Ramsey (1990) demonstrated that because of ineffective parenting practices child who engaged with negative peer group associations have more opportunities associated with organized delinquency in adolescence. It is quite difficult for an adolescent to engage his/herself in delinquent activities as individuals. However, if there should be an occurrence of peer group affiliation it is a more noteworthy opportunity to take part in delinquency. Frequently, they are doing such a rationale against societal principles. Studies (Buehler, Patterson, & Furniss, 1966; Dishion & Loeber, 1985) demonstrate that through affiliation, peer group members motivate, trained and support one another when doing any antisocial or delinquent act. The peer group comprises individuals having a distinctive social background and through affiliation they exchange or learn norms, values, and particularly antisocial behaviour. As Esiri (2016) described that, they ensure the enthusiasm of peer groups rather than an enormous society. Because they are shared everything with peers rather with relatives or with parents, this thing provokes them to do everything on the behalf of peer groups.

As described by Patterson, Debaryshe and Ramsey (1990) adolescents belong to lower economic status families have more opportunities to engage with delinquent behaviour and their parents often utilized physical discipline as an instrument to keep up home control. As a result, they got away from home and meet with negative friends and invest a large amount of leisure and discussed their problems with such peer fellows instead of parents. Augustyn and McGloin (2013) found that this problem discussion increased the risk of inclusion in delinquent behaviour.

Absence of parent's supervision or disturb family process, negative peer group affiliation, negative school experience and lower economic status are observed by (Gold, 1966; Gecas, 1979; Huesmann, Eron, Lefkowitz & Walder, 1984; Lansford, Criss, Pettit, Dodge & Bates, 2003; Osgood & Anderson, 2004; Darling, Caldwell & Smith, 2005; Esiri, 2016) as key variables of delinquency among adolescents. Negative school experience or teacher's relation leads to delinquent behaviour just as bullying behaviour among adolescents found by Bender and Losel (2011). Often it appears that family bolsters their bully adolescents rather than their counselling. Adolescents through such ineffective parenting practices are involved in antisocial activities and the chances of their involvement in bullying or sexually related crimes are also higher. The learning procedure

relies upon observation and adolescents learn what they observe. They have cheap access to television, films, computer games, internet and it isn't hard for them to access violent content, sexual substance, and illicit material downloading. They observe and try to attempt the same behaviour (Siegel, 2011; Udris, 2016).

According to official statics of Punjab prisons department, there were 671 juvenile prisoners admitted in Punjab Pakistan jails till 15 January 2019 (Punjab prisons, 2019) which contains 562 under trial, 107 were sentenced and 2 were female adolescent detainees. In the District Jail Okara, 16 adolescents were admitted. The proportion of juvenile [(an adolescent who might be managed for an offense in a way which is not quite the same as an adult) (The juvenile justice system act 2018)] offenders is expanding step by step which moving towards disturbing circumstances. The foremost and least advance is that such behaviour should be controlled at its initial.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY The present study was conducted in two high schools. Information was collected from male adolescents age between 13 to 17 years, studying in the ninth and the tenth standards class. The sample was selected through a quota sampling technique, contains 250 male adolescents drawn from a universe of 1610. While 759 students out of 1610 were studying in the tenth class and 851 students were in the ninth class. Criteria considered while choosing the quota sampling were 47% respondents from the tenth class and 53% respondents from the ninth class. The data was collected through survey research method with the help of structured interview schedule. The Interviews were conducted in schools, getting permission from school principles and respondents, after winter vacations of the schools. It was face to face interview which comprised 15 minutes per respondent. Adolescents (modified) self-reported delinquency scale adopted from (Gold, 1966; Mak, 1993; Yin, Katims & Zapata, 1999) to measure delinquency among adolescents. While \$11United States of America currency dollar symbol was modified with PKR22Pakistani currency abbreviated as "PKR" (Pakistani Rupee). The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS-23) has been utilized during data analysis. It was hard to admit the respondents about sexual activities performed by themselves with others or any other with their selves.

