



RESEARCH PAPER

Impact of Parental Consciousness towards Juvenile Delinquency in Punjab, Pakistan

¹Azeem Sarwar ²Dr. Syed Zuhaib Aziz* ³Dr. Waqar Ahmad

1. MPhil Scholar, Department of Sociology, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan
2. Visiting Faculty, Department of Sociology, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, Pakistan.
3. Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Swabi, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, KP, Pakistan

PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: October 08, 2021 Accepted: January 16, 2022 Online: January 21, 2022 Keywords: Consciousness, Delinquency, Juvenile, Peer Group *Corresponding Author: Syed zuhaib979@gmail.com	The objective of present empirical study was to see an association between parental consciousness and juvenile delinquency in Punjab Province (Pakistan). Five jails (where juvenile delinquents were prisoned) were selected from four major cities (i.e. Multan, Bahawalpur, Lahore and Rawalpindi) of the province through purposive sampling. The primary data was collected from all juvenile delinquents (e.g. 250 out of 260 where 5 respondents disagreed for interview, 5 were not available) aged 11-18 years present in the jails at the time of study through interview schedule. The study proved a majority of the juvenile delinquents had frequent interaction with the deviant peer group due to less consciousness of their parents towards them. Furthermore, the study found that they could neither get even basic needs (e.g. education, pocket money, time, love etc.) nor proper supervision or guidance from their parents. The study also concluded that this least consciousness of parents leads them towards delinquent behavior.

Introduction

Family is a basic institution for the maturity and growth of a society. Hence in a family, parents play a pivotal role in shaping the character and personality of the children. Parental consciousness towards their children's care, love, monitoring, proper time, basic necessities and understanding of children's economic needs can be very influential in their character building. Parenthood is a greatest responsibility, perhaps it is like another life to live. It is a crucial responsibility which requires specialized concentration and skills that are sometimes natural or sometimes parents acquire it through books or by following others (Feinman, 2002).

Juvenile delinquency is defined differently worldwide. Both words "Juvenile" and "Delinquency" are derived from Latin language which means "young" and "violation against the prevailing social system" respectively. Hence, juvenile delinquency is defined as "the behavior of the children which is commonly unexpected and not accepted by majority of the society. We are passing through very trying times, when our youth is being pushed into delinquencies and a large number of people have been enfolded towards the dangerous tendencies and it is happening rapidly than past decades. Like a sky rocket, it is going to sky with high intensity, and many innocent people are forcefully pushed into this wretched

rocket which may lead them towards destruction. Parents show less intension towards the socialization of their children. One's behavior is generally associated with the peer group while unlike it is not so commonly. Children possess inclination towards their parents and idealize them. When the children grow up and are at early maturity stage, the level of consciousness and attention is reduced (Levy, 2001).

Adolescent conduct is negatively affected by poor parental monitoring and punishment. According to a cross-sectional investigation, poor monitoring has a negative impact on youngsters, driving them to deviant peer groups. Corporal punishment is held responsible for aggressive behaviour in youngsters and the adolescent's fight with the family and siblings. Moreover, Parents often are unaware of the nature of adolescent peer relationships and are least concerned about their children's actions when they are away from home. Consequently, the adolescent forms bonds with deviant peers. (McCord, 1991; Woodward et al., 2000).

Children who are well watched and whose parents keeps a check on what their children are involved in, when away from home, show good academic ratings. The worth of parental consciousness is overlooked, ultimately producing the off springs who lack a feeling of accountability (Dornbusch et al., 1990). Accepting social ranks, developing self-control, rules and regulations, and patience should all be taught to children in tandem with parental consciousness. (Williams et al., 2009).

Even in a violent environment, parental supervision helps build resistance capacity against delinquent conduct. When children are effectively controlled, they have fewer possibilities to engage in violent acts. Studies in past indicts, inadequate parental consciousness has an influence on the nature of friendship but has no clear connection with delinquent conduct. It just provides a safer space for deviant peer groups. The findings reveal that parents have only a rudimentary grasp of their children's delinquent acts, and as a result, monitoring and control mechanisms are not always effective. (Bystritsky, 2000).

