Social Structures and Criminal Behavior in Pakistan: Implications for Legal Policy

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Abstract: This research article explores the intricate relationship between social structures and criminal behavior in Pakistan, with the aim of informing effective legal policy. Key social determinants such as poverty, unemployment, educational disparities, family dynamics, and cultural norms are analyzed to understand their contributions to criminal activities. High youth unemployment rates exacerbate poverty and economic inequality, which are the primary drivers of crime. Educational inequalities further compound the issue by limiting legitimate opportunities for socio-economic advancement. Family instability and socialization processes, influenced by peer and community norms, play crucial roles in shaping criminal behavior. Additionally, the article highlights cultural practices related to honor and revenge, as well as the influence of tribal and feudal systems, as significant factors complicating the legal landscape. The article concludes with policy recommendations that advocate for comprehensive legal reforms, coupled with social and economic interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of crime. Emphasizing community-based approaches, the study suggests fostering collaboration between local communities, law enforcement, and legal institutions to bridge the gap between formal and traditional systems. This holistic strategy aims to reduce crime rates, enhance social cohesion, and promote a more just and effective legal system in Pakistan. The following article employs qualitative research methodology.

Key words: Criminal behavior, social structures, Legal policy, Poverty, Cultural norms, Pakistan

1. Introduction

Criminal behavior is a pervasive issue that significantly impacts societal well-being and stability. Understanding the underlying causes of crime is essential for developing effective legal policies and interventions. Pakistan, a country characterized by profound socio-economic disparities, diverse cultural practices, and evolving social norms, presents an especially insensible relationship between social structures and criminal activities. Thus, this article dedicates itself to elucidating, through a sociological lens, the various social determinants of crimes committed in Pakistan and their implications for legal policy. The World Bank reports that a substantial portion of Pakistan's population struggles to survive below the poverty line. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that economic stagnation and inequality have a significant impact on the criminal situation in the country. However, it is of particular relevance to highlight that officially unemployed youth are the most vulnerable category in this respect. Therefore, we should further scrutinize poverty and unemployment as social determinants of crime in Pakistan (Khan, & Kanwel, 2023; Khan et al., 2021). Furthermore, educational inequality is important. In Pakistan, access to well-paid education is extremely unequal, and both rural areas and low socio-economic status groups are characterized by vast disadvantages. Deficient education outcomes reduce the chances of finding a good and honest job, which increases the odds of engaging in criminal activity. At the same time, the crucial role of education in the students' lives, both as a factor in behavior

formation and a facilitator of socio-economic development, leaves no choice but to act in terms of policy to eliminate education gaps. Family and socialization issues also play a huge role in criminal activity. The traditional family structure and role of extended families in Pakistan's socialization are changing with the increased incidence of single-parent households, divorce, and strife. These changes disrupted socialization and, by extension, led to the emergence of delinquent behaviors. Moreover, we cannot overlook the role of peer groups and community attitudes. For example, in areas where gang infestations are common, young people are more likely to become criminals. The given post discusses a number of social problems in Pakistan. The research fully agrees with the author that there exists a social structure in Pakistan that affects the criminal behavior of its population. The current state of affairs is that many practices reflect people's social norms in their attitudes toward crime (Mushtaq, Idrees, & Roman, 2017). For example, people may kill their relatives in order to wash away their family's shame. These social peculiarities make the custom of honor killing one of the most burning social problems in Pakistan. These social peculiarities seriously fragment Pakistan's legal structure. Thus, in some remote areas of the country, there are still tribal and feudal systems of government. The members have the freedom to enforce their own code of conduct and apply harsh punishments. This leaves the state's legal successor vulnerable and powerless. These facts suggest that a complex approach is necessary to address the crime problem in Pakistan. The research should combine legal reforms with a series of social and economic measures. The first must include such domains as the justice system, enforcement capacity, and legal awareness. The second sphere must embrace poverty reduction, education programs, and social employment across Pakistan. It is very important to try to create a sort of continuity between rural and urban populations. A community-based approach may be a solution to these problems. Establishing a partnership between local communities, law enforcement, and other institutions is crucial. The research can use various programs such as community policing, local dispute resolution, and public awareness (Shah, & Rizvi, 2024; Khan, & Ximei, 2022).