RESULTS

TABLE 1 General demographic information of the respondents (N=250)

Variables	Frequency (%)
Age of the respondents	
13 years	14(5.6%)
14 years	72(28.8%)
15 years	72(28.8%)
16 years	47(18.8%)
17 years	45(18.0%)
Area of the respondents	
Rural	162(64.8%)
Urban	88(35.2%)
The family system of the respondents	
Joint family system	81(32.4%)
Nuclear family system	154(61.6%)
Not known	15(6%)
Family occupation of the respondents	
Agriculture	75(30.0%)
Job	136(54.4%)
Business	32(12.8%)
Not known	7(2.8%)
Respondent's family monthly income	
Less than 15000 PKR	52(20.8%)
More than 15000 PKR	96(38.4%)

Variables	Frequency (%)
Not known	33(13.3%)
Not monthly income	69(27.6%)
Respondent's father literacy status	
Literate	181(72.4%)
Illiterate	39(15.6%)
Not known	30(12.0%)
Respondent's mother literacy status	
Literate	114(45.6%)
Illiterate	90(36.0%)
Not known	46(18.4%)

Of the 250 respondents, 5.6% respondents belonged to 13 years age group and higher number 28.8% of respondents belonged to 14 years as well as (28.8%) from 15 years age group, 18.8% respondents age group belonged to 16 years, while 18.0% respondents belonged to the age group of 17 years. Results demonstrated that the majority (64.8%) of the respondents belonged from rural areas other than urban 35.2% of respondents. Majority 154(61.6%) respondents belonged to the nuclear family system and 81(32.4%) were belonged to the joint family system, while 15(6%) respondents not known. As of the 250 respondents, 75(30.0%) respondents family occupation was agriculture and 136(54.4%) majority occupation was a job or work on daily wages, 32(12.8%) respondent's families belonged to business and only 7(2.8%), not known family occupation. Data shows that majority 52(20.8%) respondents' family monthly income was less than 15000 PKR, whereas 96(38.4%) respondents' monthly income was more than 15000 PKR, 33(13.3%) respondents not known about family monthly income and 69(27.6%) respondent's family had not monthly income and their occupation belonged to agriculture. According to (Asia -Pacific cultural centre for UNESCO [ACCU], 2019) "*A person is literate who can read and write a paragraph (3 lines) in national/regional language with comprehension*". The study illustrated that majority 181(72.4% out of 100%) respondents had literate father and 114(45.6% out of 100%) also had literate mother.

TABLE 2 Adolescent's delinquent behaviour (N=250)

Adolescents (modified) self-reported delinquency scale

S. No	Delinquent activities have done in the nearest past one year <i>Have you, in last year</i>	
		%
	Hurt someone badly	32.8%
	Hit parents	2%
	Used bad language to the parents	14.8%
	Done something that your parents or siblings did not want you to do	32.8%
	Belonged to a gang	5.2%
	Take part in a gang fight	6.8%
	Beaten up someone badly	22.8%
	Use a knife or gun to get something	4.8%
	Carried weapon (knife, blade or gun) to school	2%
	Go onto a bus without paying a ticket	32.8%
	Not attended classes	9.6%

S. No	Delinquent activities have done in the nearest past one year <i>Have you, in last year</i>	
		%
	Run away from home (at least overnight)	3.6%
	Cheat in exams	32.8%
	Intentionally damaged school property	5.6%
	Intentionally damaged another person property	6%
	Set fire to the property	1.2%
	Steal from shop/store	2.4%
	Steal more than 100 PKR	5.6%
	Steal less than 100 PKR	10.8%
	Steal bike	1.2%
	Steal other parts of a bike	1.6%
	Simple smoked	7.2%
	Marijuana smoked	0.8%
	Consumed wine	1.2%
	Gone to see a porn film	25.6%
	With friends, you see a porn film	13.6%
	Alone you see a porn film	9.2%
	With any other person, you see a porn film	2.8%
	On the mobile phone, you see a porn film	21.2%
	On a computer/laptop you see a porn film	3.6%
	In the cinema, you see a porn film	0.8%
	Forced by someone to do sexual things with his/herself	1.6%
	Forced someone to do sexual things with yourself	4.8%

The study has found the delinquent behaviour of the respondents, which is continuous from the nearest past one year. Of the 250 respondents, 32.8% adolescents hurt someone badly, 2% hit to the parents, 14.8% used bad language to the parents, 32.8% done something that their parents did not want him to do, 5.2% belongs to the gang, 6.8% have taken part in gang fight, 22.8% adolescents beaten up someone badly, 4.8% respondents have used knife or gun to take something, 2% respondents have carried knife or gun or blade to the school, 32.8% respondents have gone onto a bus without paying ticket, 9.6% respondents have not attended the classes, 3.6% respondents have run away from home, 32.8% have cheated in exams, 5.6% of the respondents have intentionally damaged the school property, only 6% damaged another person's property, 1.2% involvement is found in set fire to the property, 2.4% steal from shop or store, 5.6% have steeled more than 100 PKR, 10.8% respondents have steeled less than 100 PKR, 1.2% have involved in steeled bike, 1.6% have steeled parts of the bike, 7.2% involved in simple smoking, 0.8% involved in marijuana smoking, 1.2% respondents have consumed wine. While 25.6% have gone to see porn film, with friends 13.6%, alone 9.2%, with other 2.8% and they answered on the question where you see a porn film? 21.2% responded that they have seen on mobile phones, 3.6% seen on computer/laptop and only 0.8% seen movies on the cinema, while 1.6% of respondents have forced by other persons to do sexual things and 4.8% forced someone to do sexual things.

