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Criminology

CSS-2018

Q4 What is juvenile delinquency? Explain the nature, extent and causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Suggest remedial measures for reducing juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.

Introduction:

Juvenile delinquency refers to unlawful or antisocial behavior by individuals under the age of 18. It is a pressing social issue that disrupts societal harmony and reflects broader systematic challenges. In Pakistan, juvenile delinquency has been rising due to various factors including poverty, lack of education and family neglect. The increasing involvement of juveniles in crimes such as theft, drug abuse and violent offenses exposes the urgent need for understanding its nature, extent and underlying causes. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive measures to mitigate its impact and ensure a supportive environment for youth development.

I. Nature of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

1. Prevalence in Urban Areas:

Juvenile delinquency is more common in cities due to factors like overpopulation, poverty and greater exposure to criminal activities.

2. Age-specific Trends:

Most offenses are committed by juvenile aged 10 to 18 with older teenagers being more involved in serious crimes.

"Youth is easily influenced, and guidance shapes their path"
(Erik Erikson)

3. Gender Disparities:

Boys are disproportionately involved in juvenile crimes but the involvement of girls, particularly in drug trafficking and petty theft is also rising.

4. Diverse Offenses:

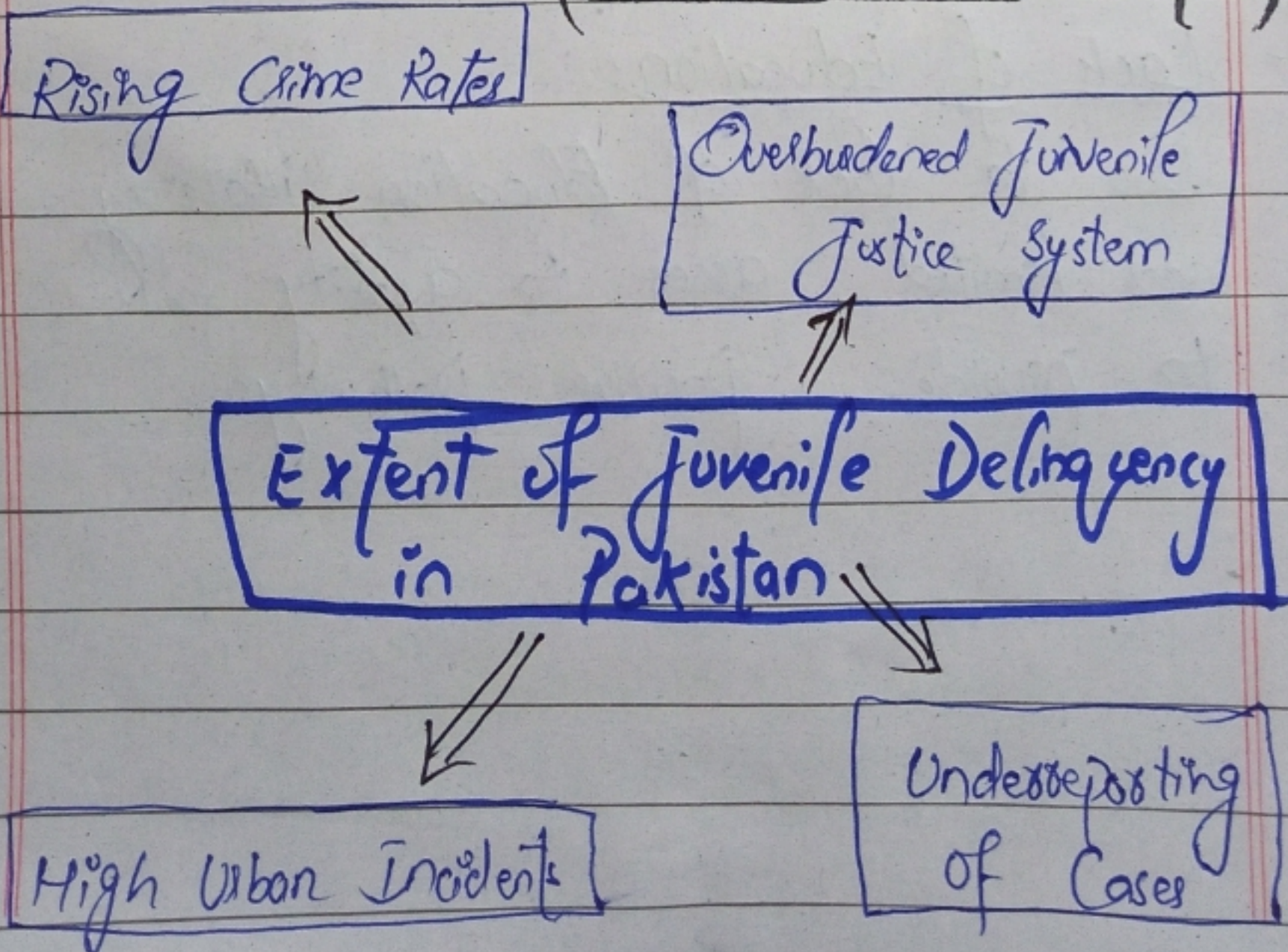
Crimes range from minor offenses like theft and pickpocketing to serious crimes, including assault and drug-related activities.

