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Article:	Part of the Policing System in Criminal Justice System; Pieces of evidence from Punjab, Pakistan
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ABSTRACT

Understanding criminal justice procedure in depth is imperative for developing a peaceful and nonviolent society. The police department is a crucial component of any country's criminal justice system. The aim of current research was to examine Pakistan's criminal justice system, with a special focus on the Punjab police department as this department is the core part of this CJS (Criminal Justice System) hierarchy. In this study, the researcher employed the quantitative research design, and 104 out of 210 convicted prisoners were interviewed from the Faisalabad District Jail with the help of a well-structured questionnaire. It can be concluded that the policing system of Pakistan has developed through time and is continuing to do so in the modern world, including Pakistan; yet, the intricate workings of the system can be simplified enough for the average person to comprehend them, taking into account the changing interests and challenges of different time and spaces.

Keywords: Policing, Efficiency, Accessibility, Accountability, Effectiveness, Provision of Justice

INTRODUCTION

The criminal justice system in Pakistan is well renowned for being unfair, exploitative, and defective. These issues are unquestionably some of the major causes of the high crime rate. Today, a significant crisis of unprecedented delays is plaguing Pakistan's criminal justice system. Criminal case filing delays are becoming commonplace. In order to manage crime and punish lawbreakers, the government established a number of institutions and procedures that make up the criminal justice system. To bring justice to both the accused and the victim, this system's various parts must cooperate and support one another (Ahmed, 2016). The foundation of the system is justice, equality, fairness, and justice for everyone. It is a system for dealing with crime and criminal activity in order to uphold peace and order in society. Criminal justice is a system of governmental procedures and organizations that upholds social order, works to prevent and lessen crime or uses criminal penalties and other corrective measures to deal with offenders. The criminal justice system mainly consists of three divisions: (i) Police (executive); (ii) Court (trial/trial); (iii) Prison (correction/probation and parole) (Mayeux, 2018).

The British left behind the criminal justice system in Pakistan. The system seeks to lessen crime, prosecute more criminals, and boost public trust in the system's fairness and ability to uphold the rights of law-abiding citizens. The primary and significant flaws and weaknesses of the criminal justice system in Pakistan are accurate reporting of crimes to the police, improper conduct during court proceedings, late filing of complaints by prosecutors, and unbalanced trials where the accused is frequently regarded as the court's favorite child, overcrowding in prisons due to the large number of prisoners in the process management, and underdeveloped probation and parole systems (Shabbir, 2022).

According to the Oxford Handbook of Criminology, policing is the role of the police and is concerned with the prevention and detection of crime, whereas the police are an institution that carries out that job. Pakistan's provinces each have their own police force, complete with a budget, set of regulations, and organizational structure. In Pakistan, there are close to 500,000 police officers working on deterring and preventing crime. Punjab Police is working under Police Order, 2002. Police are given authority under the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898, as are all police organizations. The legislative framework primarily supports the police detection model by offering a legal foundation for additional inquiries and actions; it gives police organizations extremely few resources to fight crime (Shafay, 2020).

FIR Registration: The First Information Report (FIR) at the police station is the first step in the criminal justice process. It has been noticed and frequently stated that police avoid registering crimes when they are reported and frequently postpone filing FIRs. There are several causes for the delay in filing a FIR, but the main one is a lack of motivation on the side of the police because it will reflect poorly on their work (Abbas et al., 2020).

The CrPC was further amended, and the peace judges were added by creating new item 22 A and B, all to help the public with FIR registration and combat delays. In that part, the terms "FIR registration delay," "absence of FIR registration," and "powers of justice of the peace" are referenced. However, the police can simply submit the administrative order to the relevant SHO for FIR registration since they are still obligated to register for the FIR for justice of the peace. Such FIRs are not required to be registered with a separate registry. The question of who would conduct the investigation and present the investigator to the courts, the police, or the justice of the peace would come up if the requirements were comparable (Munir et al., 2021).

Investigation: This is the police's second-most crucial job responsibility. The matter is given to a police officer for investigation after a FIR is filed. The inquiry is conducted in accordance with the criteria outlined in Chapter 25 of the Police Regulations 1934 and the method outlined in the Criminal Procedure Code. To establish an offence and roles, an investigation is the process of gathering evidence. by those they have authorized. Offenses The

Investigative Officer (IO) prepares the investigator to submit in court once the evidence has been obtained and there are grounds for the defendant's involvement or innocence (Jamshed et al., 2022).

