

Critical Discussion: Relationship of Unemployment and Crime

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ABSTRACT

A crime epidemic seems to have vented in numerous advanced economies, floating queries either high rate of unemployment leads to the amplification of crime. In this paper the relation of crime-unemployment was evaluated in the Union Council Kalukhan, district Swabi, with the sample proportion of **376** respondents (only males), through simple random procedure from the total population of 2000 by a well-designed interview schedule, ensured the blending of each facet of the study. Frequency distributions were carried out the information in percentage and the relationship between dependent variable (Crime in Society) was cross tabulated through Chi square (χ^2) with the independent variable (Unemployment). The result implies that poverty and lack of job opportunity were responsible factors in the escalation of crime. Less job opportunity had significantly associated ($p = 0.009$) with the crime. A highly significant ($p = 0.000$) relation were found amid poverty, injustice, earning of money through unfair means and crime in society. Government and non-governmental organizations should introduce innumerable micro finance schemes to hit directly the poor segment of people as well as government should provide door step justice to the poor people to save their lives and finances are some of the recommendation on the basis of study.

Keywords

Crime, unemployment, poverty

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Introduction

Understanding trends of crime, comprising dynamics that drive oscillations, has preferably to undermine level of crime, which gaining a perception into gadgets that subsidize the crime arrays is an important arena of development for the scholars of crime. Empirical investigations of crime-economy association stemmed in the advent of a vast literature which spanned a range of academia and draw upon multiple theories, which were related with motivational, opportunity, or rational choices of perspectives. Early in the theoretical perspectives scholars were agreed that relationship of the crime and unemployment positive: Intensification in the unemployment leads to escalations in the crime ratio (Cook & Watson, 2014). Contrary, Cantor and Land (1985) conjectured that by altering the circumstances of social control, social strain and economic change (rate of unemployment) has been positively affect the criminal tendency. Economic changes also stimulate the accessibility of vulnerable targets which surge the number of criminal opportunities (Phillips & Land, 2012). However, testing for variations in the age group and considering variations in the association of crime-unemployment over the time, Britt (1997) divulged that robbery, homicide, and burglary were positively in relation with the unemployment rates

for adults, but on the other end rate of unemployed youth were negatively related with the homicide and goaded assault (Smith et al., 1992; Ullah and Muhammad, 2020). Functionalists emphasized that crime exists because members of society find it very hard to reach total agreement on rules of conduct; no society can force total conformity to norms and values. People are normative: behaviors are continuously categorized into "right" or "wrong" sections. Crime function as a warning lights indicating an area that needs attention or consideration (Gillani et al., 2011).

The economics of crimes started with the work of Becker's (1968) that intermingles with diverse fields i.e. sociology, criminology, geography and demography (Buonanno, 2003). Consequently, Merton (1938) offered a social theory that people compel to commit crime, when society arrays aims and objectives for its members, for monetary tools to purchase material goods, also crafts fences to those achievements. Crime as phenomenon have negative externality, imposed the gigantic social and economic cost on both people and the government. Numerous economists and criminologists indicated that unfair distribution of means and resources compelled people to adopt the criminal behavior (Brush, 2007; Ullah et al., 2020).

In Pakistan, crime rate has amplified manifold owing to divers social and economic factors. Reported crime in 1947 was 73,107, which has been increased to 129,679 in 1971. However, became doubled i.e. 403,078 in the period 1980-1990, s, and in 2007, it has been recorded as 538,048 respectively. While on the other end almost 30-50 % crime were unreported in Pakistan (Gillani et al., 2008). The overall crime ratio is higher as compared to two years ago, which would be considered as a failure on the part of law enforcement agencies (Abbasi, 2010). Additionally, according to an official crime report of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police department (2016) the tendency of reported crime is horribly increasing at unprecedented level. During the year 2014 the reported offences were 38545, which were escalated to 44553 in 2015. Unfortunately, the picture becomes worst in 2016 with officially reported crime statistics stood at 55816. In addition, the crime report of Police department Swabi (2015), that last three years have seen a phenomenal rise in the criminal activity at the study area. They further stated that 4464 offences were recorded in 2013, where Kalukhan police station were contributed 798 of the total. Moreover, in the year of 2014, 5112 offences were registered, the crime ratio displays a mounting trend as compared to the 2013. Police department of Swabi further indicated 5072 total offense registered in 2015. Moreover, this study is an attempt to discover whether non-availability of jobs in society are one of the main cause of amplification of the crime ratio.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in Union Council Kalukhan, Tehsil Razzar, District Swabi to sort-out the association amid unemployment and crime. The main reason for selecting Union Council Kalukhan was the swelling of crime ratio in the area. A sample size of 376 respondents was selected by using proportional allocation method, and were identified through sampling techniques (Simple Random Sampling). All of them were male members from the age group of 18-70 years from the study area. The conceptual frame work was designed comprising of independent variable (Unemployment, Table-1) and dependent variable (crime in society).

