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TOPIC

**Economic Problems and Increasing Trends of Youth Crimes:
Views from Pashtun and Baloch Societies in Quetta, Balochistan**

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Economic Problems and Increasing Trends of Youth Crimes: Views from Pashtun and Baloch Societies in Quetta, Balochistan

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this research paper was to gather Baloch and Pashtun publics' perspectives on how economic problems have contributed to the rise in economic crimes among the youths in Baloch and Pashtun societies. The research study utilized the descriptive method. Also the research study utilized the quantitative study design. Convenience sampling technique was used for the survey. 200 youths were chosen from two prominent areas of Quetta city in order to investigate the common opinions regarding increasing trends of youth crimes in Quetta city.

Keywords: Youth Crimes, Pashtun and Baloch Societies, Economic Problems, Unemployment, illiteracy.

Introduction:

Geographically speaking, Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province, with the most abundant natural resources and the least developed infrastructure. In terms of per capita income, Balochistanis may be the poorest population in all of Pakistan. Balochistanis are falling far behind the rest of the nation for a number of reasons, as seen by its political, social, and economic statistics. Poverty is high because there are no job prospects due to insufficient economic and physical infrastructure for investment and growth, and illiteracy is high since there are few opportunities for youngsters to receive an education. Balochistan's high unemployment rate is a result of both federal and provincial governments' failure to construct the economic and physical infrastructure required for growth and development, which has a major influence on the creation of jobs. Furthermore, the few programs that have been implemented to try to reduce unemployment are faulty and ineffectual. The largest employer at the moment is the public sector. Under the current technological base and mode of production, the traditional agricultural and fishing sectors which form the backbone of the provincial economy cannot absorb the unemployed population any more, and no new, reasonably efficient industries have been developed to create jobs.¹

One of the causes of unrest and disorder in society is oppression and the violation of rights in social, economic, and political spheres. The oppressor, relying on their power, social superiority, or economic dominance, exploits others and violates their rights. When the oppressor exploits them, the affected individuals or groups protest. If the protest proves ineffective, they prepare to confront the oppressor themselves, which ultimately leads to societal unrest.²

Unemployment and illiteracy have worsened the situation in Balochistan. In Balochistan, 52 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. In other words, almost half of the population of Balochistan cannot earn even \$1.25 a day. 63 percent of the people of this province suffer from food shortages. The most important and

biggest reason for this is unemployment in the province because the people living in this province are unable to support their families and thus the people here are suffering from health problems. Unfortunately, there are only a few industrial units in Balochistan. And even in those, the people working in them mostly belong to other provinces. There were textile factories in three places in Balochistan: Quetta, Harnai and Lasbela. All three were closed during Musharraf's rule. As far as the provincial government is concerned, it has also not formulated any strategy for providing employment. It considers itself absolved of this important duty after providing a few government jobs every year. While the province receives crores of rupees from the federal government, no steps are taken to eliminate unemployment. And this money goes into the pockets of politicians and bureaucrats. The current socio-political culture in the province has given birth to a new group of pro-Russians, consisting of politicians, bureaucrats, big businessmen and tribal chiefs. These few people live a life of luxury by exploiting the poor and are not ready to provide employment opportunities in the province, because then their monopoly over the province will end³.

Background of the Study:

The unemployment rate in the province has started increasing rapidly. There are no job opportunities in the private and government sectors. Educated youth are forced to struggle to find jobs. Inflation has taken away the confidence of the people. According to the report, more than half of the population of Balochistan is living below the poverty line. Currently, millions of poor children are forced to work in garages, houses, hotels due to poverty and are associated with begging as a profession, which is a very dangerous situation for any country. According to a research report, 68 percent of the population in Balochistan is suffering from poverty. The biggest reason for unemployment is nepotism in the distribution of jobs, because political interference and the lure of money deprive qualified educated youth of their rights. Economic experts say that inflation has taken away the confidence of the people. The government is also responsible for poverty, which does not formulate better economic policies. Economic experts say that low-income people also aspire to move forward and live a prosperous life. They said that the government has failed to control inflation. Keeping in mind the current inflation, it should create job opportunities for the youth⁴.

In Balochistan, youth unemployment has become a serious and complex problem that poses serious obstacles to both the socioeconomic advancement of the province and the welfare of its youth⁵. Balochistan, the least populous but largest province in Pakistan in terms of land area, faces particular challenges, such as a lack of employment opportunities, systemic problems, and impediments that prevent young people from actively engaging in the labor market and supporting the province's economy. Hence, this condition hinders the region's overall economic and social advancement in addition to having an impact on the youth's and their families' financial prospects and well-being⁶. When it comes to youth unemployment, Balochistan is more affected than other provinces. Balochistan falls behind other

Pakistani provinces in terms of economic and social development despite having an abundance of natural resources. This underscores the ongoing inability of the federal and provincial administrations to adequately handle poverty, unemployment, and other associated concerns in the area.

