Determinant of Crime in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the root causes of crime rate in Pakistan, the activities due to which crime is increasing in the country. Variables for this research are crime rate, population growth rate, inflation, household consumption, urbanization, saving (% of GDP) and unemployment. For this purpose, data has been collected for 34 years from the period 1980-2014. The independent variables involved in this research are population growth rate, inflation, household consumption, urbanization, saving (% of GDP) and unemployment whereas the dependent variable is crime rate. For the analysis of data multiple regression has been applied using the SPSS software. The results showed that inflation, population, unemployment, household consumption have positive relation with the crime rate whereas savings is negatively related. The government should take steps to make the environment of country crime free by providing economic incentives to people and by making the law making and implementing departments strong and accountable for what they do.

INTRODUCTION

The general concept of crime in the mind of people is such a behavior which is against the law. The reasons for the deviation of behavior can be many that’s why crime cannot be defined in one single definition. The existence of crime is as old as existence of mankind. History shows the evidence that first crime was committed by Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, when out of jealousy he murdered his own brother Abel.

The insecurity and discomfort caused in the society is due to the crime. Different fields try to study dimensions of crime from their point of view like sociology, demography, criminology and psychology (Asad, 2018; Asad, 2020). Every country wants to have a crime-free society where people can live more freely. But in the last decade the crime activities have greatly increased (Aurangzeb, 2012). This phenomenon captured the attention of people all over the world through newspapers, internet and media coverage.

Crime free society is the dream of every country where its people could live their life with happiness, peace of mind and justice (Coomer, 2003). Any kind of fear relating to their own life, family and financial fear should not exist in their mind. But the situation of Pakistan is getting worse day by day. Crime rate is continuously increasing which is not only a threat for the government but also for the people of Pakistan (Shaker, Asad, & Zulfiqar, 2018). Crime activities include street crime, violence, robberies, kidnapping and the number is increasing everyday making the circumstances alarming (Baharom, 2009).

There are different kinds of factors linked with crime such as social, financial and economic factors.
According to the researches, the economic factors are the main root cause behind the crime. The more government incentives in the country, the lower is the spread of crime, and similarly if the people in the country are not taken care of by government, the consequences will not be good (Buonanno & Montolio, 2005; Asad, et al., 2021).

The other cause of crime includes unemployment, inflation, illiteracy, lawlessness, double standards of the society, wage rate, electricity deficits, migration of people from other countries (Coomer, 2003; Gumus, 2004; Asad, et al., 2021; Asad, Haider, Akhtar, & Javaid, 2011).

Low wage rates in the country are contributing towards crime because due to low wage, a person is unable to meet the needs of his family, and he has to feed them at any cost by any means (Haider, Asad, & Almansour, 2015; Gillani & Mehmood, 2009; Kashif, et al., 2020; Khan A. A, Asad, Khan, Asif, & Aftab, 2021). Similarly, due to electricity deficit, the business conditions in the country are getting worse, and organizations are not able to give employment opportunities to people.

The legal system of Pakistan is also not playing its role efficiently. Policies are made to control crime but they only take place in books; their practical implementation can never be seen (Asad, Muhammad, Rasheed, Chethiyar, & Ali, 2020; Asif, Asad, Kashif, & Haq, 2021; Asad, Sharif, & ALebak, 2016). The police system in the corrupt system of the country, which gives boost to the criminals to continue what they are doing because they better know that there will be no action taken and even if any action is taken, even if any action is taken will deal with it either by paying money or the case will be heard in court for years and ultimate result would be nothing.

Inflation in the country has gone up, and rich become rich, and the poor become poorer (Alkhuzaie & Asad, 2018; Asad & Farooq, 2009; Bashir & Asad, 2018). Rate of inflation is increasing whereas income level is constant, which affects the purchasing power of common man. He is unable to fulfill the basic needs of life and provide good living standard to his family.

