

C88-2023 CRIMINOLOGY

PART-II SECTION-I

Question no. 3:

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Introduction:

"There is no robbery so terrible as the robbery committed by those who think they are doing right."

— (Mary Catherwood)

Robberies/dacoities and urban street criminality is the leading cause of instability in urban areas and has far-reaching consequences. Various reasons behind this heinous act force individuals to perform these crimes. It is reported that robbery is the major cause of fear among people because if someone falls prey to this felony, he would have lost his precious belongings such as jewelry, money, credit card, etc and even in some cases, there is the possibility of the loss of individuals' life. However, every problem has a cure through stringent measures such as the installation of CCTV cameras, the active role of law enforcement agencies (such as FIA), the provision of security locks and additional locks to citizens, etc these crimes can be mitigated holistically.

Various Kinds of Robberies and Urban Street Criminality in Pakistan: Robberies

Urban street criminality is the crime in which the offender takes the personal belongings of the person illegally by the use of force, threat, unlawful acts, and fear.

Various types of robberies have been reported which vary in intensity. Some of them are as follows.

* Purse-snatching

* Robbery of migrant laborers

* Robbery at ATMs

* Robbery of drunken bar patrons; robbery of students (e.g. middle and high school students and college students)

* Robbery of passengers near public transportation systems

* Commercial robbery (e.g. robbery of banks, gas stations, and convenience stores)

* Pickpocketing

* Vehicle-related robbery (e.g. robbery of armoured trucks and taxi drivers, and carjacking)

* Nonstranger street robbery (e.g. drug-related robberies, robberies by prostitutes, and robberies by friends, relatives, or spouses)

* Home invasions

* Larceny-theft (note that some police agencies may record purse-snatching as larceny-theft).

- * Assaults
- * Drug-dealing
- * Robbery of taxi drivers
- * Robbery of Convenience stores
- * Bank robbery
- * Crimes against tourists
- * Drug dealing in open-air markets

Street robbery is one form of a large set of problems related to street crime and issues of violent crimes among strangers.

Factors Contributing to Robbery and Urban Street Criminality: Various factors play a role in inclining towards criminality and robbery. Some of them are:

* **Poverty and Inequality:** It is proven by research that poverty and inequality are strongly linked with high rates of crime, including robbery and other forms of street criminality. Areas with high poverty rates are more likely to have higher rates of crime.

* **Lack of Opportunities:** Due to limited job opportunities, some people may turn towards crime to meet their basic needs.

* **Drug and Alcohol Abuse:** Drug and alcohol abuse can increase the chances of committing a crime, as substance use can impair judgement and lead to impulsive behavior.

***Lack of Social Cohesion:** Societies with weak social bonds and low levels of social cohesion may be more prone to crimes, as individuals may feel less connected to their community and less invested in its well-being.

***Weak Law Enforcement:** In areas where law enforcement is weak or corrupt, criminals may feel emboldened to commit crimes without fear of consequences.