Objectives of the Study

The study's main goal was to examine how Balochistan's youth crime has increased as a result of economic issues.

However, the followings were the specific objectives:

1. To check whether current economic difficulties have led to a rise in youth crime in Balochistan compared to previous years.
2. To determine which crimes among young people in Balochistan have escalated as a result of the recent economic downturn.

Literature Review

Young people make up a significant portion of the population in every country. One of any society's most vibrant, dynamic, and talented segments is its youth⁷. However, the issue of juvenile or youth crime is one of the most significant problems that society is currently confronting⁸. As a result, adolescent crime in general and trends in young crime in particular have gained attention over time⁹. Adolescents commit a variety of delinquent crimes, including drug addiction, rape, robbery, cultism, and vandalism, because they desire an autonomous and independent life free from parental supervision and control¹⁰. According to Gacsi¹¹, governments and administrative authorities who place undue constraints on their citizens and deny them the opportunity to pursue happiness are to blame for youth criminality. Odeku¹² made a similar argument. Odeku asserts that the government has a duty to supply and deliver services to its residents. But in many nations around the world, the government has utterly failed to provide for the residents' basic needs. The nation's crime rate has gone up, particularly among young people, as a result of the government's failure to fulfill its duties to ensure that its residents live decent lives by providing them with basic necessities. As a result, adolescent crimes have significantly contributed to the general crime situation in every nation¹³. As a result, according to Day¹⁴, youth are viewed as vulnerable individuals who are "at risk" of running into a variety of issues in various spheres of life. Crime is one of such issues. As a result, a lot of young people are being affected by their classmates' and friends' criminal behavior as well as inadequate parental supervision¹⁵.

Another thing to think about is parenting. The development of social capital, which is essential for preventing antisocial behavior in young people, and proper parenting are lacking among parents in structurally underprivileged neighborhoods¹⁶. Children who witness violence at home, have parents who treat them brutally and irregularly, or receive insufficient parental supervision are more likely to grow up to be delinquent¹⁷. When parents fail to fulfill their parental responsibilities, young people may rebel by abusing them. Therefore, as Holt¹⁸ argues, there is a chance that parents will be abused by their own children in their own homes. Therefore, the family, as a public

setting, ought to give people a sense of security. Some criminologists, for example, link single motherhood to delinquency because single parent families are more likely to be impoverished, which feeds a vicious cycle of underprivileged people living in such desperation that crime is the only viable option (Balogi, 2004). In addition to poverty, children including young people who grow up in families where violence is a regular occurrence have been shown to be more likely to engage in antisocial behavior.¹⁹

Concerns over the rising rate of juvenile criminality have spurred a great deal of research into the different elements that influence young people to commit crimes (Omoniyi, 2011). The forms of crime that young people commit are just as significant as the conditions that lead to them, particularly in light of the current economic downturn. This was the cause that made this investigation necessary.

Research Methodology

This study has adopted the descriptive method. This included collecting data from research participants who were sampled. For the investigation, a quantitative approach was used.

The Study Area

For this study the Quetta's two prominent areas i.e. Sariab and Pashtun Abad has been chosen. The justification for choosing these areas was that the majority of Baloch and Pashtun communities actually belonged to Sariab and Pashtun Abad. This made the justification for choosing these areas.

The Study Population

Both the residents (Baloch and Pashtun) living in Sariab and Pashtun Abad made up the study population. They were men and women of various ethnic backgrounds. They were the ones asked for their thoughts and views on the recent economic downturn and rise in youth economic crime.

Sampling Technique and Sampling Size

Sampling was inevitably essential since studying each single instance in population of research was beyond the means of researcher. Sampling was hence vital improving the standard of data. Convenience sampling method was utilized. In simple words, accessible subjects are called as convenience sampling. They are comparatively cheap also can yield results that are brilliantly credible. It decreases the cost of the study in money and time.

Data Collection

Questionnaire was utilized as tool for data collection. The queries were distributed into two parts; part one contained the socio-demographic data of participants and part two contained queries on current economic problems and rise in financial crime among youth. 200 copies of the questionnaires were administered among Baloch and Pashtun community people however only 170 copies were received.

Data Analysis

The collected data was entered in SPSS software in order to be analyzed accurately for obtaining the original and factual results.

Results and Discussion

Table 1.1

Economic problem is one of the main causes of youth crimes in Quetta?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

As far as economic problems are concerned, it is evident that people of Balochistan have been suffering from severe financial problems. Economic problems are the key factors which are directly responsible for increasing the youth crimes in Quetta Balochistan.

The data of table 1.1 indicates that majority of Baloch and Pashtun youth do agree that economic problem is one of the main causes of youth crimes in Quetta Balochistan.