The rigid tone and unconsciousness of parents cause a communication gap between children and their parents. Because of lenient parenting approaches that do not hold children accountable owing to insufficient supervision, they are easily pushed into delinquent peer groups. (Chambers et al., 2001).

Children with productive personality traits are the result of an excellent parenting approach. Parents who continue to fail to form intimate ties with their children cause disputes. In the end, the parents' neglect pushed their children into delinquency. If parents make use of corporal punishment or act aggressively, their children may become addicted to drugs. Parents being considered role models for their children, if found involved in acts of aggression and violation, their children will have a strong desire to engage in delinquency (Levy, 2001).

Parenting during teen years is challenging for parents. Teen years are very complex part of a child's life. Therefore the role of parents during the teenage is not only showering love & taking care of their children, but understanding questions rose by the children and to provide them with a right kind of answer which will definitely make their confusion solved. Good parenting during teenage is not all about to control them but about giving them space, guidance and having keen supervision so that they may grow into a sound and mature adult. Those children who are not under proper supervision and whom parents are not conscious about their children may rush towards parental noncompliance and disobedience (Hirschi, 2002; Ullah and Muhammad, 2020).

Material and Methods

The sample of the study was attained from four major cities of the Punjab Province. The province was divided into three clusters, lower Punjab, upper Punjab and central Punjab. By purposive sampling, district jail and central jail of Multan (Lower Punjab), Borstal jail of Bahawalpur (Lower Punjab), District jail of Lahore (upper Punjab) and Central Jail of Rawalpindi (Central Punjab). These all cities have heavy population density and centers of their region regarding economic, education, health and administration. The data was collected through structured interview schedule from all the respondents (e.g. 250 respondents out of 260 where 5 respondents refused for conducting interview, 5 were not available) aged 11 to 18 years who were available at the time of sample selection. The respondents were by number; 33 male respondents (0 female) from central jail Multan; 26 male respondents (0 female) from district jail Multan; 91 male respondents (0 female) from borstal jail Bahawalpur; 72 male respondents (0 female) from Central Jail Lahore; 37 male respondents from Central jail Rawalpindi (one female, exclude from sample size). Furthermore, data was analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS.16). Chi-square test was applied to know the association between variables.

Results and Discussion

Table 1
Univariate analysis

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Age in Years		
11-14	46	18.4
15-18	204	81.6
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Family income in Pakistani Rupee		
Less-14000	148	59.2
14001-24000	90	36
24001-above	12	4.8
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Number of Siblings		

1-2	33	13.2
3-4	109	43.6
5-above	108	43.2
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Level of Education		
Illiterate	148	59.2
1-5	80	32
6-above	22	8.8
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Type of Crime Committed		
Battery	64	25.6
Kidnapping	9	3.6
Murder	24	9.6
Rape	18	7.2
Burglary	77	30.8
Pocket marking	10	4.0
Possession of illegal weapon	7	2.8
Robbery	30	12.0
Any other	11	4.4
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Inspiration from Parents		
Strongly agree	40	16.0
Agree	57	22.8
Neither agree nor disagree	36	14.4
Disagree	66	26.4
Strongly disagree	51	20.4
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Consciousness Regarding Nature of Friendship		
Strongly agree	45	18.0
Agree	50	20
Neither agree nor disagree	51	20.4
Disagree	74	29.6
Strongly disagree	30	12.0
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Monitoring for Their Activities		
Strongly agree	45	18.0
Agree	67	26.8
Neither agree nor disagree	23	9.2
Disagree	78	31.2
Strongly disagree	37	14.8
Percentage Distribution with Respect to interaction of Respondents with Delinquent Peer Group		

