



ISSN: 2278 – 0211 (Online)

A Lack Of Job Opportunities And Growing Tendency Of Crime Among Educated Youth In Pakistan: Perceptions Of Educated Youth

Shahid Qayyum

Department Of Sociology, G. C. University Faisalabad, Pakistan

Aamir Hayat

Department Of Sociology, G. C. University Faisalabad, Pakistan

Irfan Mehmood Janjua

Department Of Sociology, G. C. University Faisalabad, Pakistan

Abstract:

The happiness of the individuals depends upon many things, which may include income, health, job, wealth, leisure, social status, security, moral values and liberty. An individual needs a proper work and job for the survival, living anywhere in the world with peace and respect. The current study is documented in Punjab to explore the relationship between lack of job opportunities and the growing tendency of crime among educated youth in view of the perceptions of educated youth. Data was collected from three hundred students taken from six universities of the Punjab, Pakistan. A structured questionnaire was prepared for the collection of information. The findings of the research indicate that there is a significance relationship between unemployment and growing tendency of crime among educated youth. May there many other factors pay contributions on involving educated youth into criminal activities but unemployment/joblessness has significant factor in this regard.

Key words: Joblessness, Educated Youth, Crime, Perceptions of Educated Youth

1.Introduction

Human are social animals and every aspect of life concern to its life. Crimes have always worried and painful for every society as a whole. The violation of the law, any act of an individual that not expect society at all by anyone, is called crime. Curzen defined, "A crime as an act or omission of human conduct harmful to others which the state is bound to prevent. The history of crime is as old as the history of mankind itself. In view of Islam, the first crime was committed by the first son of Adam and Eve, Cain; he murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy, violating the human rules to get his aims. Crimes make a space of insecurity and discomfort in every society and panic for everyone living in group life.

Individual happiness conceals in many things, which may include income, health, job, wealth, leisure, social status, security, moral values, market status, working hours and liberty, freedom. An individual needs a proper work and job for the survival living in anywhere in the world with peace and respect. The happiness of the individual is taking start from basic needs like food, security, living place etc. The prevalence of unemployment provides the unemployed persons an impetus and impulse to get illegal ways for monetary gains. An individual, who has ability and willing to do work for one's sustainability, is not able to get job opportunity is called unemployed person. Beleva defined (1997, p. 29), "Unemployment is a major incentive to economic action in a market economy. However, it brings about manifold negative social and economic consequences as well. They are most visible in developing or inefficiently operating labour markets. The larger and longer the unemployment, deeper and more complicated are the social and economic problems it causes in society".

Unemployment one to the critical and burning issues of Pakistan in present era. In the current scenario more than 30 Lac individuals are unemployed in Pakistan (Malik, et al., 2011). The unemployment rate is increasing day by day rapidly. The unemployment has been increased from 5.6% in 2009 to 6% in 2011 (Federal Bureau of Statistics, 2011). Qayyum (2007) founded that a large number of educated young people are facing higher unemployment rate in Pakistan.

Crime is an ailment of society which affects and snubs the rights of individuals. It is like a cancer metastatic to society. If unemployment rate increases, the opportunities for legal earnings declined and crime score take to jump up because the real costs associated with crime for unemployed labour force go down. Where the majority of the young is jobless crime may become a sport activity (Gould, et. al. 2002). Unemployment and crime an estimated positive relation between each other and unemployment causes crime (Freeman, 1999). Entrof & Spengler (2000) originated a sizable positive effect of unemployment on rates of specific violent crimes. Unemployment, family background, culture, education, urbanization, poverty, income inequality, age, gender are the certain

determinants of crime. All these determinants have an effect on crime but unemployment is regarded the most powerful determinant instigating individuals to commit crime (Gillani, et. Al. 2009). Schuller (1986) found a positive relation between unemployment and crimes. Instrumental variable analysis has given support for a causal direction from unemployment to crime (Raphael, et. al. 2001). A rational offender compares returns to time use in crime and employment and makes decisions accordingly (Wittee & Touchen 1994). Individuals with a criminal record have fewer opportunities to find work, which may lead to lower employment to illegal ways for survival (Nagin & Waldfoegel 1995). Unemployment had an instantaneous effect on criminal involvement but that the effect was much more pronounced among socially disadvantaged groups (Farrington, et al. 1986). Unemployment is a significant variable for theft (Scoreu & Cellini 1998). The unemployment effect on violent and property crimes differs considerably (Chiricos, 1987). A number of studies providing evidence of a relationship between the low income level of an area and its crime rates (Belknap, 1989). Higher levels of income inequality were associated with higher crime rates (Box, 1987). Income inequality and crime is much stronger than that concerning the relationship between unemployment and crime (Braithwaite, 1978).

