

Q: Suggest measures to control robberies / street dacoities and Urban criminal in Pakistan

- Intro:

Street crimes is defined as the criminal behaviour that occurs in public spaces and is often motivated by the financial gains. According to the Bureau of Justice statistics, (BJS) street crimes encompass a wide range of the homicide, assault, robbery, and arson. It also includes a property crimes such as larceny, breaking and entering, burglary and motor vehicles theft. In Pakistan, street crimes are usually committed by the individuals because they believe the potential rewards outweigh the risk as criminals won't be held accountable due to the negligence of law enforcement agencies.

Rational choice theory

The rational choice theory is a viewpoint of the right realist school that attempts to explain crimes by virtue of the hedonistic nature of man, that is, individual engage in criminal behaviour out of free will because they believe it will lead to personal gain and they weigh to potential risk and rewards.

Street crimes means to earn a living

Economic crises and inflation have resulted in a rising poverty in Pakistan. As a result, people resort to the path of

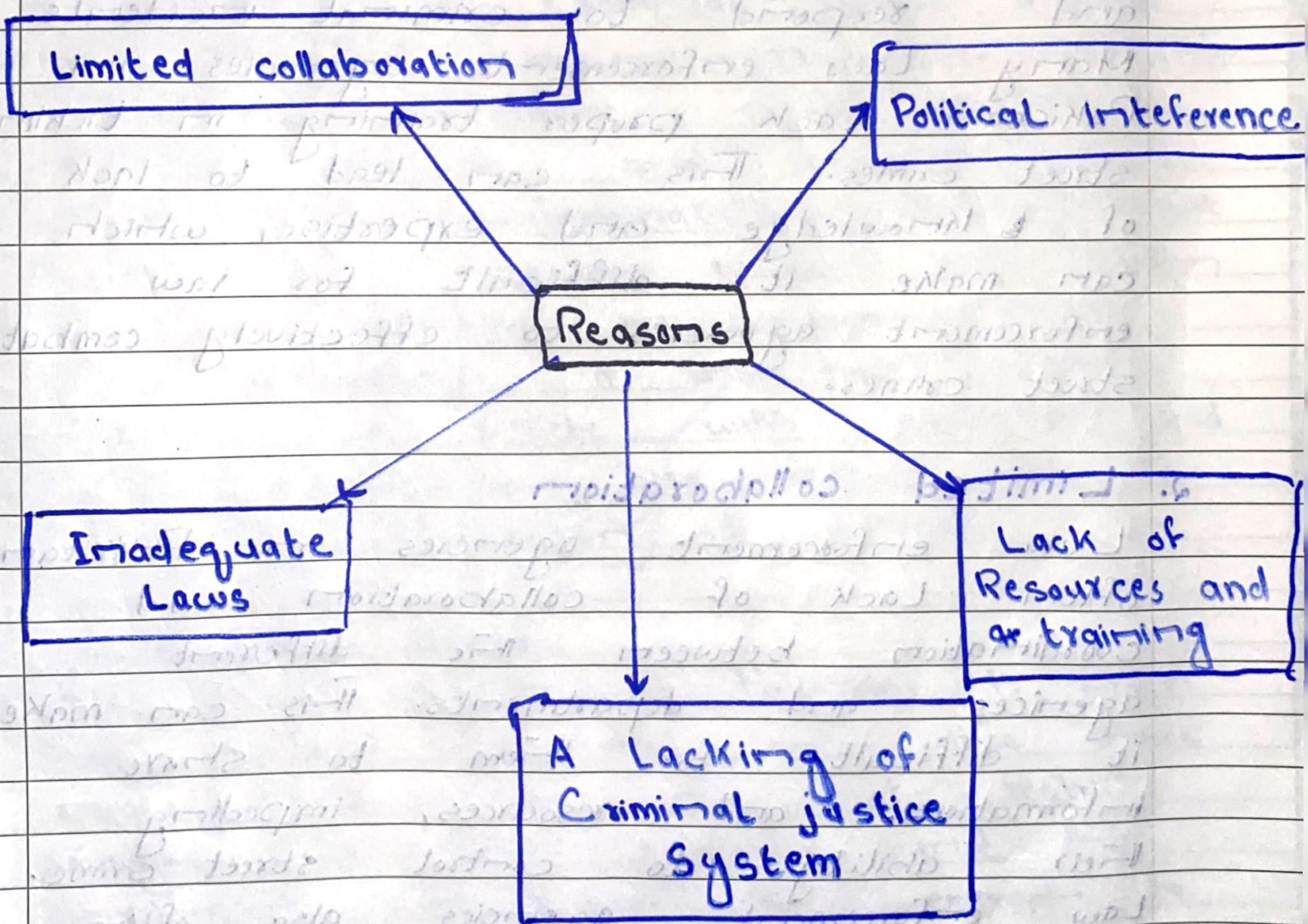
Street crimes a means to earn to a living. Undoubtedly, poverty and inflation have exacerbated street crimes in Pakistan. This can be substantiated by the UNODC report "Impact of Economic Crises and Crime" which states that "during periods of economic stress, the incidence of robbery may double, and homicide and motor vehicle theft also increase". The lack of the FIRs and lodged against the free perpetrators has also aided criminals. Moreover street crimes has become a rather profitable business in Pakistan due to the low rate of conviction.