2. Socio-Economic Factors and Crime
2.1 Poverty and Economic Inequality

On a global scale, the primary causes of crime are poverty and economic inequality, and Pakistan is no exception to that rule. The country is economically depressed, with a significant portion of the population living in poverty. In rural areas of Pakistan, poverty is more severe because of limited job opportunities and underdeveloped infrastructure. Thus, the high level of poverty that prevails in society is one factor facilitating criminal activities. Poverty causes numerous social problems, including the inability to buy food, clothing, and shelter or to obtain proper medical services. Ordinary people trapped in poverty see crime as a way to address the challenges they face in society. With high rates of poverty, property crimes, including theft and burglary, are especially common because they enable criminals to acquire things that the victims are unable to afford due to their poverty. Such economic depravation encourages people to commit property crimes (Wood, 2006). Economic inequality also stimulates this process, as the difference in people's wealth is quite visible today. The gap between the rich and the poor may lead to resentment and a feeling of injustice. In urban areas, economic disparities are usually more prominent, as rich districts are close to poor areas in the neighborhood. As a result, the relative deprivation of people in cities stimulates their criminal activities, as it becomes contestable for most criminals to persuade others that they deserve more while witnessing fabulously wealthy people around them. People's economic situation directly correlates with the number of crimes committed, and the rate of these crimes closely correlates with the level of poverty. In other words, studies show that people in economically challenged areas commit more crimes, with property crimes being the most frequent. Therefore, it is possible to argue that methods to prevent crimes should also address economic issues (Coccia, 2018). In Pakistan, the most important policy tool to prevent crime is contributing to alleviating poverty and economic inequality. Usually, the government initiates numerous programs to alleviate poverty, such as income support schemes, vocational training, and employment generation, all of which significantly contribute to poverty reduction. The government implements policy measures that contribute to the economic development of rural areas, enhance infrastructure in these areas for poverty reduction, and improve access to education, health, and other services, all of which aid in addressing the root causes of crime. Reducing the available incentives in the context of disparity and poverty achieves this. Only short- and medium-term measures can solve poverty, which significantly contributes to rising crime rates. Short-term measures include relief and some degree of relaxation. For instance, the acutely impoverished can receive cash transfers and food aid. Medium-term measures to address the poverty cycle will aim to increase the pace of economic growth and development in the country, as well as other social indicators of development such as education and health (Wohlfarth et al., 2001).

2.1 Unemployment

Unemployment, especially among youth, is the other vital factor that leads to increased criminal activity in Pakistan. The demographics of the country indicate a high proportion of youths, with a significant portion of the population being under 30 years. Due to a lack of job opportunities, young people often become frustrated and angry with society. This frustration can manifest in crimes, as they may seek financial support or resort to stealing to ease their frustration. The youth bulge presents a significant opportunity for the country, particularly in terms of population growth, to become an economic-generating nation and boost the state's economy. However, the lack of adequate job opportunities for the youth, who may have attained the minimum education requirement for the job market, creates a huge unemployment rate in the country. Most of the youth get disappointed by the job market, losing hope in life (Bharadwaj, 2014).

The inability to find a paying job is a substantial economic burden for young people and their families. Consequently, unemployment not only exerts economic pressure but also leads to social exclusion, as it typically excludes jobless youth from public economic and social activities. This alienation weakens social ties and legitimizes the existing social order, which, in turn, particularly complicates the level of adherence to social standards. The stigma attached to joblessness makes people feel even more insignificant and ignored. Thus, such people, in their turn, will ignore the social order, preferring to partake in criminal activities as a means of rebellion or simply because they see no better way to prove their point or status to society. Thus, various illegal activities appear as potentially equivalent alternatives to finding a legit job for many jobless youths. People perceive the illegal economy and criminal context as less restrictive than the wage-job market, allowing for trade and potentially more profitable opportunities. Thus, illegally profitable activities like drug trafficking, stealing, and, in general, running an illegal business become alternative ways for jobless people to earn money. Typically, these options appear more lucrative than genuinely risky, as monetary gain frequently takes precedence for those compelled to sustain themselves; however, they perceive no genuine opportunities in the legally established market (Raphael, & Winter-Ebmer, 2001).