Unemployment gives rise likely to bitter such feelings as depression, hopelessness, disgrace, annoyance, bitterness and humiliation (Goldney 1997). Different types of crimes like dishonesty, fraud, theft and violence generally prevail in a society where the population is unemployed on a large scale (Blakely et al. 2003). A variety of other mental and health issues such as mental disorders, drug abuse and psychosomatic ailments are strongly linked with unemployment (Reynolds, 2000). All working age population the most striking and effective experiences for the individuals is unemployment (Ahn, et al, 2004). Socioeconomic inequality is the principal factor which underpins high crime rates (Braithwaite 1978). Unemployment can immediately accelerate property crime rates but generally only among those already involved in such crime (Farrington, et al. 1986). The rates of family violence may be increased by economic stress (Strauss, 1990). The present study is documented to explore the relationship between unemployment and growing tendency of crime with the perceptions of the educated youth.

2.Theoretical Framework & Literature Review

Cesare Beccaria (1764) gave an assumption about the action of the individuals. He stated “Benefits out Weigh the Cost” in which elaborated that people are rational and act out of their free will. He suggested that people weigh the costs and benefits of an action in order to decide how to proceed. In the present research individual chose illegal ways to fulfil their needs in view of cost and benefits. The majority of the respondents’ perceptions is that youth are involved in criminal activities because more money in a short time and took initiatives rationally.

Robert K. Merton (1968) The Strain Theory, in which he narrated anomie emerged when disjunction between described goals and means. Here one postulate is related to this study “Innovation” the condition, when individuals accept the goals of the society and reject the following means. People wish to be rich and wealthy but in the condition of poverty and economic crisis reject the means that explained to get done the goals of the society, in view of that they follow the illegal ways to fulfil their wishes as well.

Emile Durkheim (1897) described the term Anomie, refers to the breakdown of social norms and it a condition where norms no longer control the activities of members in society. Individuals cannot find their place in society without clear rules to help guide them. Changing conditions as well as adjustment of life lead to dissatisfaction, conflict, and deviance. People take initiatives towards the fulfilment of their aims in the presence of anomie condition through adopting illegal ways like crime, theft etc. Farnsworth, et al. (1994) explored that unemployment has strong relationship with criminal behavior of the individuals. The findings of the study indicate that incapability to acquire employment is one of the major factors for increases in crime and corruption. Joblessness and poverty are also predictors of hard drug and alcohol use.

Fleisher (1966) elaborated the role of income on the decision to commit criminal acts by individuals. He stated that low income of the individuals increases the tendency to commit crime to attain needs accordingly.

Ehrlich (1973) analyses unemployment has its significant effects on crime rates. He says that when the unemployment rate increases, the opportunities in the legal sector decrease, leading individuals to involve in criminal activities.

3.Research Methodology

In the present research, in view of methodology, the quantitative method was subjected to adopt for the collection of the data. The universe of the present study was the six universities, GC University Faisalabad, Agriculture University Faisalabad, University of Sargodha, University of Education, University of Gujarat and University of the Punjab, Lahore, were selected via simple random sampling technique. In quantitative, the total sample in the study was three hundred males and female students taken as respondents, two hundred and two female respondents and ninety eight were male respondents; fifty respondents were from each university. In non-probability sampling, the convenient sampling technique was used to approach to the respondents for gathering data and collection of the information. A structured questionnaire written in English language was adopted as a tool of data collection in the field for research.

4.Analysis Of The Data

Quantitative analysis is the process of presenting and interpreting the numerical data. This chapter presents the analysis of quantitative data. The result section of this part of study contained quantitative data analysis in the form of both descriptive and percentage.