5. Link to Organized Crime:

Many juveniles are exploited by criminal activities/network, being used as drug couriers or for other illegal activities due to their vulnerability and lack of accountability under strict laws.

"Organized crime preys on the vulnerability of the young"

(Antonio Maria Costa)



II. Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

i. Poverty and Unemployment:

Poverty and unemployment are major drivers of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan forcing many young individuals into theft, drug trafficking or petty crimes for survival. The lack of financial resources and job opportunities creates frustration, pushing juveniles towards illegal activities.

"Poverty is the parent of Crime"
(Aristotle)

ii. Lack of Education:

Due to lack of education illiteracy and limited access to quality fail to provide positive pathways.

iii-

Peer Pressure:

Peer pressure significantly influences juvenile delinquency, as young individuals often seek validation or a sense of belonging within their social groups. This can lead them to adopt deviant behaviors such as theft, substance abuse or violence to fit or gain approval.

iv- Media Influences:

Media influences play a critical role in shaping juvenile behavior, often glamorizing violence and criminal activities. Exposure to such as content normalizes delinquent acts, making impressionable youth more likely to imitate these behaviors.

"Children exposed to violent media are 60% more likely to exhibit aggressive or delinquent behavior"

(American Psychological Association, 2023)

V. Ineffective Law Enforcement:

Weak police monitoring and inadequate juvenile justice laws fail to deter criminal activity.

III. Remedial Measures to Reduce Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

1. Improving Education:

Due to improving education in juvenile justice system in Pakistan to provide free, quality education and vocational training for skill development.

2. Economic Support:

To providing economic support empowers families to meet basic needs, reducing the risk of juveniles turning to crime for survival.

“Economic stability is the foundation of social harmony”

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

3. Strengthening Families:

Strengthening families through counseling and support to promote a nurturing environment, reducing the likelihood of juvenile delinquency.

4. Juvenile Justice Reforms:

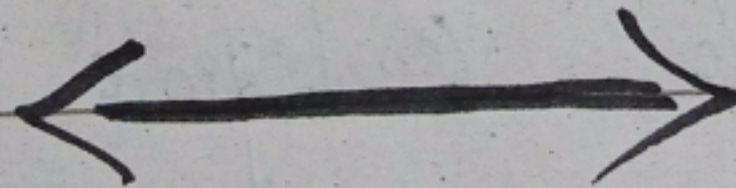
Juvenile Justice Reforms focuses on establishing specialized courts and rehabilitation-focused policies to address youth crimes effectively. It aims to prioritize reformation over punishment, ensuring juvenile reintegrate positively into society.

"Justice for children must prioritize rehabilitation over retribution"

(Nelson Mandela)

Conclusion :

Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan is a multifaceted issue influenced by socio-economic, familial and systemic factors. While its prevalence poses significant challenges, implementing holistic measures targeting the root causes can reduce its incidence. A collaborative effort between the government, society and families is essential for guiding youth towards constructive roles in society.



THE END