Both rural and urban contexts demonstrate the issue of unemployment and its connection to crime; the difference lies in the manifestation of criminal behavior. In urban areas, higher costs of living and greater income inequality may exacerbate the level of frustration among the unemployed. The city's anonymity also enables many types of criminal behavior, from small scavenging for petty thefts to large, organized crime, such as human trafficking. Smuggling of a variety of goods is among the most common crimes, followed by pickpocketing and theft. Employment in agriculture and related fields of specialization is a key issue in rural areas. The seasonality of employment and underemployment, whether associated with full-time or part-time status, contribute to unemployment in this setting. Cattle theft, goat smuggling, and even more violent disputes over natural resources are the root causes of many crimes. The situation calls for both immediate relief in terms of employment opportunities and decreasing crime prevalence, as well as a long-term perspective on the developing economy. The key strategies are: 1) job creation initiatives; 2) educational programs for adults; 3) microgrant opportunities for small businesses; 4) an increase in social assistance; and 5) employment opportunities in rural areas (Edmark, 2005).

2.2 Educational Disparities

Education is an influential factor in terms of guiding individuals' susceptibility to criminal activity. In Pakistan, educational differences are a defining factor. The primary factor that characterizes these differences is the existence of disparities in the north and south, east and west, rural and urban regions, and across all social classes, from middle to upper. Experts cite a positive correlation between higher crime rates and poorer educational attainment. In this view, people with less education will have a higher likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. This aspect stems from the limited opportunities these individuals may have to participate in activities that promote socio-economic growth. All segments of the Pakistani population possess education, a characteristic that distorts the distinction. In Pakistan, the accessibility of education varies widely. Urban areas always have numerous schools and better learning facilities. They have enhanced infrastructure and are more capable of providing well-qualified teachers. Urban schools have access to an extended range of educational opportunities and facilities when compared to their rural counterparts. However, rural schools are not capable of providing the same level of educational opportunities as urban schools. Unlike urban schools, rural schools significantly lack educational resources and suitable infrastructure, thereby condemning children compelled to attend these schools to a substandard education (Gibbons, Green, Gregg, & Machin, 2005).

Moreover, socio-economic status has a considerable impact on the quality and scope of education. Children from well-off families may attend better schools in terms of facilities and teaching staff. For example, they may study in

private schools that have more teachers, and they may teach in smaller classes. Altogether, children from high-income families often have a better educational background and academically outperform their peers. In Pakistan, these children have the opportunity to attend a new, paid school such as the International School of Acumen, which boasts a swimming pool and gardens, while their peers attend overcrowded schools with inadequate equipment and conditions. Furthermore, children from affluent families can take advantage of various courses that provide additional preparation for admission to prestigious universities. At public schools, these opportunities do not always exist, either temporally or financially (Jordan, Karger, & Neal, 2024).

All these reasons can lead to an unsatisfactory way of life. Among these reasons, the inability of poorly educated individuals to secure a suitable job can be a significant source of disappointment. Then, they might begin looking for illegal ways to earn money or gain social status, such as engaging in a criminal subculture. Furthermore, a lack of education can lead people to engage in criminal activities because they do not understand the importance and value of laws. It is important to note that the higher the crime rate, the worse social justice. We should take relevant measures to prevent this. For example, it is necessary to improve the education system, especially in rural areas and towns. This can be achieved by implementing certain activities. For example, it is possible to create better access to education, revise school infrastructure, provide teachers from rural areas with qualifications and educational literature, and assist students from poor families. In conclusion, it is possible to note that education and crime are closely connected concepts (Gase et al., 2016).

3. Family Dynamics and Socialization

3.1 Family Structure

Ranging from single-parent households and instability to criminal behavior, family dynamics have a strong influence on one another. Family structures are becoming more modern, with a particular focus on the rise of single-parent households and familial disintegration. These changes are likely to disrupt the socialization process and, as a result, impact the likelihood of engaging in some delinquent behaviors. Family interactions, which play a significant role in Pakistani society today, negatively relate to cases of single-parent households and family instability. Since Pakistani families are known to be close-knit and have traditionally structured relationships, these changes have a different impact (Bethencourt, & Kunze, 2022).