Variable	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age		(%)		(%)		(%)
18-23	33	33.67	101	50.00	134	44.66
24-29	58	59.18	98	48.51	156	52.00
30-35	05	5.10	02	0.99	07	2.33
36 and above	02	2.04	01	0.49	03	1.00
Total	98	100	202	100	300	100
Education		(%)		(%)		(%)
BSc	18	18.36	69	34.15	87	29.00
MSc	73	74.48	103	50.99	176	58.66
Mphil	07	7.14	30	14.85	37	12.33
Total	98	100	202	100	300	100
Residence		(%)		(%)		(%)
Rural	67	68.76	76	37.62	143	47.66
Urban	31	31.63	126	62.37	157	52.33
Total	98	100	202	100	300	100
Household income (1000)		(%)		(%)		(%)
10-20	42	42.85	23	11.38	65	21.66
21-30	23	23.46	68	33.66	91	30.33
31-40	18	18.36	52	25.74	70	23.33
41 and above	15	15.30	59	29.20	74	24.66
Total	98	100	202	100	300	100

Table 1: Frequency Distribution And Demographic Attributes Of The Respondents

Table 1 shows that there were different respondents in view of their ages. There were 156 respondents under the age of 24-29 years that 52 percent of the total sample, 134 respondents were under the age of 18-23 years that 44 percent of the total sample, 7 respondents under the age of 30-35 years that 2 percent of the total sample, 3 respondents were 36 and above years that 1 percent of the total sample. The data was collected from 300 male and female students' respondents. In this question we asked the respondents about their qualification, 176 respondents MA that were 58 percent, 87 respondents from BSC that 29 percent and 37 respondents from M.PHILL that were 12 percent from the total 300 sample size. Table clearly describes the residential area of respondents who participated in this study as respondents. 157 respondents were replied that they were basically from urban areas that were the 52.3 percent of the total sample and 143 respondents answered that they belong to rural areas that were the 47 percent of the total sample. Frequency distribution of respondents in concern of their household income, 91 respondents that were 30 percent of the total sample size replied 21-30 thousand per month, 74 respondents that were 24 percent narrated above 41 thousand, 70 respondents that were 23 percent answered 31-40 thousand and 65 respondents that were 21 percent replied 10-20 thousand per month.

To what extent street crime among educated youth due to joblessness?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	176	58.6%
To some extent	118	39.3%
Not at all	35	11.6%
Total	300	100.0

Table 2: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions About Street Crime Among Youth

Table 2 The collected data in the table shows that in this question "To what extent street crime due to joblessness among educated youth?" 176 respondents, 58.6 percent responded "To great extent", 118 respondents, 39.3 percent were in the favor of "To Some Extent" answer and 35 respondents that were 11.6 percent of the total sample ticked "Not at all" option.

To what extent unemployment motivate the youth to deviate from cultural traditions?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	95	31.6%
To some extent	113	37.6%
Not at all	92	30.6%
Total	300	100.0

Table 3: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions Of Youth Deviant Behavior

Table 3 The collected data in the table indicates that in this question “To what extent unemployment motivate the youth to deviate from cultural traditions?” In concern of answers, 113 respondents, 37.6 percent responded “To some extent”, 95 respondents, 31.6 percent were in the favor of “To great Extent” answer and 92 respondents that were 30.6 percent of the total sample ticked “Not at all” option.

To what extent antisocial behavior increasing among the youth due to economic crisis?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	109	36.3%
To some extent	99	33%
Not at all	92	30.6%
Total	300	100.0

Table 4: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions Of Increasing Antisocial Behavior

Table 4 The gathered data in table narrates that in this question “To what extent antisocial behavior increasing among the youth due to economic crisis?” With regard of those 109 respondents, 36.3 percent replied “To great extent”, 99 respondents, 33 percent were in the favor of “To Some Extent” answer and 92 respondents that were 30.6 percent of the total sample ticked “Not at all” option.

To what extent educated youth think to choose illegal ways to fulfill their wishes?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	80	26.6%
To some extent	122	40.6%
Not at all	88	29.3%
Total	300	100.0

Table 5: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions Of Choosing Illegal Ways Of Youth

Table 5 The collected information in table describes that in this question. “To what extent educated youth think to choose illegal ways to fulfill their wishes?” In the light of answers, 122 respondents, 40.6 percent responded “To some extent”, 80 respondents, 27.6 percent were in the favor of “To great Extent” answer and 88 respondents that were 29.3 percent of the total sample ticked “Not at all” option.

To what extent drug abuse is increasing among youth due to economic crisis?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	46	15.3%
To some extent	49	16.3%
Not at all	205	68.3%
Total	300	100.0

Table 6: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions About Drug Abuse Among Youth

Table 6 The gathered information in table shows that in this question “To what extent drug abuse is increasing among youth due to economic crisis?” Among the total participants, 205 respondents, 68.3 percent described “Not at all”, 49 respondents, 16.3 percent were in the favor of “To Some Extent” answer and 46 respondents that were 15.3 percent of the total sample ticked “To great extent” option.

