

Question CSS 2023

Q Suggest measures to control robberies and urban street criminality in Pakistan.

Introduction.

Robberies, dacoites and urban street criminality have been significant concerns in Pakistan. These criminal activities pose threats to public safety, property and overall sense of security in communities across Pakistan. Controlling robberies, dacoites and urban street criminality in Pakistan requires a multi-dimensional approach that integrates criminological theories with practical measures. Here are several strategies which can help in reducing crimes.

Efficient Policing:

The performance of police in Pakistan is far from satisfactory. Effective crime control relies heavily on the efficiency of law enforcement. When law and enforcement agencies are efficient, they are better able to prevent, detect, and respond to criminal activity, resulting in safer community and lower crime rates.

② Community Policing
 Community policing plays a crucial role in crime prevention by fostering cooperation and partnership between law enforcement agencies and communities they serve. This strategy shifts from traditional reactive policing to proactive policing, that emphasizes on problem-solving, community engagement, and trust-building. Community policing has to potential to ~~substantially~~ substantially reduce crime rates.

Public awareness

Public awareness and education play an important role in crime reduction and can provide safer and secure community when the public is well-informed about crime prevention, hazards, and safety measures, they become active participants in the fight against criminal activities. Strategies based on key criminological theories

① Routine Activity Theory

Routine Activity theory posits that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target and a lack of

Capable guardianship. To control robberies and urban street criminality in Pakistan, measures can be implemented to disrupt these elements.

(a) increase guardianship:

Strengthen community Policing efforts to increase the presence of law enforcement in high-crime areas. This include installation of security cameras, regular patrols ~~and~~ to deter potential offenders

(b) Target Hardening:

Enhance security measures of potential target such as businesses, homes, and public spaces. This can include installation of security alarms, better lighting, and the use of security personnel.

(c) Community engagement

Encourage community watch programs and citizen involvement in crime prevention. Community awareness campaigns can educate residents about crime prevention and the importance of reporting suspicious activities.

(2) Social Disorganization Theory

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It argues that crime is more prevalent in communities with weak social institutions and low social cohesion. To address street criminality and robberies/druggies in Pakistan, strategies could focus on strengthening community institutions.

(a) Improve social services:

Invest in social services such as youth programs, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

(b) Enhance community cohesion

Foster neighborhood ties through community-building activities, local events and support networks. Strong social bonds and community solidarity can reduce crime rates.

(c) Support local institutions

Strengthen local institutions such as schools and religious organizations to promote positive social norms and provide constructive outlets to youth.

(3) Strain Theory

This theory suggests that crime results from the inability to achieve culturally goals through legitimate means. In contexts where economic disparity and limited opportunities are prevalent, individuals may turn

to crime as an alternative means of achieving success.

(a) Economic development

Promote economic development and job creation, particularly in areas with high crime rates. Providing legitimate employment opportunities can reduce the incentives for engaging in criminal activities.

(b) Education opportunities

Improve access to quality education and job creation, particularly in areas with high crime rate can reduce the crime rate. Education attainment can provide individuals with skills needed for legitimate employment and reduce the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior.

(c) Social welfare programs

Implement social welfare programs that provide support to economically disadvantaged individuals and families. This can help alleviate some of the pressures that contribute to criminal behavior.

(4) Control Theory

Control Theory focuses on the idea that crime occurs when an individual's bond to society is weakened. Strong social bonds and attachments

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to conventional institutions can deter criminal behavior.

⑥ Strengthen Family Bonds

Support programs that strengthen family structures and parenting practices. Family counseling and parenting workshops can help build strong family bonds and reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior.

⑦ Promote Social Integration

Encourage participation in community and social activities that foster positive relationships and social integration. Engagement in prosocial activities can reinforce an individual's attachment to social norms.

⑧ Support Rehabilitation Programs

Develop and support rehabilitation programs for offenders that focus on reintegration into society.

Last But Not the Least Situational Crime Prevention

⑤ Situational Crime Prevention: Focuses on reducing opportunities for crime by altering the environment in which crime occurs.

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Time Taken 40 mins

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a) Environmental Design

Implement crime prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to design spaces that reduce opportunities for crimes. This includes improving urban infrastructure, such as street lighting, and building design to make it less conducive to criminal activities.

b) Public Awareness Campaigns

Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the community about crime prevention measures, such as securing personal property and being vigilant in public spaces.

Conclusion

Addressing robberies and urban street criminality in Pakistan requires a comprehensive approach that incorporates various criminological theories into practical strategies. By focusing on increasing guardianship, strengthening social institutions, addressing economic disparities, and enhancing community bonds, Pakistan can develop effective measures to reduce crime. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement, social services, and the community are essential in creating safer environments and mitigating criminal activities.