Political influence is a negative cause of increasing crime in our country because rich educated people also commit crime to earn money and for other benefits having the back of political people (Asad, Haider, & Fatima, 2018; Ullah, et al., 2021). They know nothing will happen as the justice system in the country is in their hands, so they play the game easily and comfortably.

The objective of writing this research paper is to identify those important variables which are affecting the crime situation in the country. The variables to be included are population, inflation, savings, unemployment, household consumption, and urbanization (Allam Z., Asad, Ali, & Ali, 2021; Farrukh & Asad, 2017; Haider, Asad, & Almansour, 2015). According to the results of this research paper, some recommendations will be provided to improve the situation of the society.

The remaining part of the study is organized according to literature review, data analysis, methodology, and conclusion.

Literature Review

To study the factors affecting crime rate in Pakistan, research was conducted in 2012 by Aurangzeb for this purpose. He considered the data for the period 1980-2010. The variables used were GDP, population, literacy, wage rate, household consumption. The technique applied by the author was regression analysis (Aurangzeb, 2012; Almansour, Asad, & Shahzad, 2016; Amir & Asad, 2018; Asad, Altaf, Israr, & Khan, 2020). A study in Nigeria was conducted to know about the important determinants affecting crime rate in the country by taking the panel data from 1981-2005. The variables in the study included per capita income, population, and wage rate. The methodology applied to check the significance of selected variables is ordinary least square (Omotor, 2009).

To know about the factors which contribute towards crime rate in the US, a research was conducted by taking the data from 1990-2002. The variables included were robbery, theft, living wage, and GDP. The methodology adopted to find the results was regression analysis (Fernandez & Holman, 2011; Asif, Asad, Kashif, & Haq, 2021). Unemployment also effects the crime situation in a country and to study this, a study was conducted in 2009 taking the variables like unemployment rate, apprehension, and unemployment insurance. Apprehension was a significant variable in this case (Kangoh, 2009; Asad, et al., 2021).

Economic activities and criminal activities have some relation and to explore this, a research
was conducted in 2013. The variables taken in consideration were inflation, unemployment and income and un equality. The techniques applied were Dicky Fuller test and co integration. All the variables showed significant impact on crime rate (Raja & Ullah, 2013; Asif, Asad, Bhutta, & Khan, 2021).

In 2009 a research was conducted on unemployment, inflation and crime nexus. The technique applied to study the relationship was co integration which showed that unemployment and inflation had a significant impact on crime activities (Gillani & Mehmood, 2009; Raja & Ullah, 2013). In Malaysia a research was conducted for the period 1973-2003 to investigate the relationship between income inequality and crime. Auto regressive distributed log was applied to get the expected results (Baharom, 2009; Haider, Asad, & Aziz, 2015).

Macroeconomic policies play an important role in the socio economic culture of a country and therefore also have significant impact on crime activities. Macroeconomic policies include fiscal and monitory policy (Asad & Farooq, 2009). The impact of fiscal policy on crime is through government spending and impact of monitory policy is through inflation (Teles, 2004).

To empirically know about the determinants affecting crime rate in urban areas of US. A research was conducted in 2004. The variables taken into consideration for the study were income inequality, per capita income, unemployment and police expenditures. Regression technique was applied to know about results (Gumus, 2004; Gillani & Mehmood, 2009). To check the impact of macroeconomic factors on crime a research was conducted in 2003. The variables included were unemployment, poverty, population, college education and the technique applied was OLS (Coomer, 2003).

A study was conducted in 16 states of US to investigate the relation between unemployment and crime. The variables considered were per capita income, age and population. regression analysis was conducted to reach the results (Trogdon, 2006). In 2005 a study was done to know about the demographic and socio-economic factors of crime. Data was taken from 1993-1999 in Spain. Education, GDP, growth and unemployment rate were considered. GMM estimation technique was used in it (Buonanno & Montolio, 2005).

