Criminology
Part-II
Section-1

Q3 Rise of Crime in Sindh and Balochistan due to floods & theories applied.

Introduction:-

Disaterous floods due to heavy monsoon rainfall has affected 1/3rd population of pakistan severely. This has not just resulted in economic crisis or threat to survival but also increased the ratio of crime In flood affected areas especially Sindh and Balochistan.

Rise of Crime in Sindh & Balochistan

Amid the deteriorating law and order situation in the country, Sindh especially karahi has witnessed an "alarming increase" in street crime, exacerbated by the recent floods, Geo news reported citing Sindh police officials

Floods have caused havoc economic disaster that has surge the poverty rate by 2·5 to 4 percent, pushing between 5·8 and 9 million people into poverty according to the World Bank(6 oct 2022). Inflation has added more misery from touching highest percent 27% in last month (Nov 2022, Dawn) by CPI. Many factors contribute to crime rates due to flood; unemployement, inflation, poverty, population, humanitarian crisis, lawlessness and incompatability of law agencies.

Social structure theory

The reasons for rise in crime in flood affected areas can be related to Social structure theories as it defines unequal distribution of wealth and poverty. poverty can be stated as biggest factor for crime.

− Child poverty

poverty during early childhood has a more severe impact than during adolescence. lowincome children are less likely to achieve in school. Social problems in lower-class Slum areas are epidemic. Due to havoc floods, poverty has increased and children are deprived of education and involving more in street crimes.

− Underclass

Culture of poverty is passed from one generation to the next. Unemployement and underemployement disrupts family life and creates despair.

The main reason of crime is defined as social and economic forces in deteriorated lower-class areas push residents into criminal behaviour patterns. Social structure theories include social disorganization, strain theory and cultural deviance theory.

Social Disorganization Theories

This theory links crime rates to neighborhood ecological characteristics. Social disorganization includes low income groups with large single parent households and institutions of broken down social control. Floods in pakistan have induced all the factors leading to crime caused by social disorganization.

⇒ ## The work of Shaw and Mckay
They linked transitional slum areas to inclination to commit crime. As it can be clearly seen the most affected areas by flood were slum areas in rural city. Slum children choose to join gangs when values are in conflict with existing middle class norms. Concentric zone mapping identified inner-city zones, have highest crime rate.

⇒ ## The Social ecology School
It believes community deterioration to have association with crime. Disorder, poverty, alienation, ~~dissoci~~ dissociation and fear of crime are characteristics of community deterioration. Economically disadvantaged

neighbor hoods have higher rates of serious crimes. The limited employement destabilizes households as well as social and physical incivilities increase the fear of crime i.e graffiti, prostitutes, dirt and noise.

- Race and fear:- Fear by minorities is greater as they fear left out
- Gangs and fear:- Open activities of brazen gangs create fear
- Mistrust and fear:- A siege mentality develops based on mistrust of the outside world Communities go under rapid change and single parent households are likely to be at risk of crime involvement.

* Components of disorganization theory

* poverty
- Development in isolated lower class areas.
- Lack of conventional social oppurtunities
- Racial and ethnic discrimination

*social disorganization
- Breakdown of social institutions and organizations such as school and family
- Lack of informal social control

* Breakdown of social control
- Development of gangs
- peer group replaces family

*Criminal areas
- Neighbourhood becomes crime prone
- Stable pockets of crime develop
- lack of external support and investment

*cultural transmission
- Adults pass norms to younger generation, creating stable lower-class culture

* Criminal careers
• Most youths age out of delinquency
  but some remain in criminal life

Social disorganization theory and pakistan crime ratio

The havoc floods have surely increased poverty
rate that World bank believes from 5.8 to 9 billion
people in pakistan. poverty leads to disorganization
of society that increases crime rates. people
use criminal and illegal ways to fulfill their
requirements

⟹ Strain theories

These theories view that crime is a
direct result of lowerclass frustration and
anger. The word Anomie has been used (from
the greek word a "nomos", meaning without norms).
In an anomic society rules of behaviour have
been broken down because of social change,
war or famine.

