

Role of socio economic determinants and social capital in juvenile delinquency in Urban Lahore: A case study of Lahore district Jail

Thesis by

Rida Junaid

15002127002

Department of sociology

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Supervisor: Miss Tayyaba Sohail

Abstract

The aim of this research is to explore the determinants of juvenile's delinquency in urban Lahore. Furthermore, the study will explore the role of informal networks; family, peer and neighborhood (social capital) in encouraging and discouraging juvenile delinquency. According to society for the protection of the rights of child (SPARC) annual report 2014, there are 1456 juveniles in all Pakistan jails, but what are the causes behind their delinquent behavior remains mostly faded. The study is qualitative in nature and conducted as on the basis of case study of Lahore District jail. Male respondents were selected from age 12 to 18. Purposive sampling method is used to collect data by conducting semi structured interviews. This research shows that low socio economic status, Lack of parental supervision and negative social capital are the significant reasons of increasing juvenile delinquency in Lahore. Twelve respondents were interviewed considering the saturation point of the research. There were 6 theft and robbery cases and all mentioned that we wanted to get money to fulfill their basic needs as their monthly family income ranged from 5000 to 20000 along with rented house. There were 5 rape cases and they all responded that parents never asked about their activities and they used to spend most of their time with friends and participated in each other activities. There was one murder case who responded in the same way that he used to spend his time with friends and parents never asked him. So it shows that low socio economic status, negative social capital and lack of parental involvement are the main reasons of increasing juvenile delinquency in Lahore.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a social phenomenon which refers to the delinquent behavior that violates the norms of society. Juvenile delinquency can be considered as those delinquent acts which are recognized as harmful acts by nation or state (Zafar, 2012). Juvenile delinquency can be defined as criminal acts committed by teenagers who have not reached to adulthood. Juvenile delinquency is a broad concept given to adolescents who get involve in delinquent act. This concept is made by joining two broader terms. Juvenile means a person who has not reached adulthood while delinquency refers to criminal activity which is recognized as crime by state. So juvenile delinquency can be viewed as a crime committed by an individual who has not reached to his age of maturity (Talpur, Pathan and shah, 2012). These delinquent acts include murder, robbery, rape, theft, smuggling and other illegal acts. In Pakistan, there are certain factors which are contributing towards increasing juvenile crimes and those factors include money, land, sexual assault, illiteracy, honor killing, old personal grudge and drug addiction (Malik and shirazi, 2010).