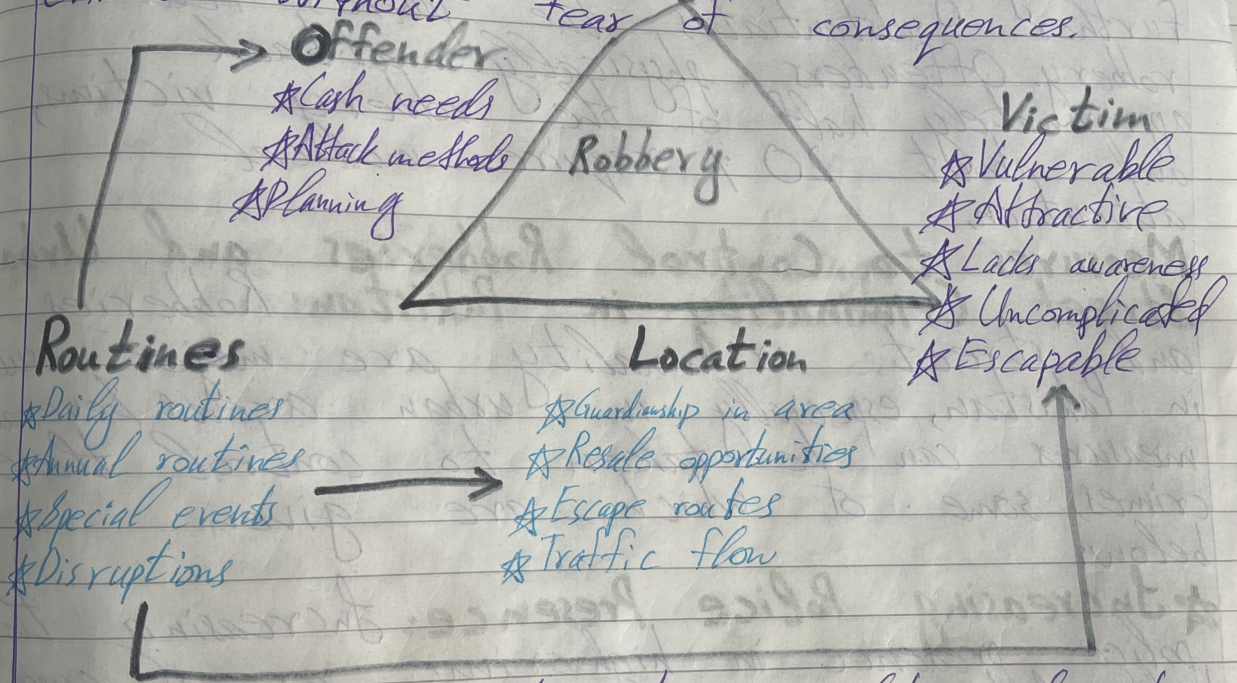


Figure: Factors contributing to criminality and urban street crimes.

Harms Caused by Robbery and Urban Street Criminality: Robbery and urban street criminality are major sources of fear among the public because victims face a sudden threat to life, a loss of control, and an invasion of personal space. Robbers

is an especially fear-inducing crime because of the context in which it is likely to occur, during someone's routine activities. For instance, the 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey of New Zealand showed that street robbers attacked most victims on their way to or from work, school, shopping, or running errands. The risk of injury and death during an attack further substantiates the public's fear of robbery. Offenders physically attack approximately half of the robbery victims, and about 20% require medical attention.

Measures to Control Robberies and Urban Street Criminality in Pakistan: Robberies and street criminality are major issues in Pakistan, especially in urban areas. Several measures can be taken to control these crimes, some of which are given below:

★ **Increasing Police Presence:** Increasing the police presence in high-crime areas can help deter criminals and reduce the number of robberies and street crimes. Police patrols can be increased in high-crime areas, and CCTV cameras can be installed to monitor activities.

★ **Strengthen Law Enforcement:** Law enforcement agencies should be strengthened to effectively

tackle crime. Police officers should be trained to deal with street crimes and intelligence gathering should be improved to prevent crimes before they occur.

Community Policing: Community policing involves the active involvement of citizens in preventing and combating crime. This can be done by forming community watch groups, encouraging citizens to report suspicious activities, and creating awareness programs to educate citizens about crime prevention.

Improve Street Lighting: Poor lighting on streets can create opportunities for criminals to carry out their activities. By improving street lighting, it can reduce the number of robberies and street crimes by making it more difficult for criminals to hide.

Increase Public Awareness: Educating the public about the dangers to street crimes and the measures that can be taken to prevent them is essential. The government can run public awareness campaigns to encourage citizens to be vigilant, report suspicious activities, and take precautions.

when walking in high-risk areas.

★ Strict Punishment: To deter criminals, it is essential to ensure that those who are caught committing crimes are punished strictly and swiftly. This can help to create a fear of the consequences of committing a crime, and ultimately reduce the number of robberies and street crimes.

★ Appointment of National Public Prosecutor: By appointing a national public prosecutor responsible for dealing with robberies and urban street criminality in major slum areas of Pakistan, such as Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, etc.

Conclusion: In conclusion, by implementing holistic policies and measures, Pakistan can effectively control robberies and urban street criminality. However, it will require a concerted effort from law enforcement agencies, government bodies, and citizens to make it a reality. Moreover, the measures will strengthen the position of municipalities and help the concerned authorities chief of police, and public prosecutor in the fight against this type of crime in Pakistan.