Strongly agree	85	34.0
Agree	45	18.0
Neither agree nor disagree	57	22.8
Disagree	34	13.6
Strongly disagree	29	11.6
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Advices for Avoiding from Delinquents		
Strongly agree	63	25.2
Agree	96	38.4
Neither agree nor disagree	12	4.8
Disagree	50	20.0
Strongly disagree	29	11.6
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Showing Parental Aggression for Anti-Social Activities		
Strongly agree	49	19.6
Agree	72	28.8
Neither agree nor disagree	29	11.6
Disagree	60	24.0
Strongly disagree	40	16.0
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental investigation about out of Home Activities		
Strongly agree	91	36.4
Agree	70	28.0
Neither agree nor disagree	17	6.8
Disagree	42	16.8
Strongly disagree	30	12.0
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Investigation about Pocket Money		
Strongly agree	26	10.4
Agree	60	24.0
Neither agree nor disagree	40	16.0
Disagree	73	29.2
Strongly disagree	51	20.4
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Knowledge about Hobbies		
Strongly agree	50	20.0
Agree	80	32.0
Neither agree nor disagree	30	12.0
Disagree	75	30.0
Strongly disagree	65	26.0
Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Love/Affection Level		

Strongly agree	39	15.6
Agree	62	24.8
Neither agree nor disagree	60	24.0
Disagree	54	21.6
Strongly disagree	35	14.0

Percentage Distribution with Respect to Time Parents Celebrated with Respondents

Strongly agree	13	5.2
Agree	36	14.4
Neither agree nor disagree	00	00
Disagree	149	59.6
Strongly disagree	52	20.8

Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Sensitivity During Sickness towards Respondents

Strongly agree	59	23.6
Agree	103	41.2
Neither agree nor disagree	21	8.4
Disagree	45	18.0
Strongly disagree	22	8.8

Percentage Distribution with Respect to Parental Conscious Regarding Diet of Respondents

Strongly agree	34	13.6
Agree	33	13.2
Neither agree nor disagree	26	10.4
Disagree	103	41.2
Strongly disagree	54	21.6

Percentage Distribution with Respect to Pocket Money Given to Respondents By Parents

Strongly agree	37	14.8
Agree	59	23.6
Neither agree nor disagree	49	19.6
Disagree	68	27.2
Strongly disagree	37	14.8

Percentage Distribution with Respect to Availability of Necessities Respondents

Strongly agree	16	6.4
Agree	11	4.4
Neither agree nor disagree	33	13.2
Disagree	109	43.6
Strongly disagree	79	31.6

Table no 1 Shows that majority 204(81.6%) of juvenile delinquents belonged to 15-18 years of age group. The results showed that among juveniles in the upper age the rate of delinquencies was higher. The fact was found that as the age increased the level of consciousness of the parents decreased. Majority 148(59.2%) families of the juvenile delinquents was monthly income 14000 or less. This calculation showed that majority juvenile delinquents belonged to least earning families. Therefore, children of poor people are more at the risk of adopting criminal attitude. Table further reveals that the respondents having number of siblings 3-4 and 5-Above were 109(43.6) and 108(43.2) respectively of all the respondents. This table indicated that a majority juvenile delinquents belonged large family size which indicated that as the family size increased the parental consciousness decreased towards their children. Moreover, education of the respondents and exposed that a large number 148(59.2) of juvenile delinquents were illiterate while 80(32%) juveniles were studied till primary level. Obviously education is necessary for the better socialization of the children because mostly the criminals found the jails were illiterate or less educated. juvenile delinquents found involved almost in all types of crimes. Majority respondents 77(30.8%) committed burglary. The second majority respondents 64(25.6%) were charged of battery. The third majority of the respondents 30(12.0%) were arrested while committing robbery. In the case of murder 24(9.6%) delinquents were arrested. The respondents 18(7.2%) of all the respondents committed rape. Of all the respondents 10(4.0%) committed pocket marking. While 9(3.6%) respondents arrested in kidnapping. And 7(2.8%) percent of the respondents were arrested for possession of illegal weapons while 11(4.4%) respondents committed other crimes like possession and Selling of drug like substances, drug addiction and fraud etc. Least education and desire to fulfill their needs and detachment of parents pushed them towards burglary and many other criminal activities.

