

Q= What are defects in the criminal investigation system of Pakistan?

Problems in the Criminal Investigation System of Pakistan

A= Criminal investigation system serves as a backbone of judicial system. As if investigation system is being conducted by following all investigation protocols, only then judicial system can perform well and victims get justice. But if investigation system is flawed and biased, provision of justice would be nothing more than a dream. Unfortunately, criminal investigation system of Pakistan is severely defected which is a major hindrance in the way justice system. Blake Edwards quoted that "Nothing matters but the facts. Without them, the science of criminal investigation is nothing more than a guessing game." This makes it crystal clear that proper criminal investigation is the first step of getting facts and evidences. The problems in the Pakistan's criminal investigation are numerous and are weakening its integrity. Some of the defects or problems are given

below:

1) Lack of Proper knowledge of criminal Investigation Procedures

In Pakistan, criminal investigators lack proper knowledge of criminal investigation procedures. They do not know how to conduct investigations in true letter and spirit. They are unaware of that if any offense is committed, under what jurisdiction it falls and which investigation agencies would conduct investigation. They lack knowledge regarding different provisions of law if an offense falls under more than one jurisdictions. Moreover, they are unaware of proper investigation protocols. This negligence and lack of knowledge has made Pakistan's investigation system feeble and fragile.

2) In Biaseness and lack of imparitality

Another serious issues is the prevalent culture of biaseness and partiality. Investigators do not collect evidences and clues properly in the cases if offender or accused belongs to his family, caste system, fami, etc. Biaseness exist on basis of gender, caste, religion, class etc. Due to

prejudiced nature, investigators fails to accomplish their goal.

According to M Scott Peck, Human beings are poor examiners, subject to bias, superstition, prejudice, and a profound tendency to see what they want to see rather than what is really there.

Biasness and prejudice in collecting evidences, recording statements, taking remands, etc have deteriorated our criminal investigation system.

3. Lack of Professionalism

Lack of professionalism is a major drawback of Pakistan's criminal investigation system. Investigators are not professionals. The investigator who has conducted investigation in murder cases, is also appointed for conducting investigation related to the other cases like rape, kidnapping etc about which he is not trained and lack knowledge of their procedures. Ultimately, challan sheet, they submit to court lacks proper facts and data. So the decision of court will also be not accurate as it decides case on the basis of flawed evidences.

4. Unavailability of proper financial resources

Pakistan is a financially strapped country. As a result, its resource allocation for departments is meager. Similarly, the criminal investigation system of Pakistan is facing an issue of unavailability of financial resources. Financial or resources shortage, the criminal investigation system is not well equipped and lacks the latest technologies for conducting investigation. Criminals are committing crimes in modern and new ways rather than in conventional modes. So to do investigation in an effective way, monetary resources are pivotal so that investigators get trained, use the latest tools and technologies for conducting investigation. But in Pakistan, financial crisis has severely affected the Pakistan criminal investigation system.

5. Lack of Proper documentation

In Pakistan, the criminal investigation system, lack of proper documentation is a major issue. Investigators do not correctly note and write about crime scenes, evidences collected, recorded statements of victims, witnesses, investigating process etc. in Chalan

submitted to court. This improper documentation affects decisions of court. Resultantly, victims suffers.

6. Corruption And Bribe Taking Culture

Corruption has maligned Pakistan criminal investigation system. Criminals and their families give bribes to the police and investigating teams in the form of money, houses, cars, property etc. Due to corruption and bribe taking, investigators hide true evidences and facts in order to support and protect the offenders from which they have taken bribes. Hiding facts and proofs make investigation weak and inefficient. And this is most common practise in our criminal investigation system.

7. Lack of independent investigation wings

Lack of independent investigation wings in Pakistan is a major hurdle in Pakistan criminal investigation system. Political parties and media influence investigation process. If a political party's member commit an offense it become very arduous for police to arrest

offender, lodge FIR, take remand and do investigation independently. Political parties pressurize police to release their members and transfer blame of offense on any innocent person. Similarly, media also interfere in investigation process. They leak important information which affect investigation process.

8. Untrained Investigation staff

In Pakistan, investigation departments lack trained, well qualified and educated investigators. This creates loop holes in investigating procedures. Such investigators could not collect biological and other evidences from crime scenes and even lose or waste the evidence due to improper handling.

9. Delay

Delay in investigation is the norm of Pakistan investigation system. Police delays in lodging FIR, arresting accused, beginning investigation process, sending dead bodies to laboratories, recording statements etc. These delays affects investigation process. It is a serious flaw in Pakistan investigation system.

Conclusion

Pakistan's criminal investigation system is flawed and lacks transparency and accountability. There is a dire need of improving investigation system through capacity building, allocation of resources, recruitment of well-trained staff and rooting out all forms of biasness and prejudices. It is a stark reality that strong and well-conducted investigation paves the way for proper judicial procedures and provision of justice.