So in the light of the previous studies considered it can be said that there are various factors that cause an increase in the crime activities like, income, inflation, GDP, unemployment, law and order, population, urbanization, household consumption (Aurangzeb, 2012; Asad, Asif, Allam, & Sheikh, 2021). In this research some of the variables out of these would be tested for their significant impact on crime activities in a country.

**METHODS**

The aim of this study is basically to determine those factors that are affecting the crime in Pakistan. The aim of the study is to identify the significant factors affecting the crime in the country. Literature relating to Pakistan and other countries were studied which helped in deciding the variable for the study.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The variables for the study are Population growth rate, inflation, household consumption, urbanization, saving (%of GDP) and unemployment. The date was collected from reliable sources which includes World bank, The Global Economy website, Economic Survey of Pakistan and Pakistan bureau of statistics. The data gather for determining the results consists of 34 years i.e. from 1980-2015 and it is a time series data. The techniques applied to this study include regression analysis and correlation matrix with the help of SPSS software.

The regression model for this study is:

\[
CR = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{HHC} + \beta_2 \text{URB} + \beta_3 \text{INF} + \beta_4 \text{SAV} + \beta_5 \text{POP} + \beta_6 \text{UNEMP}
\]

where:
- \(CR\) = Crime
- \(HHC\) = Household consumption
- \(URB\) = Urbanization
- \(INF\) = Inflation
- \(SAV\) = Savings (% of GDP)
- \(POP\) = Population growth rate
- \(UNEMP\) = Unemployment
The multiple regression results show the impact of independent variables on dependent variables of research. According to table 1 results the adjusted R square for this research is 0.975 which is showing that a 97.5% variation in crime rate has been explained by the independent variables which are inflation, urbanization, household consumption, savings, population and unemployment.

The overall fit of the model is good which means that all the variables considered in the study are good predictors. The f test shows 0.000 significance level. In this below.

According to the coefficients tables’ inflation, savings and unemployment are insignificant as their value is less than 0.05 and the other variables which are urbanization, household consumption and population are showing significant results. Inflation, urbanization, household consumption, population and unemployment are the variables which are positively related with crime rate. It means that increase in these variables ultimately results in an increase in crime rate in the country. Whereas savings (% of GDP) is showing negative relation with crime rate which means that decrease in savings causes an increase in crime rate.

**CONCLUSION**

The main purpose of the study was to find the causes due to which crime rate increases for this purpose data had been collected for 34 years from 1980-2014 and to find the impact of these variables on crime rate multiple regression techniques has been applied using the SPSS software. The analysis showed that inflation, population, urbanization household consumption and unemployment are positively related with crime rate whereas savings is negatively related to crime rate.

These results are in accordance with the literature review. All the literature that has been studied showed that crime rate is increased whenever inflation in the country is increased and same is the case with the other variables in the study. On the other hand, savings which is showing a negative relation with crime rate which is also in accordance with the literature.

The scope of this research was to identify important variables affecting crime so that the government and the related institutions can get help in formulating proper policies that would be helpful in decreasing the crime in the country, because crime is such a phenomenon which is difficult to be eliminated hundred percent. The law making and enforcement departments have a big responsibility of providing safe environment in the country and for that purpose they need to understand the basis of crime.

All the people living in the society dream of a place where they have no fear and have peace of mind but the present situation does not depict the true picture it is the responsibility of the government to provide employment opportunities to people, maintain the inflation in the country. The population cannot be controlled however resources can be distributed to meet the needs of the increasing population. Urban migration can be decreased by focusing on the reasons why people migrate from rural areas and putting efforts to eradicate those causes, for this purpose development plans for such areas need to be established with proper implementations. The government and the political influence should be removed to follow the policy that justice should be
for all, whoever is wrong should be punished irrespective of the status or power. When the
government will have a check on balance on all these activities the people will be satisfied having
peace of mind without any fear of insecurity which diminish the need for any un law full activity.

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