Table 1 Conceptual Frame Work

Independent variable	Dependent variable
Unemployment	Crime in society

A comprehensive interview schedule on Likert scale was designed by keeping into considerations the objective of the study. Collected data was converted on to SPSS 22 versions. The data was interpreted into frequency and percentage distribution, however to measure the association between independent and dependent Variable, Chi-Square test statistic was applied at bi-variate level.

Result and Discussion

Unemployment

Table discloses result regarding unemployment with relation to the prevalence of crime in society. Data showed that majority i.e. 229(60.9%) of the sampled respondents stated that poverty is the main factor responsible in the intensification of crime. While, one third i.e. 127(33.8%) of the sample size denied the above statement. Likewise, half of the respondents i.e. 188(50.0%) argued that poor families were often involved in the criminal activities, whereas numerous sampled respondents i.e. 159(42.3%) overruled the mentioned statement. Moreover, majority of respondents i.e. 177(47.1%) disclosed that lack of job opportunity were the causative factor of escalation of crime ratio, but a large number i.e. 147(39.1%) of sample size rejected the given statement. Unemployment and crime were supposed to be the two sides of the coin as explored by Ehrlich (1973) that both crime and unemployment has a close liaison. When there would be more availability of job opportunities there would be less criminal activities. On the other end Gillani et al., (2009) divulged the nexus amid crime, poverty, unemployment and inflation in Pakistan by covering the figures for the years 1975-2007, which unveiled the presence of long run and positive affiliation amid crime, poverty, unemployment and inflation. Additionally, more than half of the population i.e. 200(53.2%) disagreed with the statement that low income can lead to crime tendency while only 137(36.4%) of respondents disclosed that low income was supposed to be the causative factor behind the amplified crime ratio. Similarly, majority i.e. 237(63.0%) of the sampled respondents annulled that earning of money through unfair

means leads to criminality but slight number of respondents i.e. 73(19.4%) were agreed with the afore mentioned statement. In addition, more than two third of respondents i.e. 271(72.1%) stated that feelings of low social status lead to crime in society. Contrary, majority of the sampled respondents i.e. 226(60.1%) differed that father

distanced position of job would also lead to criminal tendencies, though one third of them i.e. 131(34.8%) were approved the given statement. Injustice also paves the way to criminality, were refuted by majority of the respondents i.e. 142(37.8%), but surprisingly 169(44.9%) of the sample respondents were found uncertain.

Table 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of Unemployment

S.No.	Statement	Agree	Disagree	Uncertain	Total
1	Lack of job opportunity is responsible in the amplification of crime	177(47.1%)	147(39.1%)	52(13.8%)	376(100)
2	Poverty is the core reason of augmented crime	229(60.9%)	127(33.8%)	20(5.3%)	376(100)
3	Injustice paves the way to the crime ratio	27(7.2%)	142(37.8%)	169(44.9%)	376(100)
4	Earning of money through unfair means leads to intensification of crime	73(19.4%)	237(63.0%)	41(10.9%)	376(100)
5	Feelings of low social status leads to criminal tendency	62(16.5%)	271(72.1%)	33(8.8%)	376(100)
6	Low income could be lead to criminality	137(36.4%)	200(53.2%)	39(10.4%)	376(100)
7	Poor families are often involved in criminal activities	188(50.0%)	159(42.3%)	29(7.7%)	376(100)
8	Father distanced position of job is one of the premier cause of their kids associated with the crime	131(34.8%)	226(60.1%)	19(5.1%)	376(100)