After an investigation, police brought roughly 80% of cases to court, and towards the end of the year, only 27% of cases still required an investigation. According to data from 2014, the police in Pakistan registered a total of 612,385 FIRs, of which nearly 3% were cancelled for falsification or a lack of proof and 52% were contested and brought to court. The instances being looked at make up about 4%. We can confidently infer from this information that the cops completed nearly 97% of the prescribed work during this time. This analysis is primarily based on the amount of effort that was discarded, not on the calibre of the investigations (Jamshed et al., 2022).

Police system reforms: Although much has been stated about these changes, it is all completely rhetorical. It hasn't really concentrated on solving the issues at their core yet. Simply changing the legislation won't have the desired effect. The judiciary has frequently condemned the police for abusing their authority under sections 54 and 169 of the CrPC. The statute granted police personnel authority to be used openly and for the sake of justice. Although the SHO has been granted bail, these privileges are rarely typically used. Since SHO bail will be the first level of settlement or relief for any prisoner facing a bogus FIR, law enforcement personnel should act without fear or favour. Any FIR registered person should instead be released on bail as soon as they arrive at the appropriate police station, with the person's investigation being conducted in the same way. Since that time, everyone else has been released on bail prior to their arrest (Umar, 2022).

Pakistan is placed 120th out of 128 nations in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index for 2020. The research also reveals Pakistan's worrisome ranking of 5/6 in South Asia and its criminal justice system's placing of 98th out of 128 nations. This issue highlights the urgent need to look into the problems so that they can be fixed, not only to give Pakistani citizens justice but also to enhance Pakistan's reputation as a democratic country. The survey sought to understand how defendants and CJ officials felt about the aforementioned components of the criminal justice system. In order to implement the Punjab Criminal Justice System effectively, the study focuses on the Punjab Police System. Keeping in view the above situation, the following objectives were formulated:

- To find out the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents
- To assess the role of Policing to control crime in Punjab Pakistan
- To suggest policy measures for better performance of the criminal justice system

METHODOLOGY

Numerous sorts of infinite populations were used in the investigation (Creswel, 2012). There are three main regions in Punjab: the southern, central, and northern. Central Punjab is selected randomly and in the second stage, one district Faisalabad was selected randomly. In total, there were 210 inmates housed in the district jail of Faisalabad, and 104 convicted inmates were interviewed as per Taro Yamane's statistical formula (1967) for sample selection, the sample size was determined the defendants were respondents who were easily chosen as witnesses. A broad survey instrument was developed to gather information regarding Punjab's criminal justice system. The researcher gathered data on his own and in other cases with the assistance of acquaintances who were given instructions on how to complete survey scales. The researcher disseminated the survey forms to respondents with the approval of appropriate authorities. The descriptive and inferential calculations were earned by using SPSS software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The primary purpose of the study was to conduct an in-depth analysis of Pakistan's criminal justice and criminal prosecution systems and specially focused on the police department with the end goal of identifying practical improvements and investigations that may be implemented to make Pakistan's justice system more approachable, productive and trustworthy. In addition, the purpose of this research is to investigate the difficulties associated with criminal prosecution, exploitation by law enforcement agencies, and the extensive concerns that are present in Pakistan's judiciary and police departments. The data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire and was analyzed by using SPSS 21.0 v and the results are discussed below in two sections; one is background information and second is related to policing.

Demographic Information

The demographic data of the respondents shows that the majority of the study participants i.e. 50% were more than 35 years of age, all 100% were males, 57.7% belongs to the urban areas, 63.5% were married, 32.7% don't have any child, 73.1% belongs to the joint family structure, 36.5% were illiterate, 78.8% respondent's monthly household income was up to 50,000 PKR, 30.8% were jobless during their post-prison period, 48.1% were doing different other jobs, 30.8% had different reasons behind their confinement, 57.7% were imprisoned in the jail up to 2 years and the results also revealed that 58% were imprisoned once in their whole life. Nabeela et al. (2015) examined how different factors affected crime rates and found that in Pakistan, unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty all contributed to a higher overall crime rate, whereas greater GDP per capita was associated with higher long-term crime rates but lower short-term ones. Income levels indicate that criminals profit financially from stealing and robbery. Criminals are more likely to congregate in wealthy neighborhoods because of the better chances they have there. The results of the study by Mehmood & Syed (2018) revealed that socio-economic and demographic characteristics are major factors to persuade individuals to involve in criminal activities like robbery, theft, and capital crimes.

Police System in Punjab

The questions and results regarding the police system in Punjab were divided into four sections. 1st section focused on accessibility to the police department, the second was Influence on Police Personnel, the third was the effectiveness of the Police Department, and last was accountability of the Police Department.