TABLE 3 Have you felt free to talk about everything? (N=250)

Variables	Frequency	%
Parents	53	21.2
Peer group	176	70.4
Teachers	1	0.4
Others	17	6.8
Not known	3	1.2

Of the 250 respondents 53(21.2%) have confidence to talk with parents, majority 176(70.4%) respondents talks everything with the peer, only 1(0.4%) adolescent felt free to talk with the teacher and 17(6.8%) talks with others while 3(1.2%) adolescents not answered.

TABLE 4 Behaviour learned from the family environment (N=250)

Variables	Frequency	%
More knowledge	27	10.8
More confidence	62	24.8
Verbal abusing	97	38.8
Drug addiction	50	20.0
Bullying behaviour	10	4.0
Not known	4	1.6

Statistics show that 27(10.8%) adolescents learned knowledge from family, 62(24.8%) learned more confidence, majority 97(38.8%) respondents have learned verbal abusing from home, 50(20.0%) adopt drug addiction behaviour and 10(4.0%) involved in bullying, while 4(1.6%) not answered.

TABLE 5 Behaviour learned from school life (N=250)

Variables	Frequency	%
More knowledge	60	24.0
More confidence	22	8.8
Gang affiliation	2	0.8
Sexual behaviour	63	25.2
Bullying behaviour	44	17.6
Cheating	9	3.6
Not known	50	20.0

Results show that 60(24.0%) adolescents seek out knowledge from school life, 22(8.8%) learned confidence, 2(0.8%) joined with gang from school, 63(25.2%) learned sexual behaviour, 44(17.6%) involved in bullying and 9(3.6%) learned cheating behaviour from school, while 50(20.0%) respondents did not answer the question.

TABLE 6 Behaviour learned from peer group association (N=250)

Variables	Frequency	%
More knowledge	27	10.8
More confidence	57	22.8
Gang affiliation	1	0.4

Variables	Frequency	%
Sexual behaviour	47	18.8
Bullying behaviour	3	1.2
Smoking	1	0.4
Drug addiction	3	1.2
Verbal abusing	34	13.6
Not known	77	30.8

Outcomes demonstrated that 27(10.8%) respondents learned knowledge from peer association, 57(22.8%) have learned more confidence, only 1(0.4%) respondent involved in gangs due to peers, 47(18.8%) involved in sexual activities, 3(1.2%) learned bullying behaviour, 1(0.4%) respondent smoking due to peer association, 3(1.2%) consumed wine and 34(13.6%) verbally abused to the others due to the negative peer association, whereas 77(30.8%) respondents not known answer of the question.

TABLE 7 Statistical analysis of hypotheses using crosstab and chi-square tests

S.No	Statements	Have you committed any delinquent act in near last year?	Have you committed any delinquent act in near last year?	Chi-Square (X ²)	P-Value
1.	Have you forced by a peer group to commit a delinquent act?	Yes	No	X ² = 245.49	P= .000
		Have you forced by a peer group to commit a delinquent act?	Have you forced by a peer group to commit a delinquent act?		
2.	Parents how to maintain discipline at home? Believe on punishment	Yes 81(32.4%) No 1(0.4%)	0(0%) 168(67.2%)	X ² = 27.82	P= .000
		Parents how to maintain discipline at home?	Parents how to maintain discipline at home?		
		5(2%)	4(1.6%)		
		Verbally 21(8.4%) Both 56(22.4%)	96(38.4%) 68(27.2%)		
3.	What is your family's monthly income? Less than 15000 PKR More than 15000 PKR Not monthly income Not known	What is your family's monthly income?	What is your family's monthly income?	X ² = 6.76	P= .149
		17(6.8%)	35(14%)		
		28(11.2%)	68(27.2%)		
		29(11.6%)	40(16%)		
		8(3.2%)	25(10%)		

S.No	Statements	Have you committed any delinquent act in near last year?	Have you committed any delinquent act in near last year?	Chi-Square (X ²)	P-Value
4.	Are you have known any teacher who stimulates delinquent activities? Yes No Not known	Are you have known any teacher who stimulates delinquent activities? 36(14.4%) 46(18.4%) 0(0%)	Are you have known any teacher who stimulates delinquent activities? 35(14%) 132(52.8%) 1(0.4%)	X ² = 14.72	P= .001