Association between Unemployment and Crime in Society

Empirically it has been proved that there has inversely relation amid unemployment and crime as reconnoitered by Ehrlich (1973) that scarcity of employment opportunity in the labor market would directly disturb income of the people. Therefore, increasingly level of unemployment, declined rate of opportunity in the workplace profess the youth towards criminality. Table 3 divulges association between unemployment and crime in society. Result indicated that less job opportunity had significant association ($p = 0.009$) with crime in society. However, a highly significant ($p = 0.000$) relation was found amid poverty, injustice and crime in society. Correspondingly, a strongly significant association ($p = 0.000$) was determined between earning of money through unfair means, low income and crime in society. Less jobs opportunity leads the folks to partake in altered jobs for a short period of time, but often young people were involved in the drug sales and sexual activities, because making money through these

means is the shortest way which placing the youth in antisocial and criminal activity which weakening social fabric of society (Gil and Vega, 2010). Unlike the above findings feeling of low social status was found non-significant ($p = 0.588$) with the crime in society. The same table also demonstrates a highly significant ($p = 0.000$) associations between poor families are often involved in the criminal activities. Consequently, Larzelere & Patterson (1990) has linked the lower socioeconomic status of the individual were more prone to take part in criminal activities. Additionally, it has been also exposed by Ullah et al., (2014) that youth living in poverty have probabilities to be victims of the criminals and criminalities. Similarly, economically deprived people were supposed to be more likely tend to embroil in the criminal activities. Likewise, father distanced position of job was found highly significant ($p = 0.000$) with the crime in society.

It has been concluded from the above discussion that poor families were often involved in crime,

however father distanced position of job, poverty, injustice, earning of money through unfair means, and low income were found strongly significant

($p=0.000$) with dependent variable (crime in society).

Table 3 Association between Unemployment and Crime in Society

S.No.	Attribute	Response	Crime in society			Statistics	Total
			Agree	Disagree	Uncertain		
1	Lack of job opportunity is responsible in the amplification of crime	Agree	111(48.1%)	48(40.7%)	18(66.7%)	$\chi^2 = 13.490$ $p = 0.009$	376(100%)
		disagree	95(41.1%)	44(37.3%)	8(29.6%)		
		Uncertain	25(10.8%)	26(22.0%)	1(3.7%)		
2	Poverty is the core reason of augmented crime	Agree	144(62.3%)	68(57.6%)	17(63.0%)	$\chi^2 = 24.453$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	85(36.8%)	35(29.7%)	7(25.9%)		
		Uncertain	2(0.9%)	15(12.7%)	3(11.1%)		
3	Injustice paves the way to the crime ratio	Agree	22(9.5%)	5(4.2%)	0(0.0%)	$\chi^2 = 42.009$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	66(28.6%)	69(58.5%)	7(25.9%)		
		Uncertain	122(52.8%)	34(28.8%)	13(48.1%)		
4	Earning of money through unfair means leads to intensification of crime	Agree	61(26.4%)	12(10.2%)	0(0.0%)	$\chi^2 = 56.145$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	145(62.8%)	81(68.6%)	11(40.7%)		
		Uncertain	12(5.2%)	18(15.3%)	11(40.7%)		
5	Feelings of low social status leads to criminal tendency	Agree	39(16.9%)	21(17.8%)	2(7.4%)	$\chi^2 = 4.659$ $p = 0.588$	376(100%)
		disagree	164(71.0%)	86(72.9%)	21(77.8%)		
		Uncertain	20(8.7%)	9(7.6%)	4(14.8%)		
6	Low income could be lead to criminality	Agree	95(41.1%)	38(32.2%)	4(14.8%)	$\chi^2 = 25.325$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	112(48.5%)	74(62.7%)	14(51.9%)		
		Uncertain	24(10.4%)	6(5.1%)	9(33.3%)		
7	Poor families are often involved in criminal activities	Agree	150(64.9%)	33(28.0%)	5(18.5%)	$\chi^2 = 67.683$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	70(30.3%)	75(63.6%)	14(51.9%)		
		Uncertain	11(4.8%)	10(8.5%)	8(29.6%)		
8	Father distanced position of job is one of the premier cause of their kids associated with the crime	Agree	89(38.5%)	36(30.5%)	6(22.2%)	$\chi^2 = 26.612$ $p = 0.000$	376(100%)
		disagree	140(60.6%)	70(59.3%)	16(59.3%)		
		Uncertain	2(0.9%)	12(10.2%)	5(18.5%)		

Conclusions and Recommendations

Study concluded that lack of job opportunity, poor families, father distanced position of job were measured to be the causative factors of antisocial behavior and criminality in the study area. The study suggested that government and non-governmental organizations should introduce various micro financial schemes to hit directly the poor fragment of people. It is further suggested that government should provide door step justice to the poor people to save their lives and finances

as well. Enforcement of timely law and order situation from the concerned agencies should also mediate injustice amid the poor segment of the people, could be minimize ratio crime in the study area.

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