Table 1.2

Young people from low-income households are more likely to commit crimes.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

The data of table 1.2 shows that youngsters from financially poor families are more likely to commit crimes. This statement is supported heavily by the response of majority of Baloch and Pashtun youths.

Table 1.3

One factor contributing to crime among Pashtun and Baloch youth is unemployment.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

People of Balochistan are continuously engrossed in with unemployment problem. Both Baloch and Pashtun youths have been struggling to get a reasonable job in order to solve their economic problems. The data of table 1.3 indicates that unemployment is the contributing factor to crime among Baloch and Pashtun youth.

Table 1.4

Stress related to money pushes young people to take drugs and engage in trafficking.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

The data in table 1.4 demonstrates that stress or the tension for being unemployed or jobless actually pushes youngsters to take drugs and engage in drug trafficking. It is a grave menace actually and needs to be curbed with the help of all stakeholders in the society.

Table 1.5

The government has failed to give young people economic opportunity.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

The people of Balochistan particularly the youngsters or the youth have been in pitiable situation since the majority of the youths are jobless and they helplessly fall into the pits of serious crimes. The above table shows that youths of Balochistan are frustrated and they blame the government for not providing them the job opportunities.

Table 1.6

In the Baloch and Pashtun populations, youth crime is on the rise.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

The above table clearly demonstrates that Baloch and Pashtun youngsters or teenagers are being involved in serious crimes due to poverty, unemployment and the other significant factors. The data of table 1.6 shows that majority of respondents do believe that in the Baloch and Pashtun population, youth crime is on the rise.

Table 1.7

Youth criminality may be decreased with the use of community assistance initiatives.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
	no	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
	Total	170	100.0	100.0	

The data of table 1.7 indicates that majority of respondents do believe that youth criminality may be decreased with the use of community assistance initiatives. All the stakeholders of the society need to ponder and make suitable strategies in order to get rid of menace of youth getting involved in serious crimes.

Conclusion:

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province, with the most abundant natural resources and the least developed infrastructure. In terms of per capita income, Balochistanis may be the poorest population in all of Pakistan. Balochistanis are falling far behind the rest of the nation for a number of reasons, as seen by its political, social, and economic statistics. Poverty is high because there are no job prospects due to insufficient economic and physical infrastructure for investment and growth, and illiteracy is high since there are few opportunities for youngsters to receive an education. Unemployment and illiteracy have worsened the situation in Balochistan. In Balochistan, 52 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. In other words, almost half of the population of Balochistan cannot earn even \$1.25 a day. 63 percent of the people of this province suffer from food shortages. The most important and biggest reason for this is unemployment in the province because the people living in this province are unable to support their families and thus the people here are suffering from health problems. Unfortunately, there are only a few industrial units in Balochistan. And even in those, the people working in them mostly belong to other provinces. There were textile factories in three places in Balochistan: Quetta, Harnai and Lasbela. All three were closed during Musharraf's rule. As far as the provincial government is concerned, it has also not formulated any strategy for providing employment. It considers itself absolved of this important duty after providing a few government jobs every year. While the province receives millions of rupees from the federal government, no steps are taken to eliminate unemployment. And this money goes into the pockets of politicians and bureaucrats. The current socio-political culture in the province has given birth to a new group of pro-Russians, consisting of politicians, bureaucrats, big businessmen and tribal chiefs. These few people live a

life of luxury by exploiting the poor and are not ready to provide employment opportunities in the province, because then their monopoly over the province will end. The research reveals that people of Balochistan have been suffering from severe financial problems. Economic problems are the key factors which are directly responsible for increasing the youth crimes in Quetta Balochistan. Majority of Baloch and Pashtun youth do agree that economic problem is one of the main causes of youth crimes in Quetta Balochistan. youngsters from financially poor families are more likely to commit crimes. This statement is supported heavily by the response of majority of Baloch and Pashtun youths. People of Balochistan are continuously engrossed in with unemployment problem. Both Baloch and Pashtun youths have been struggling to get a reasonable job in order to solve their economic problems. Unemployment is the contributing factor to crime among Baloch and Pashtun youth. stress or the tension for being unemployed or jobless actually pushes youngsters to take drugs and engage in drug trafficking. It is a grave menace actually and needs to be curbed with the help of all stakeholders in the society. The people of Balochistan particularly the youngsters or the youth have been in pitiable situation since the majority of the youths are jobless and they helplessly fall into the pits of serious crimes. Youths of Balochistan are frustrated and they blame the government for not providing them the job opportunities. Baloch and Pashtun youngsters or teenagers are being involved in serious crimes due to poverty, unemployment and the other significant factors. The study explores that in the Baloch and Pashtun populations, youth crime is on the rise. All the stakeholders of the society need to ponder and make suitable strategies in order to get rid of menace of youth getting involved in serious crimes.

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