Table 1: Accessibility to Police Department

No.*	Statements	Agree F (P)	No response F (P)	Disagree F (P)	Mean	SD	Rank
1.	Accessibility to Police Department						
1.1	It is easy for victims to approach the police.	10(9.6)	12(11.5)	82(78.8)	1.31	0.640	4
1.2	The access of people to the Police is an easy and simple procedure.	20(19.2)	14(13.5)	70(67.3)	1.52	0.800	3
1.3	The police department is accessible without any discrimination on the basis of class, race, and ethnicity	24(23.1)	12(11.5)	68(65.4)	1.58	0.844	2
1.4	The police equally deal with all criminals	24(23.1)	14(13.5)	66(63.5)	1.60	0.842	1

Accessibility to Police Department: Study findings declared that the statement “The police equally deal with all criminals” is ranked first with a mean value (1.60) and the statement ‘the police department is accessible without any discrimination on the basis of class, race, and ethnicity was ranked 2nd with mean value (1.58). Mean values were inclined towards the ‘no opinion’ response. However, the statement ‘The access of people to the Police is an easy and simple procedure’ was ranked 3rd with mean value (1.52). The mean value of this statements were also tended towards ‘no opinion’. While, the statement ‘It is easy for victims to approach the police’ was ranked lowest as 4th with mean value (1.31). The mean value (1.31) was tended towards disagree response. Overall results showed that the most of the respondents were replied with no-opinion about the police equally deal with all criminals and the police department is accessible without any discrimination on the basis of class, race, and ethnicity. However, majority of the respondents were disagreed with the statement ‘It is easy for victims to approach the police’. Most people who tried to report a crime or file a FIR were met with a negative response from the police. As the study's authors concluded, the police system can only be efficient if more people report crimes to them. (syeda, 2015). The police force has a terrible image since its members are, on the whole, corrupt, inept, and ruthless. In this system, it is the general public that suffers, not the offenders. The public's lack of trust in the police is recognized by even internal police evaluations (Imam, 2010).

Table 2: Influence on Police Personnel

No.*	Statements	Agree F (P)	No response F (P)	Disagree F (P)	Mean	SD	Rank
2	Influence on Police Personnel						
2.1	The work of police officers is not influenced by political personalities	54(51.9)	6(5.8)	44(42.3)	2.10	0.971	1
2.2	The work of police officers is not influenced by social pressures	30(28.8)	18(17.3)	56(53.8)	1.75	0.879	3
2.3	The work of police officers is not influenced by the fear/threats of the criminals	32(30.8)	20(19.2)	52(50.0)	1.81	0.952	2
2.4	The work of police officers is not influenced by Bribes and other personal benefits	22(21.2)	16(15.4)	66(63.5)	1.58	0.821	4

Influence on Police Personnel: Study results show that the statement ‘The work of police officers is not influenced by political personalities’ was ranked first with mean value (2.10) and the statement ‘The work of police officers is not influenced by the fear/threats of the criminals’ was ranked 2nd with mean value (1.81). However, ‘the work of police officers is not influenced by social pressures’ was ranked 3rd with mean value (1.75) and ‘the work of police officers is not influenced by Bribes and other personal benefits’ was ranked lowest as 4th. The mean values of all statements related to influence on police personal were tended towards ‘no opinion’. So, most of the respondents were also had no opinion of the role of police personnel. Pakistan's ruling class does not support having an independent police force. They are quite protective of their police forces, since that is a key component of their political power (Muhammad et al, 2014). According to the International Crisis Group Asia Reports (2008) Pakistan's police have always been mired in politics since the governing party there employs them to repress, resist, and control the opposition. Similarly, police personnel often find

themselves under the protection of a political party in exchange for career advancement and other perks.

Table 3: Effectiveness of Police Department

No.*	Statements	Agree F (P)	No response F (P)	Disagree F (P)	Mean	SD	Rank
3	Effectiveness of Police Department						
3.1	Crime response strategies are up to the mark	28(26.9)	12(11.5)	64(61.5)	1.65	0.914	2
3.2	Investigative strategies are good	18(17.3)	22(21.2)	64(61.5)	1.56	0.862	3
3.3	The collection of evidence by police is up to mark and fair	12(11.5)	14(13.5)	78(75.0)	1.37	0.683	5
3.4	The police arrest the criminals in time	12(11.5)	12(11.5)	80(76.9)	1.35	0.679	6
3.5	The cases of arrested persons are quickly reported to the courts	20(19.2)	16(15.4)	68(65.4)	1.54	0.800	4
3.6	The Police officers take quick initiatives to control the crimes	30(28.8)	14(13.5)	60(57.7)	1.71	0.882	1
3.7	The investigation process is smooth and quick	10(9.6)	14(13.5)	80(76.9)	1.33	0.645	7

Effectiveness of Police Department: Results of the study depict that the statement “The Police officers take quick initiatives to control the crimes” was ranked first with mean value (1.71), Crime response strategies are up to the mark was ranked 2nd with mean value (1.65) and Investigative strategies are good was ranked 3rd with mean value (1.56). the mean values of these effectiveness were inclined towards ‘no opinion’ responses. While remaining statements had mean values around the response ‘disagree’. It can be concluded that the Police officers take quick initiatives to control the crimes and crime response strategies were up to the mark. According to Imam (2011) there is a wide range of opinion as to what causes inefficiency in police administration, the study's findings reveal that most respondents place a high priority on police corruption, followed by politically driven postings and a lack of appropriate planning. Lack of training, an unfair system of incentives and promotions, low-quality police personnel, and their apathetic demeanor round out the list of contributing factors.

