

Q: Suggest remedial measures for reducing the robberies of Pakistan in the light of Right Realism.

Explicating Right Realism

Right realism refers to classical perspective of criminology on criminal behavior which posits that individuals commit crimes on the basis of cost and benefit analysis. This perspective reflects **Rational Choice theory** which also contends that crime is the result of individuals' choices. This perspective focusses on strengthening law enforcement which ^{would} serve as a ^{deterrence} ~~deterrence~~ against criminal behavior.

Causes of Increasing Robberies in Pakistan in the Light of Right Realism

1- Weak law enforcement

According to World Justice Project (WJP) report^{of 2023}, Pakistan ranked 133 out of 139 countries in ~~for~~ maintaining law and order in the state ~~showing failure of state in upholding rule of law~~. This weak law enforcement reduces

the cost and increases the benefits of robberies for an individual in Pakistan so most of the youth is now engaging in this unlawful activity.

2. Prevalence of Corruption

Global Pakistan ranked 133 out of 180 countries in Corruption Perception Index report of **2024**.

This shows prevalence of corruption in state institutions (**Dawn, Corruption in Pakistan, March 2024**). This corruption increases the benefits and reduces the costs for robberies, thereby increasing the number of robberies in the country.

3. Weak Justice System

Pakistan's judiciary is one of the most corrupt state institutions due to which there is no law and order in the state. According to **UNDP** report of 2023, "Pakistan justice system has failed to uphold rule of law in the state and protect human rights." This weak justice system is another reason for growing robberies across the country because there is no fear of punishment from the judiciary.

4. Lack of Social Welfare Services

According to right realism, individuals commit crimes after rational decision-making. In a state like Pakistan, which ranked at 164th out of 193 countries in providing social services to humans, individuals commit crimes like robberies to fulfill their needs (Dawn, Pakistan rank in Human Development Index Report, 2024). Because the benefits of crimes outweigh the costs of crime.

5. Poor Police Administration

Another reason for increasing robberies in Pakistan is poor administration of police. The poor administration of police is clear from this startling figure that more than 300 street crimes were reported in the Karachi city on a daily basis during Ramadan of 2023 (Tribune, Surge in crimes, April 2023). This poor administration of police also play a key role in impacting ^{rational} decision-making of individuals.

6. Erosion of the Writ of state

In Pakistan, robberies have become an issue of the writ of state. But lack of transparency and accountability in state institutions

is responsible for causing erosion of the writ of state. For instance, **Mukhtara Mai rape case** clearly shows erosion of the writ of state which makes it easier for individuals to commit crimes. That is why robberies are increasing in the state.

Expounding Solutions for Reducing Street Crimes in the light of Remedial Measures Right Realism

1- Strengthening Legislative Framework

According to right realism, Pakistan needs to strengthen its legislative framework for reducing robberies. Pakistan needs to follow the legislative framework of Scandinavian countries like Denmark, Sweden, Finland etc because according to WJP (World Justice Project) report ^{of 2023} Denmark ranked first in upholding rule of law in the country.

2- Ensuring Accountability of State Institutions

Another solution for reducing robberies in Pakistan is to ensure accountability in state institutions. Because according to Dr. Ishrat Hussain, lack of accountability in Pakistan has led the country toward chaos (Dr. Ishrat Hussain, *Governing the Ungovernable*, 2015).

3- Strengthening Political Stability

One of the main reasons for prevalence of corruption in police and judiciary is the lack of political stability. Pakistan can reduce growing robberies by strengthening political stability. Due to political instability, the number of robberies has been increased by 53% within a year from July 2022 to July 2023 (Tribune, *Increase in robberies, July 2023*). Thus, by ensuring political stability robberies can be reduced.

4- Initiating Community Crime Prevention Programs

Seattle community crime prevention program is an example for Pakistani society through

which government can strengthen community bonds and enforce laws within societies. Law enforcement using such ^{community} crime prevention strategies can effectively reduce robberies in Pakistan.

5. Engaging Youth in Constructive Activities

When youth is engaged in constructive activities their bonds with society and faith in laws of society strengthens. In such cases, costs outweigh the benefits and crime rate reduces. So, by engaging youth of Pakistan in constructive programs like Switzerland where youth engage in community or environment service programs (The Guardian, Swiss students and Swiss climate, Jan 2024), robberies can be reduced.

Conclusion

Right realism is the classical criminological perspective on criminal behavior. It contends that criminal behavior is not inherent in fact it is caused by individuals' rational decision-making. So, criminal behavior of an individual can be prevented by strengthening law and order of the state.