A shift in the family structure, no longer constrained by a traditional sense of belonging, affects the family's capacity to mold specific values and behaviors. On the other hand, this change may significantly impact young people's welfare when it comes to overcoming economic and emotional hardships. Leaving the child's mother alone with the struggle to sustain the family may force the child to find ways to overcome economic deprivation, which, in turn, may lead to engaging in delinquent and criminal activities. The most harmful manifestations of families' weak structures are instability, frequent changes in caregivers, and parental conflict. Such problems disrupt the child's sense of security, leading to delinquency and even criminality. Moreover, because these families may not always transmit pro-social values, children may experience peer pressure. Therefore, interventions should focus on promoting family cohesion, positive parenting, and single-parent household support, as well as economic empowerment and access to education. By eliminating stressors, the system of family intervention can influence the risk factors behind criminal behavior in Pakistani youth (Bezin, Verdier, & Zenou, 2017).

3.2 Socialization and Peer Influence

The socialization processes in families and peer groups have a significant impact on individuals' attitudes towards the phenomenon of crime in Pakistan. Thus, in those cases, individuals are more likely to participate in delinquent behavior when they have learned that such criminal activities are okay. A broader peer group, particularly during the years of adolescence, will eventually have a more pronounced impact. Family and peer groups are the primary agents of socialization in the Pakistani cultural environment, shaping individuals' values and perspectives accordingly. The family setting participates in the transmission of cultural values and moral ethics applicable to a community, thereby providing an understanding of what is right and wrong. However, in a situation where petty crime is the norm or is portrayed as cool, the child may adopt this deviant cultural value, feel comfortable, and even develop a desire to engage in criminal activities (Farrington, 2011).

Socialization is one of the most significant aspects that have a marked influence on human development. This topic gains value, especially in adolescence, when the process of socialization through peer groups takes place. Peers become authorities in matters of validation, acceptance, and social adaptation. If a person surrounds themselves with friends who engage in criminal activity or ignore it, they are more likely to follow suit. The acceptance of crime as a

norm generates a vicious cycle that influences people's attitudes and behaviors. Young people seek to belong, fit in, and gain acceptance from their peers, leading them to adopt specific types of behavior. On the other hand, the motivation to cultivate a positive image in peers' eyes results in a subsequent reinforcement of the criminal image, thus blurring the distinctions between criminal and innocent actions. To reduce the impact of socialization and peer groups, we need to implement drastic changes in socialization mechanisms. For instance, we must prioritize different types of family and peer group dynamics (Burt, Lei, & Simons, 2017).

One of the effective ways to address the problem in Pakistan is to create more educational initiatives that aim at developing people's critical thinking, moral reasoning, and conflict resolution skills. In other words, an individual should possess the ability to reject negative peer pressure and accurately evaluate the situation. Moreover, there should be a variety of community-based programs available to improve youth socialization in this or that region, as well as support adults in enhancing their psychological wellbeing. Therefore, these programs could take the form of recreational activities, ascent programs, or mentoring programs. Once developed and implemented, these programs will foster engagement and socialization, thereby positively impacting the country's situation and creating opportunities for Pakistan to address socialization and peer pressure issues. To sum up, the issue of socialization and peer pressure is an urgent problem in Pakistan because it leads to the spread of criminal activities, particularly among youth. However, after reviewing the literature and reflecting on the issue, it is clear that various educational and community-based initiatives and programs could potentially help control the process. Therefore, it is crucial that these initiatives and programs specifically target families, schools, communities, and policymakers (Khan, & Riaz, 2024).

4. Cultural Norms and Crime
4.1 Honor and Revenge
Pakistan's complex and fraught history has shaped its social behavior and attitudes towards justice through numerous cultural norms surrounding honor and revenge. In Pakistan, the concept of "honor" holds significant importance; many religious and native-born communities understand it as a concept that dictates acceptable behavior and social expectations, particularly regarding a person's family's reputation and respectability. When familial authorities perceive a certain action as violating "honor," such as initiating an unapproved relationship or engaging in behavior that brings shame to the family, they often take measures to restore perceived honor. Often, these measures involve violence, and women in particular who are considered responsible for the violation of the perceived honor of their families are likely to end up the victims of "honor killings," where they are murdered in some extra-judicial context by a male relative or relative of a relative. "Revenge," which can sometimes be the same as considerations of "honor," often also leads to very violent approaches and can spur cycles of violence that often just end up raising more desire for revenge (Riaz, & Usman, 2024).

