

1/3rd of Pakistan's Population has been severely affected by the floods. Make a case for potential rise of crimes in Sindh and Balochistan by taking support from positivist theoretical perspective.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The devastating floods in Pakistan's South has severely affected 1 in 3 Pakistanis. Which has resulted in massive displacement. Many are staying in make-shift homes. Whereas others do not even have those facilities. The deprivation of basic right to food and security will have high chance to spread crime in the country. According to the positivist School of thought the disturbed social fabric creates 'anomie' leading to strain and relative deprivation. The disorganized social structure will further exacerbate the criminality.

## 2. THE FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan's southern areas of

Balochistan and Sindh have received unprecedented rainfall. Both provinces have experienced a rise of 400% and 300% increase in the rainfall. Experts point out that the change in climate and global warming are direct cause of the devastating rains. The rains cause flash flooding. Experts see this situation a common one in the future. Flooding has displaced thousands and the internally displaced refugees will further increase. Moving to urban centers for employment and food and shelter. For e.g., over 100,000 pregnant women displaced.

### 3- VIEW OF POSITIVISM

The positivist school emerged in the nineteenth century. It was the result of scientific revolution in natural science like astronomy, physics, biology. Sociologists like

August Comte, father of sociology, took a step to use scientific methods to understand society's evolution and development. The process of using empirical, verifiable data is called positivism i.e., the positive data. Early positivist criminologists included biology to understand crime causation. Father of modern criminology Cesare Lombroso argued that people are born criminals. Certain people are physically thrown back in time, to primitive people. Other groups of criminologists studied societal factors that cause crime. This group opposed biological factors for crime causation. This is known as sociological criminology. The foundation of sociological criminology can be traced back to the works of Emile Durkheim, Comtelet and L.A.J.

# 4- CASE OF CRIMINALITY FROM POSITIVIST SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

## a- The Strain Theories

The Strain theories point out that the 'anomie' created in the society leads to the crime. Anomie comes from a Greek word 'nomos' which means 'normal way', or 'norms'. So, anomie refers to society without normal behaviour or rules. Usually the normal behaviour or rules break as a result of sudden change in the society and community. In Pakistan, the flooding situation has caused thousands to be displaced. Away from basic needs of life, anomie created has high potential to lead to

increased crime rate.

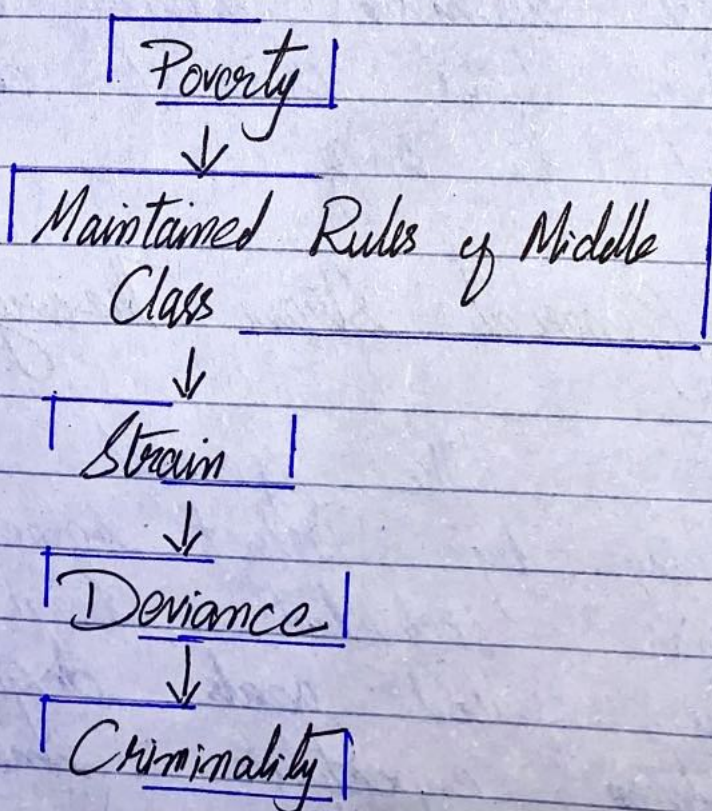
## - Relative Deprivation (Strain Theory)

From the relative deprivation lens, the people in poverty envy the well-off. Their values are often in conflict with the rich and middle classes' conventional rules. This creates deprivation in relation to those rules. The strain created lead to anemic. Those settled in shatter homes near urban may feel deprived which can push them to criminal career due to envy.

## - General Strain Theory

The General strain theory by Robert Agnew, explains individual strain. Strain due failed goals, disjunction between expectation and reality,

reduction of positive stimuli, and presence of negative stimuli. In Pakistan's case, it's evident that those affected experienced loss of positive stimuli. Their lives are gone, their dear ones may be dead. Whereas those very young, experience negative stimuli like poverty, hunger, vulnerable to street crimes etc. Similarly, when they will compare themselves with those better-off, they can feel disjunction between expectation and achievements.



Schematic diagram of Strain Theory

## 5- CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is evident that there is strong case of high criminality likelihood in Pakistan. The disorganized social environment, the inequality in socio-economic structure, and personal frustration of the affectedes can all contribute to the crime rates increase.

The sociological criminology, positivist school also support the case as explained by the above mentioned theories.