Do you think people ignore economic deprived person?		
Answer	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	95	32.3%
To some extent	113	37.6%
Not at all	92	30.6%
Total	300	100.0

Table 7: Frequency Distribution Of Respondents' Perceptions About Economic Deprived Persons

Table 7 The collected information in table indicates that in this question “Do you think people ignore economic deprived person?” 113 respondents, 37.6 percent narrated “To some extent” among 300 respondents, 95 respondents, 32.3 percent were in the favor of “To great Extent” answer and 92 respondents that were 30.6 percent of the total sample ticked “Not at all” option.

5. Testing Of Hypothesis

It is a procedure in which researcher decides on the basis of responses obtained from total sample data whether to accept or reject statement or an assumption in the form of hypothesis about the value of parameter.

The hypotheses that are formulated for the present study are following:

5.1.Hypothesis: 1

“More the unemployment and growing rate of crime among youth”

Level of significance $\alpha = 0.05$

Level of confidence = .95 or 95%

Applying Chi -square test

Chi square test is being applied to find out the relationship between these two variables.

$X^2 = \sum (f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$

Chi-Square Testing	D.F	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4	.028
Likelihood Ratio	4	.019
Linear-by-Linear Association	1	.002
N of Valid Cases	300	

Table 8: Association Between Unemployment And Growing Rate Of Crime Among Youth

P- Value = .028 < 0.05

As “P” value (the value of Chi-Square) is **.028** which is less than the level of significance that is **.05**, so researchers accept the alternate hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis that both the variables, more the unemployment is independent and growing tendency of crime is dependent variable. However, the researchers assume that there is a moderate relationship between unemployment and crime and this rate is increasing day by day among educated youth. May there some certain other reasons become the causes of crime among youth but unemployment is significant and visible factor which youth impulse towards illegal activities. In view of the results, when there is lack of job opportunities for the educated people, they impute towards criminal acts to fulfill their needs and wishes. May there other factors like improper socialization of the children, parents’ clashes, peer influences, parents’ favour for someone may be somehow jealousy factor between siblings, anomie circumstances in the society, family neglect, family illness and so on in this concern.

5.2.Hypothesis: 2

“Lack of job opportunities and growing rate of drug abusing among youth”

Level of significance $\alpha = 0.05$

Level of confidence = .95 or 95%

Applying Chi -square test

Chi square test is being applied to find out the relationship between these two variables.

$X^2 = \sum (f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$

Chi-Square Testing	D.F	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4	.069
Likelihood Ratio	4	.043
Linear-by-Linear Association	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	300	

Table 9: The Association Between Job Opportunities And Growing Rate Of Drug Abusing Among Youth

P- Value = .069 > 0.05

As “P” value (the value of Chi-Square) is **.069** which is more than the level of significance that is **.05**, so researchers accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis that both the variable, lack of job opportunities and the growing tendency of drug abusing among educated youth are independent variables. However, the researchers assume that there are some certain other reasons may become and play their role in drug abusing among educated youth. We may say, family breakdown, improper socialization of the children, parents’ clashes, peer influence, one parent family, mental illness, depression, familiar of love etc. are factors lead youth to indulge in drug abusing like activities.

6. Conclusion

The major objective of the study was to find the empirical relationship between unemployment and growing tendency of crime among educated youth, taking the perceptions of educated youth in this regard, in Pakistan. This study is documented in six universities of the Punjab, selecting three hundred male and female students via convenient sampling technique. In quantitative, two main hypotheses were tested on the basis of collected data. The findings of the study indicate that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and growing tendency of crime among educated youth according to the perceptions of the educated youth. If there is a lack of job opportunities for educated people, they look towards illegal and criminal activities for the sustainability and survival in the society. May many other factors as well active towards criminal acts of youth but the most important and significant factor is

unemployment/joblessness among youth being educated. And on the other hand, there is little relationship between lack of job opportunities and growing tendency of drug abusing among youth. May certain other factors exist there of the growing tendency of drug abusing among the youth like family breakdown, improper socialization of the children, parents' clashes, peer influence, one parent family, mental illness, depression, familiar of love etc. are factors lead youth to indulge in drug abusing like activities.