These cultural practices raise relatively severe challenges on the territory of the legal conditions. As previously discussed, formal legal regulations exist to manage these crimes and meet the victims' demands. However, they create a discrepancy with the importance associated with the concept of honor and revenge. Khalid and Shah claim that by falling under the influence of traditional values, committing a crime, or not following the state's laws, individuals give preference to their communities or families. This leads to further tendencies toward underreporting crimes. Implementing a holistic plan that deeply understands these cultural challenges and enacts new legal regulations is necessary to resolve this dilemma, meet victim demands, and ensure unconditional punishment for offenders. On the one hand, the legal regulations must be highly effective to guarantee increased safety for the vulnerable category of people, which includes the victims of honor-related crimes. On the other hand, the new laws should be severe for all the possible offenders, especially relatives or family members; they should try to be less involved in this crime. As a result, there havAs a result, the implementation of high penalties for committee of honor killings is necessary, along with the development of relevant safety nets for survivoFinally, the Pakistani government must develop community or municipal work to spread information about the inappropriateness of these cultural activities and promote gender equality (Khan, & Usman, 2023).

4.2 Tribal and Feudal Systems
There are certain regions in Pakistan where the tribal and feudal systems continue to have a substantial impact on local governance and social order. These parallel social systems operate separately from the state legal system and enforce their own systems of behavior and issues. Tribal and feudal leaders in these cases have a great deal of power over local issues, such as disputes, land, and resources. The tribal system is based on kinship and tradition, adhering

to rules that predate the legal system. Councils, commonly known as jirgas, resolve tribal disputes and ensure appropriate justice in tribal contexts. The land ownership patterns in feudal systems are remnants of colonial times, with powerful landlords controlling large estates and their local populations. Despite the integration of these regions into the state legal system and their formal designation by law, these social systems continue to function autonomously and can oppose the state legal system. This can result in two parallel systems of justice: the state judiciary and the tribunals of the tribal and feudal leaders who pass sentences, sometimes extra-judicial (Hussain, Khan, & Chandio, 2023).

The persistence of tribal and feudal systems poses challenges for the governance and rule of law in Pakistan. Though tribal and feudal systems provide a certain way of dispute settlement and social order, they might perpetuate conditions of injustice and inequality, particularly against vulnerable populations. There are known cases of violence, coercion, and exploitation in areas where tribal and feudal systems are in place. The researcher must adequately balance efforts to overcome the influence of tribal and feudal systems between the preservation of cultural traditions, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. Initiatives designed to strengthen national institutions, increase legal awareness, and boost community capacity can mitigate the negative outcomes associated with the influence of the given systems while also preserving the main premises of traditional governance and social arrangement. In some cases, collaboration and dialogue between respective state authorities, tribal and feudal leaders, and civil society actors are essential for achieving accountability and supporting the people-oriented and equal-friendly development of tribal and feudal areas (Khan, Hussain, & Oad, 2023).

5. Implications for Legal Policy
5.1 Reforming the Legal Framework
Pakistan's legal framework needs comprehensive reform as the existing relationships between social structures and criminal behaviors are highly intricate. Such reform includes a variety of measures, ranging from ensuring equitable access to justice and guaranteeing the proper capacity of law enforcement agencies to fostering legal awareness among ordinary people. An increase in the legal system's capacity to combat crimes conditioned by socioeconomic and cultural background will support lower crime rates and increased social justice. The fundamentals of the legal system closely link with equitable access to justice, with fairness being one of these fundamental issues. A legal system must ensure that everyone has the ability to seek redress and compensation when they experience injustice. Different initiatives, such as free legal services or fee waivers in cases of complaints against public officers, are necessary to support expanded access to justice and legal support. Such measures will help ensure equal protection of the law (Hussain, Khan, Chandio, & Oad, 2023).

Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies is one critical step in reducing crime. Notably, this includes the provision of requisite training, resources, and technology to assist law enforcement agents in investigating criminal activities, arresting suspects, and collecting evidence. Furthermore, increased cooperation and coordination between different law enforcement agents, such as police and legal officers, can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal notifications and court trials. Furthermore, enhancing the public's awareness of the law is crucial for promoting law-abiding behavior. This involves implementing practical schemes such as legal literacy programs, mass media, and community-based organizations to enhance legal awareness. Additional approaches include local dialogues between the public and police officers in an open environment to resolve urgent issues. As a result, utilizing any of these programs can help sensitize the public to their legal rights and obligations, as well as the limitations of functioning police institutions when dealing with various forms of crime and criminality. As a result, the public will be in a better position to respect the laws and regulations of the land. In order to mitigate future crimes in Pakistan, it is crucial to address various illegal activities that stem from socio-economic and cultural factors. To achieve this, the government and other relevant stakeholders must build social work and social orientation elements and interventions that can accelerate the development of the socio-economic combination that satisfies society. Additionally, the government must implement new measures to combat social inequality, unemployment, and poverty by providing decent housing, education, and quality of life opportunities, thereby creating conditions for sustainable social inclusion (Khan et al., 2023).