In further questions the responses were consisting on five predefined categories (e.g. Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree). Where the first category (Strongly Agree) refers firmly supporting to the said statement while the last category (Strongly disagree) meant for firmly opposing the statement. The mentioned table shows the level of inspiration from their parents. Of all 40(16%) responded "strongly agree" and 57(22.8%) responded "agree" that they inspired from their parents. And 36(14.4%) remained neutral in inspirational level from their parents and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 66(26.4%) responded "disagree" and 51(20.4%) responded "strongly disagree" that they were not inspired from their parents. Parental consciousness regarding nature of friendships of the respondents. Of all 45(18%) responded "strongly agree" and 50(20%) responded "agree" that their parents were conscious regarding nature of their friendships. And 51(20.4%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding nature of friendships and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 74(29.6%) responded "disagree" and 30(12%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents were not conscious regarding nature of friendship of their children. Besides parental monitoring for respondent's activities. Of all 45(18%) responded "strongly agree" and

67(26.8%) responded "agree" that their parents monitored their activities. And 23(9.2%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding monitoring them and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 78(31.2%) responded "disagree" and 37(14.8%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents did not monitored their activities. Furthermore, having interaction of respondents with delinquent peer group. Of all 85(34%) responded "strongly agree" and 45(18%) responded "agree" that they had interaction with delinquent peer group. And 57(22.8%) remained neutral regarding having interaction with peer group and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 34(13.6%) responded "disagree" and 29(11.6%) responded "strongly disagree" that they did not had interaction with delinquent peer group. Parental Advices for Avoiding from Delinquents. Of all 63(25.2%) responded "strongly agree" and 96(38.4%) responded "agree" that their parents advised them to avoid from interacting with delinquents. And 12(4.8%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding advising them to avoid from interacting with delinquents and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 50(20%) responded "disagree" and 29(11.6%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents never advised them to avoid from interacting with delinquents. parental aggression towards respondents for anti-social activities. Of all 49(19.6%) responded "strongly agree" and 72(28.8%) responded "agree" that their parents showed aggression towards respondents for anti-social activities. And 29(11.6%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding anti-social activities towards them and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 60(24%) responded "disagree" and 40(16%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents did not show aggression towards respondents for anti-social activities. Moreover, parental investigation about out of home activities from the respondents. Of all 91(36.4%) responded "strongly agree" and 70(28%) responded "agree" that their parents investigated about out of home activities from the respondents. And 17(6.8%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding investigation about out of home activities from the respondents and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 42(16.8%) responded "disagree" and 30(12%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents did not investigated about out of home activities from the respondents. Moreover, parental investigation about pocket money from the respondents. Of all 26(10.4%) responded "strongly agree" and 60(24%) responded "agree" that their parents investigated about pocket money from the respondents. And 40(16%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding investigation about pocket money from the respondents and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 73(29.2%) responded "disagree" and 51(20.4%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents did not investigated about pocket money from the respondents. Table 1 Shows the parental knowledge about hobbies of the respondents. Of all 50(20%) responded "strongly agree" and 80(32%) responded "agree" that their parents had knowledge about their hobbies. And 30(12%) respondent's parents remained neutral regarding knowledge about their hobbies and responded "neither agree nor disagree". While 75(30%) responded "disagree" and 65(26%) responded "strongly disagree" that their parents did not had knowledge about their hobbies. In addition, parental love/affection for the respondents. Of all 39(15.6%)