Urban Criminal in Pakistan

In Pakistan, street crimes affects urban areas like; however lately, street crimes have become particularly prevalent in large urban cities such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Street crimes is a symptom of deeper malaise in our society stemming from issues of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. Global multi dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) (2022) and Asian Development bank (ADB) report estimates that 21% of Pakistan's population lives below the national poverty line. ~~Although~~

Although a broad range of intrinsic and extrinsic factors are responsible for the recent spike in street crimes, however extrinsic factors play major role in case of Pakistan.

The Reasons behind the increasing robberies in Pakistan.



1. Lack of Resources and Training

Law enforcement agencies in Pakistan offer lack of necessary resources such as the funding, equipment, and the personnel to effectively combat the street crimes. This can make it difficult for them to effectively patrol high crime areas and respond to criminal incidents.

Many law enforcement agencies in Pakistan lack proper training in tackling street crimes. This can lead to lack of knowledge and expertise, which can make it difficult for law enforcement agencies to effectively combat street crimes.

2. Limited Collaboration

Law enforcement agencies in Pakistan often lack of collaboration and coordination between the different agencies and departments. This can make it difficult for them to share information and resources, impeding their ability to control street crime.

Law enforcement agencies also often have a poor relationships with the communities they serve which can make it difficult for them to gain the trust and the cooperation of community members.

3. Political Interference

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Law enforcement agencies in Pakistan are often subject to political interference, which can make it difficult for them to carry out their duties independently. This can include pressure to overlook or downplay certain crimes, or to prioritise certain cases over others.

4. A Lacking of Criminal Justice System

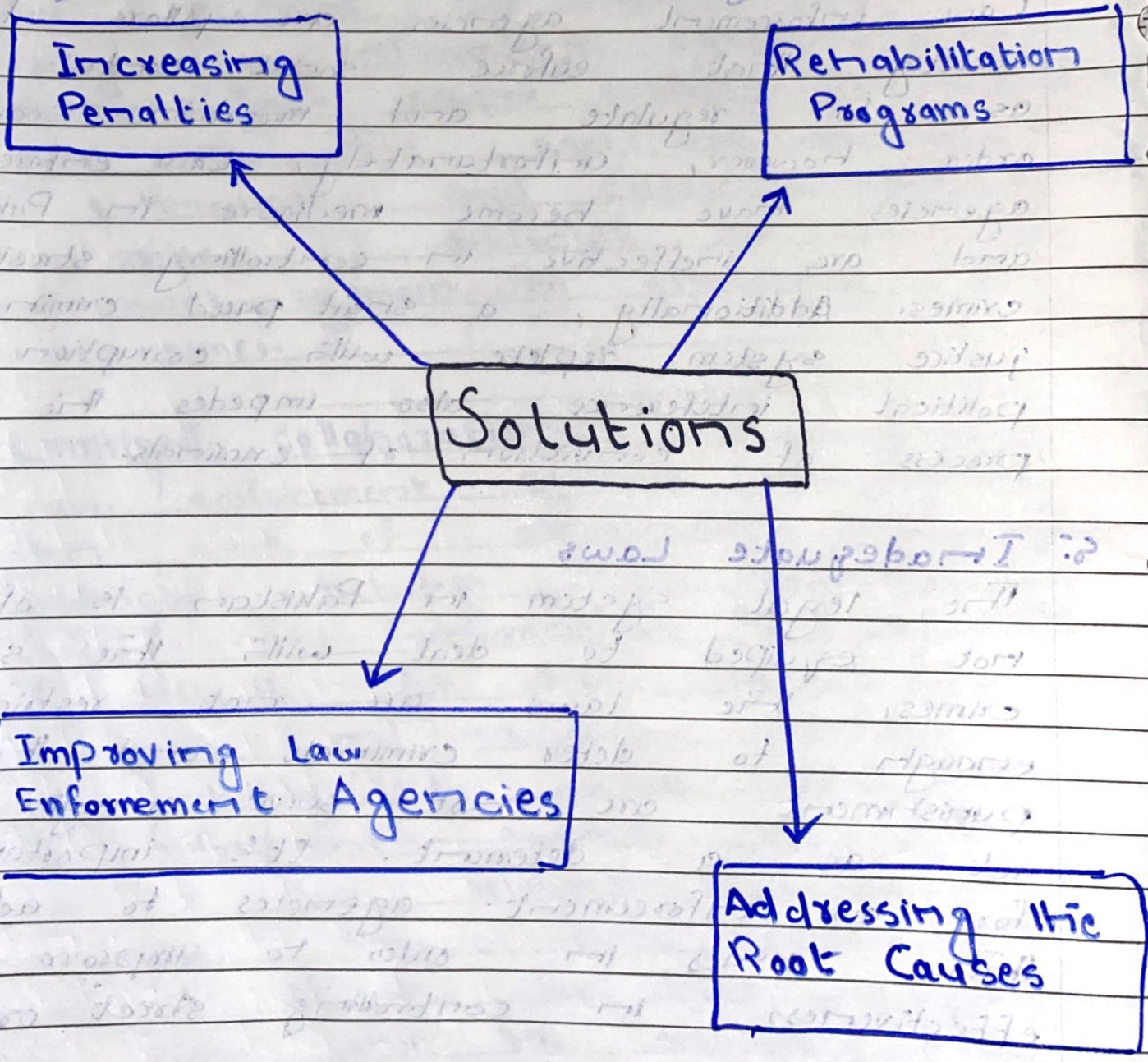
Law enforcement agencies are pillars of the society that enforce social control so as to regulate and maintain social order. However, unfortunately, law enforcement agencies have become mediocre in Pakistan and are ineffective in controlling street crimes. Additionally, a snail paced criminal justice system replete with corruption and political interference also impedes the process of conviction of criminals.