★ Components of Strain theory

★ poverty
• Development of isolated lower-class areas
• Lack of conventional social opportunities
• Racial and ethnic discrimination

★ Maintenance of conventional rules
  and norms
• Residents of lower class areas remain loyal
  to conventional values and rules of
  dominant middle class culture

* **strain**
  Lack of oppurtunity coupled with desire for conventional success produce strain and fustration

* **Formation of gangs**
  youths form new law violating groups to seek alternative means of achieving success.

* **Crime and delinquency**
  Methods of groups - theft, violence, substance abuse are defined as illegal by dominant culture.

* **Criminal Careers**
  Most youthful gang members age out of crime but some become adult criminals.

Theory of Anomie (Robert K. Merton)

Merton argued that socially mandated goals are uniform throughout society and access to legitimate means to achieve those goals is bound by class and status but some people have inadequate means to attain societal goals. Modes of Social adaptation are; Conformity, Innovation, Ritualism, Retreatism and Rebellion.

Institutional Anomie theory (Steven Messner & Richard Rosenfeld)

This theory describes the "American dream" as both goal and a process. Goals refer to material goods and wealth. process involves being socialized to pursue material success. Certain institutions have been rendered powerless and obsolete in controlling anomie such as charitable institutions

Relative deprivation theory

This theory gives view of

economic and social inequality lead to feelings of envy, mistrust and aggression. Lower-class people feel both deprived and embittered. Minorities feel relative deprivation more acutely than non-minorities.

General strain theory

Robert Agnew explains why individuals who feel stress and strain commit crime. There are multiple sources of stress; failure to achieve goals, disjunction of expectations and achievements, removal of positively valued stimuli. Agnew suggests the greater the intensity of strain experiences, the more likely criminality will occur. These leads to negative affective states like anger, frustration, disappointment, depression and fear. resulting in antisocial behaviour; drug abuse, delinquency, violence etc.

Strain theory and Pakistan Crime ratio

The floods have created stress and frustration in people especially in lower-class as they have been affected the most. They have no means to achieve their goals or basic necessities that induce anger, frustration and stress in them, leading them to antisocial behaviour like drug abuse, delinquency, violence and street crimes to achieve their goals. Affected people are indulged in criminal activities as they are lacking options for achieving their goals and cope with their stress.

Cultural Deviance Theory

This theory combines the effects of social disorganization and strain to explain criminality. The lower classes create an independant subculture with its own set of rules and values. Those subcultural norms clash with conventional values

★ Components of Cultural deviance

★ **poverty**
- Lack of oppurtunity
- Feeling of oppression

★**Socialization**
Lower class youths are socialized to value middle class goals and ideas. However their environment inhibits proper socialization.

★ **Sub-culture**
Blocked oppurtunities prompt formation of groups with alternative lifestyles and values

★ **Success goal**
Gangs provide alternative methods of gaining success for some, venting anger for others.

★ **Crime and delinquency**
New methods of gaining success involve law-violating behaviour.

★ **Criminal Careers**
Some gang members can parlay their status into criminal careers, others become drug users or commit violent assault.

Focal Concerns

Walter B-Miller identified the focal concerns of the lower class environments: Trouble, Toughness, Smartness, Excitement, Fate, Autonomy

Clinging to lower class focal concerns promotes illegal or violent behaviour.

Theory of Differential opportunity

Richard cloward and Lloyd ohlin suggested people share the same goals but have limited means to achieve them. Because of differential opportunity, young people are likely to join gangs.
- Criminal gangs exist in stable neighborhoods.
- Conflict gangs develop in areas unable to provide legitimate or illegitimate opportunities.

Social Structure theories and crime ratio in pakistan

Social structure theory applies to the current crime situation that has skyrocketed due to havoc floods causing poverty, unemployement, unequal distribution of funds to sindh and balochistan, inflation etc. These situations have deprived people of pakistan in Sindh and Balochistan from equal opportunities or means for achieving their goals or fulfill their necessities causing them stress and frustration leading to anti-social and criminal behaviour.