5.2 Social and Economic Interventions
Legal reforms alone cannot completely solve the issue of criminal behavior in Pakistan. A set of social and economic alternatives is crucial to address the root causes and facilitate long-term social stability. The research identifies socio-economic conditions as the key drivers of criminal behavior and prioritizes poverty alleviation, education, and

employment schemes focusing on the most excluded population groups. In Pakistan, poverty is one of the most prominent causes, as individuals without a proper means of subsistence are involved in criminal behavior to survive. However, there is a growing recognition that poverty alleviation schemes, like cash transfers, microfinance, or vocational training, serve as effective means to assist stigmatized and marginalized female and male community members. These instruments enable the most excluded enterprises to overcome poverty and invest in sustainable life strategies. There's a need to allocate considerable resources to improving access to quality education because it ensures that all boys and girls, particularly disadvantaged children, have access to a high-quality education, enabling access to lawful routes for achieving their ultimate life goals. In this context, it is necessary to invest in schools, teachers, and infrastructure for the most excluded portions of the population to radically improve academic chances. Simultaneously, it's crucial to create alternative employment opportunities, as techniques relying on activities taught in dynamite stick welding schools won't find acceptance among working individuals and their families. A set of job creation schemes, entrepreneurship, and vocational training programs can significantly reduce the reliance of marginalized enterprises on criminal activities for their livelihood (Khan, Iqbal, & Ahmad, 2022).

5.3 Community-Based Approaches

Community-based approaches to crime prevention and legal reform appear to be helpful in addressing Pakistan's criminal behavior problem. The idea behind these solutions is to connect local communities and sensitize them to their dialogue and cooperation with law enforcement agencies. This approach closes the gaps between the current formal legal system and the community's practices. Their alternative initiatives foster positive cooperation between the state and its inhabitants, leading to more promising outcomes in prevention and justice. Community policing is a means of interaction between law enforcement agencies and the local community to identify and resolve local crime issues. These practices facilitate the choice of personalized prevention strategies and are based on cooperation and problem-solving between law enforcement agencies and their communities. Local dispute resolution systems, such as community-based mediation or arbitration, assist in conflict resolution through alternative mechanisms. These solutions help involve local communities in the resolution of disputes. Occasionally, we also provide approaches to crime prevention and arrest, which can function as additional measures to engage local communities in sensitization campaigns. Community-based programs, such as model court awareness campaigns, help to reduce the litigant load in the formal justice system. International and domestic human rights organizations help to sensitize localities through training programs. Human rights organizations introduce local populations to the legal system and empower them by instituting legal education programs, making the subjects of law more accessible. These programs train individuals in the known concepts of law, its application, and the resources available to them. Sometimes these approaches also help to end the criminal violence that plagues local communities. Cultural exercises, which involve blaming cultural and common practices, cement the establishment of units of Rule of Law and Human Rights (Khan et al., 2022).

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing the intricate relationship between social structures and criminal behavior in Pakistan requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses legal reforms, social and economic interventions, and community-based strategies. To ensure just and widespread access to justice, increase law enforcement capability, and raise the legal value of the laws among the local residents, it is necessary to introduce significant changes in the legal system. However, without programs aimed at crime prevention, these changes, at best, will have an insufficient effect. Specifically, the indicator clearly shows that addressing the social and economic causes of crimes is crucial for the effectiveness of the identified approaches. In other words, while the existing legal reform is bound to improve the existing conditions in Pakistan, it is important to focus on a range of social programs, including anti-poverty, educational, and employment programs, among others, that will help reduce the number of incentives for engaging in criminal behavior. Furthermore, it will be necessary to consider adopting community-based approaches that will redefine communication between the state and communities in terms of crime prevention, such as community policing, the development of a localized model of dispute resolution, and awareness campaigns, among others. Only by creating a comprehensive framework will Pakistan's authorities be able to address the increasing crime rate.

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