5. Inadequate Laws

The legal system in Pakistan is often not equipped to deal with the street crimes. The laws are not restrictive enough to deter criminals and the punishment are not severe enough to act as a deterrent. It's important for law enforcement agencies to address these issues in order to improve their effectiveness in controlling street crimes.

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Measures to control Street Crimes

Street crimes requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the underlying social and economic conditions that contribute to the problem. It is not merely a Law enforcement problem, it is a social problem that requires a community-wide response.



1. Addressing the Root Causes

To effectively control street crimes in Pakistan, it is important to address the root causes such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and social inequality.

This can be done through targeted social and economic policies like poverty reduction programs, job creation initiatives and program to improve access to education and training and provide social safety nets for the most vulnerable.

2. Improving Law Enforcement Agencies

Street crimes in Pakistan are often

exacerbated by a lack of effective law enforcement agencies. This can be done by providing training resources and equipment to law enforcement agencies, as well as implementing measures to combat corruption within these agencies.

3. Increasing Penalties

The right realist school emphasizes zero tolerance policing to control crimes. Moreover,

Italian criminologist Cesare Beccaria, an advocate of punitive justice, argued that the punishment of criminal crimes must be proportionate to the crimes committed so as to deter criminals from committing them.

4. Rehabilitation Programs

Street crimes is often committed by individual with a history of criminal behaviour. To control street crimes, it is essential to provide rehabilitation programs that address the underlying issues that lead to criminal behaviour. A part of restorative justice advocated by the left realist school, in Pakistan rehabilitation programmes could help restore offenders as assets to society.

5. Analyzing the current situation of crimes in Pakistan

Pakistan's citizens police liaison committee (CPLC) reported an unprecedented spike in street crimes, at a time when the country is grabbed by political instability, crippling inflation, climate change, food insecurity and economic crisis. The uptick in street crimes has created even more uncertainty and fear in the country, one that has flawed social control mechanism and a weak criminal justice system. The Karachi police reported 60,580 incidents of crime including 20,406 episodes of mobile snatching in first 9 months of ~~2020~~ 2022 alone with a crime index of 42.51, Pakistan's jeopardized internal security is not deleterious to the common man but the business communities too.

Conclusion:

Street crime is not just a problem of the street, it is a problem of the entire society. It is blight that eats away at the fabric of our society. Street crime not only affects the ~~society~~ safety and security of citizens but also has a negative impact on economy, as it can deter investment and tourism. Therefore it is essential to combat street crime in Pakistan through a multi-pronged approach that addresses both the underlying causes of street crime and the problems of the criminal justice system.