7. References

- 1) Malik, Z., Malik, F.Z., Malik, G.Z. & Khan, F. (2011). Pakistan Observer, eyes and ears of Pakistan. Retrieved from pakobserver.net/201204/07/detailnews.asp on 16-09-2012
- 2) Qayyum, W. (2007), Causes of youth unemployment in Pakistan. The Pakistan Development Review, Volume 46, No. 4, Part II.
- 3) Federal Bureau of Statistics. (2011). Labour force survey. Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 4) Gould, E. D., b. A. Weinberg & D. Mustard, (2002). "Crime Rates and Local Labor Opportunities in the United States: 1979-1995", Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol.84, No.1, pp.45-61.
- 5) Freeman, R. B., (1999). The Economics of Crime. Handbook of Labor Economics, 3:3529-3571.
- 6) Entorf, H. & H. Spengler, (2000). Socioeconomic and Economic Factors of Crime in Germany: Evidence from Panel Data of the German States" International Review of Law and Economics, Vol.20, pp.75-106.
- 7) Gillani, S. Y. M., H. Rehman & A. R. Gill, (2009). Unemployment, Poverty, Inflation and Crime Nexus: Cointegration and Causality Analysis of Pakistan" Pakistan Economic and Social Review, Vol.47, pp.79-98
- 8) Schuller, B. J., (1986). Ekonomi och Kriminalitet. En Empirisk Undersökning av Brottsligheten I Sverige (Economics and Crime. Emperical Research in Sweden), Economic Studies, Vol.17.
- 9) Raphael, S. & R. Winter-Ebmer, (2001). Identifying the Effect of Unemployment on Crime" Journal of Law and Economics, Vol.44, pp.259-283.
- 10) Witte, A. D. & H. Tauchen, (1994). Work and Crime: An Exploration Using Paneldata. National Bureau of Economic Research. Cambridge, MA.
- 11) Nagin, D. & J. Waldfoegel, (1995). The Effects of Criminality and Conviction on the Labor Market Status of Young British Offenders" International Review of Law and Economics, Vol.15, pp.109- 126.27
- 12) Scorcu, A. E. & R. Cellini, (1998). Economic Activity and Crime in the Long Run: An Empirical Investigation on Aggregate Data from Italy, 1951- 1994" International Review of Law and Economics, Vol.18, pp.279-292.
- 13) Chiricos, T., (1987). Rates of Crime and Unemployment: An Analysis of Aggregate Research Evidence", Social Problems, Vol.34, No.2, pp.187-211.
- 14) Goldney R. D., (1997). Unemployment and Health: A Reappraisal. Int Arch Occup Environ,70: 145-147.
- 15) Blakely T. A., Collings S. C. D., & Atkinson J., (2003). Unemployment and Suicide. Evidence for a Casual Association? J Epidemiol Community Health, 57: 594-600.
- 16) Reynolds G. L., (2000). Unemployment and Drug Use. American Indian and Alasha-Native Mental Health Research, 9(1): 17-23.
- 17) Beleva, I.,(1997) Long-Term Unemployment as Social Exclusion. In: N. Genov, Ed. Bulgaria Human Development Report. Sofia: UNDP, 1997, pp. 29-36.
- 18) Ahn , N., Garcia, J. R. & Jimeno, J. F., (2004). The impact of Unemployment on individual well-being in the EU. ENERPI working paper.
- 19) Farrington, D., (1986). 'Implications of Longitudinal Studies for Social Prevention', Justice Report, vol.3, no.2.
- 20) Belknap, J., (1989). The Economics-Crime Link', Criminal Justice Abstracts, March, pp. 140-57.
- 21) Box, S., (1987). Recession, Crime and Punishment, MacMillan Education, London, pp. 68-229.
- 22) Braithwaite, J., (1978). Unemployment and Adult Crime: an Interpretation of the International Evidence', in Unemployment and Crime, Proceedings of the Institute of Criminology, No. 36, Sydney University, pp. 54-71.
- 23) Strauss, M., (1990). Social Stress and Marital Violence in a National Sample of American Families' in Physical Violence in American Families, eds M. Straus & R. Gelles, Transaction Publishers, London.
- 24) Durkheim, E., (1897). Suicide, The Free Press reprint 1997, ISBN 0684836327.
- 25) Farnsworth M., Thornberry T. P., Krohn MD. & Lizotte A. J., (1994). Measurements in the Study of Class and Delinquency: Integrating Theory and Research. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 31(1): 32-62.
- 26) Ehrlich Isaac, (1973). Participation in illegitimate activities: A theoretical and empirical investigation. The Journal of Political Economy, Volume 81(3), pp. 307-322.
- 27) Fleisher & Belton M. (1966). The Effect of Income on Delinquency. The American Economic Review, Volume 55(1/2), pp. 118-137.