Out of the 32.8% delinquent respondents, 32.4% respondent's response was Yes, they have committed delinquent acts due to the motivation of peer group, while other 0.4% also have committed any delinquent act but was not motivate by the peer group. Hence, it is proved that "peer group motivation leads to delinquent behaviour among adolescents". 2% of respondents out of 32.8% delinquent respondents have found in delinquency and their parents used physical method to maintain discipline, while 4% respondents also have committed any delinquent act, but their parents verbally treated them and 22.4% involved in delinquency because their parents used physical and verbal methods. Results proved that "ineffective parenting practices directly influence delinquent behaviour among adolescents". 6.8% delinquent respondents belonged to lower economic status families, 11.2% delinquent adolescents belonged to a family having more than 15000 PKR per month income, 11.6% delinquent's family not having monthly income, while 3.2% delinquents not known about family income. Thus, it is demonstrated that "lower economic status is not closely associated with delinquent behaviour". 14.4% of delinquent respondents informed that they have known a teacher who stimulates delinquent activities, whereas 18.4% delinquent adolescents not known any teacher. Consequently, it is evidenced that "ineffective teacher's practices produce delinquent behaviour among adolescents".

DISCUSSION

The present study intended to break down the causes of developing delinquent behaviour among adolescents. The 82(32.8%) respondents answered that they have committed any delinquent act. Majority 162(64.8%) of the respondents belonged from rural areas and the level of delinquency is found higher (22.8% out of 32.8%) among these adolescents other than urban areas adolescents. Results featured that 81(32.4%) respondents were from joint family and they associated with delinquency with 10.8% and 154(61.6%) were from nuclear family system and they have committed delinquency with 19.6%, It is demonstrated that "joint or large size family system does not effect on delinquent behaviour among adolescents", while delinquency can be picked up staying in nuclear family system. Numerous 176(70.4%) respondents addressed that they can talk about everything with friends rather than parents, it proves their more elevated amount of relationship with peer group and they involved in delinquency with the ratio of 28%. As Simmel (1971) said that "peer group is a small group and it has the power to control whole the society".

It expected that poor person must commit a crime, yet it found that lower economic status isn't prompted delinquent behaviour among adolescents while 52(20.8%) of respondents belonged to the family's their monthly income was less than PKR.15000 per month and they involved in delinquency with 6.8%. Other stunning outcomes are discovered that verbal abusing (38.8%), drug addiction (20.0%) and bullying (4.0%) behaviours are learned from the family's environment by respondents. School is another institute where an adolescent learned a lot or even originate an ideal personality as the shape of his teacher, but researchers have found shamelessness results which define that 36(14.4%) respondents known any teacher who stimulates them to do immoral or delinquent acts such as sexual things and cheat in exams. 44(17.6%) adolescents

learned to bully, 2(0.8%) seek out gang affiliation and 63(25.2%) learned sexual behaviour at school due to the ineffective practices of the teacher or negative school experience.

Level of delinquency is found differ between age groups, while 45(18.0%) respondents belong to seventeenth years age group and they had committed a greater level (10% out of 32.8%) of delinquency. Adolescents who participated in the research belonged to educated families, 181(72.4%) respondents answered that their father is educated and they involved in delinquency with 23.6%, while 114(45.6%) said that their mother is educated and their involvement (15.2%) found in delinquency. 181(72.4%) respondents addressed that their father is educated/literate and engaged with delinquency with 23.6%, while 114(45.6%) said that their mother is educated/literate and their inclusion 15.2% found in delinquency. The study revealed that “parents’ lower education/literate status isn’t just associated with delinquency among adolescents”.

CONCLUSION

Adolescence is a sensitive phase where different behaviours are learned without determining prosocial or antisocial. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, an adolescent isn’t giving any exceptional consideration even from parents or by the government. Often an adolescent loses his divine right of learning soft social skills (manners, communication, self-control, etc.) from parents or under supervision. Parent’s ineffective parenting practices, absence of parent-child strong relationship, negative school experience, teacher’s negative motivation, antisocial peer group affiliation and easy access on mobile phones or on the internet are the causes of developing delinquent behaviour among (males) adolescents in Pakistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Awareness must be raised about parenting practices through seminars or even on television by the government or non-governmental organizations that how parents can teach soft social skills to their children.
2. Negative peer group associations must be reduced through the positive participation of adolescent’s parents in leisure time.
3. Parents should build up a strong relationship with their children so they can able to share everything with their parents.
4. Parents should watch electronic devices i.e. smartphone, tablets/laptops of the adolescent’s through digital parental lock systems (etc) to decrease the access of adolescents to sexual material.
5. Government and non-governmental organizations should take part in the character building of teachers and aware of the students about sexual harassment through textbooks or seminars.

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