Table 4: Accountability of Police Department

No.*	Statements	Agree F (P)	No response F (P)	Disagree F (P)	Mean	SD	Rank
4	Accountability of Police Department						
4.1	The policemen are accountable for their misdeeds like (bribes, misuse of authorities, torturing the accused etc.)	40(38.5)	22(21.2)	42(40.4)	1.98	0.892	1
4.2	The accountability process of policemen is transparent	24(23.1)	16(15.4)	64(61.5)	1.62	0.840	4
4.3	The CJS takes quick actions against the corrupt police officers	30(28.8)	24(23.1)	50(48.1)	1.81	0.860	2
4.4	Internal accountability policies are helpful to control the corruption in the police department	30(28.8)	14(13.5)	60(57.7)	1.71	0.889	3

Accountability of Police Department: Study outcome reflect that the statement ‘The policemen are accountable for their misdeeds like (bribes, misuse of authorities, and torturing the accused etc.)’ was ranked first with mean value (1.98), The CJS takes quick actions against the corrupt police officers (1.81) was ranked 2nd, Internal accountability policies are helpful to control the corruption in the police department (1.71) was ranked 3rd and The accountability process of policemen is transparent (1.62) was ranked 4th. All statements related to accountability of police department were tended between disagree and no-opinion but inclined more towards no opinion response.

Based on the overall results it can be concluded that no one any prisoner was fully satisfied with the police department, police personals, effectiveness of police department and accountability of police department. National Corruption Perception Surveys (2002-2010) indicated that the police are most corrupt department in Pakistan and survey also found that the reason behind this corruption is lack of accountability and corrupt organizational culture which persuade new entrants to indulge in corrupt practices. Similarly in other studies, overconfidence in the power and capabilities of certain militant organizations also impedes the development of effective strategies (Abbas, 2011; Naz et al.,2014).

CONCLUSION

Theoretically, the study of crime is known as criminology, and the study of criminal justice (CJ) is the study of the institutions that control or respond to crime. Each component of CJS has its own unique functions, structures, budget, operating model, and legal system. Police and jail operations are governed by the CJ, which is overseen by the province Ministry of the Interior. The following provided a brief overview of each element. This study's goal was to examine how the various parts of Punjab's criminal justice system—the police, the prosecution, the judiciary, the prison system, and probation—work together and interact. In addition to attempting to evaluate the CJS in Pakistan, this study looked for practical ways to develop a police system that is both accessible and successful in Punjab, Pakistan.

According to this study's findings, 50% (n=52) of the prisoners were over the age of 35, indicating that Punjab's proportion of crimes tends to target older persons. Additionally, it was discovered that the majority of those who were incarcerated were illiterate, proving that education was crucial in bringing down Punjab's crime rate. This study discovered that political pressure had an impact on how the police behaved toward criminals, indicating that the Punjab police system is politicized and that not all criminals receive the same treatment from the police. Additionally, it was discovered that a variety of elements, including bribes and private factors, affected the work of the police personnel. The majority of participants in this study believed that accessing the police was difficult and involved a lengthy process. According to this study, police officers are not held accountable. 61.5% of respondents thought that the police system lacked transparency.

Recommendations

1. It was observed that the police department is not fair and also has non-cooperative behavior towards the accused. So, government and administration should arrange training sessions and seminars to make professional police.
2. The rights of the accused should be protected and safeguarded.
3. Bail should be awarded at an appropriate stage.
4. The conviction rate should be enhanced to reduce crimes on merit.
5. It was noticed that there was the unavailability of modern equipment in the police stations. So, government and senior police officers should ensure the modern equipment in the police stations.
6. After an act has been committed or an incident has occurred, the Punjab Police are unable to put forward staff members to do their duties before filing a first information report (FIR).

7. Application against the accused shall be investigated by the investigating officer, and if the accused is determined to be guilty, a First Information Report (FIR) should be filed; otherwise, the application should be rejected.
8. Efforts should be made to eradicate corrupt practices, including nepotism, favoritism, and political interference.

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