responded “strongly agree” and 62(24.8%) responded “agree” that they had parental love/affection. And 60(24%) respondent’s remained neutral regarding parental love/affection and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 54(21.6%) responded “disagree” and 35(14%) responded “strongly disagree” that they did not had they had parental love/affection. The level of time parents celebrated with respondents. Of all 13(5.2%) responded “strongly agree” and 36(14.4%) responded “agree” that their parents celebrated time with the respondents. And 00 (00%) respondent’s parents remained neutral regarding their parents celebrated time with the respondents and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 149(59.6%) responded “disagree” and 52(20.8%) responded “strongly disagree” that their parents did not celebrated time with the respondents. Parental sensitivity during sickness towards respondents. Of all 59(23.6%) responded “strongly agree” and 103(41.2%) responded “agree” that their parents showed parental sensitivity during sickness towards respondents. And 21(8.4%) respondent’s parents remained neutral regarding parental sensitivity during sickness towards respondents and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 45(18%) responded “disagree” and 22(8.8%) responded “strongly disagree” that their parents did not show parental sensitivity during sickness towards respondents. Parental consciousness regarding diet of respondents. Of all 34(13.6%) responded “strongly agree” and 33(13.2%) responded “agree” that their parents were conscious regarding diet of respondents. And 26(10.4%) respondent’s parents remained neutral regarding diet of respondents and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 103(41.2%) responded “disagree” and 54(21.6%) responded “strongly disagree” that their parents were not conscious regarding diet of respondents. However, pocket money given to the respondents by the parents. Of all 37(14.8%) responded “strongly agree” and 59(23.6%) responded “agree” that their parents gave pocket money to the respondents. And 49(19.6%) respondent’s parents remained neutral regarding pocket money given to the respondents by the parents and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 68(27.2%) responded “disagree” and 37(14.8%) responded “strongly disagree” that their parents did not gave pocket money to the respondents by the parents. Availability of necessities to the respondents by the parents. Of all 37(14.8%) responded “strongly agree” and 59(23.6%) responded “agree” that they had availability of necessities by the parents. And 49(19.6%) respondent’s parents remained neutral regarding availability of necessities to them and responded “neither agree nor disagree”. While 68(27.2%) responded “disagree” and 37(14.8%) responded “strongly disagree” that they had not availability of necessities by the parents.

Hypothesis Testing

Null Hypothesis: There is no relation between parental consciousness about deviant peer group and respondents ‘interaction with deviant peer group.

Alternate hypothesis: Lower the level of parental consciousness and higher will be level of interaction with deviant peer group.

Table 2

Interaction with delinquent peer group	Parental consciousness regarding nature of friendship with their friends					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Strongly Agree	31(12.4%)	12(4.8%)	15(6.0%)	16(6.4%)	11(4.4%)	85(34.0%)
Agree	17(6.8%)	4(1.6%)	6(2.4%)	7(2.8%)	11(4.4%)	45(18.0%)
Neither Agree nor disagree	15(6.0%)	5(2%)	18(7.2%)	10(4%)	9(3.6%)	57(22.8%)
Disagree	4(1.6%)	4(1.6%)	8(3.2%)	4(1.6%)	14(5.6%)	34(13.6%)
Strongly disagree	7(2.8%)	5(2.0%)	4(1.6%)	8(3.2%)	5(2.0%)	29(11.6%)
Total	74(29.6%)	30(12%)	51(20.4%)	45(18.0%)	50(20.0%)	250(100%)

Chi-square value = 27.264, Degree of freedom = 16, Level of significance = 0.03.

Table no 2 reveals information pertaining to relationship between parental knowledge about nature of interaction of their children with peer group and children interaction with delinquent peer group. Findings of the study shows that hypothesis proved that lack of parental knowledge regarding their children enhance the probability of attachment with anti-social peer group. In addition, lack of parental knowledge has direct effects on the study participant as the P- value of chi-square found less than 0.05. Moreover, hypothesis was developed to explore the relationship between study variables that 'Lower the level of parental consciousness causes higher level of interaction with the deviant peer group'. Furthermore, the mentioned table also disclose that (29.6) percent of the respondents were found strongly agree about their parental knowledge regarding nature of interaction with friends and 12% of the study participant were found agreed. Notwithstanding, findings of the depended variable's shows that 34.0 percent of the respondents were found strongly agreed that they had interaction with criminal peer group. While 18.0 percent of the respondents were found disagreed with this statement. Thus it could be concluded from the study findings that parents are awareness are inversely associated with children antisocial/criminal. activity

Conclusion and Recommendations

Main theme of the study was to assess juvenile delinquency in the context of parental consciousness in the selected jails of Punjab. Findings of the study explore parenting deficiencies and its negative effects contributing delinquent activities among children. Moreover, lack of prenatal mechanism practices, poor parenting, lack of parental support,

careless attitude of parents towards children and lack of monitoring are some of the contributing factors of criminal behavior. Besides, the study also concluded that attachment with delinquent friends was observed significant with their delinquent behavior. Based on study finding the study recommend that educational institution or council should be established for parents where they will have taught different skills of parenting. Further, the govt should start different training and program for prisoners dealing with their rehabilitation and skills development

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