

Men are not hanged for stealing horses but that horses may not be stolen

The laws are devised to ensure safety and security of people's life, limb and liberty. In this context, the aforesaid statement refers to the same point that people are not hanged because of stealing horses, but they are hanged for the purpose of discouraging this scourge. If people left scot free, despite committing crimes, then society would plunge into anarchy. Therefore, for the peace and security of people, law should have strong foothold in every society. The prevalence of rule of law leads towards decline in the incidence of crime. Likewise, with strict rule of law, alleviating poverty and eradicating corruption are necessary for rooting out robbery and theft from the society.

Indubitably, to stamp out theft and its likes from the society, stringent enforcement of law is necessary. Unfortunately, in Third World countries, such as Pakistan, law enforcement is partial. The people of influence and their followers, despite the sins of commission and omission, hardly face the wrath of law. Moreover, in these countries, there operate rings of gangs which kidnap people and leave them on ransom. Police and other law enforcement agencies are infested with corruption and political interference.

In this scenario, it has become pertinent to reform the law enforcement structure with tight accountability and transparency. Thus, strong hold of law is necessary for nipping theft and its likes in the bud.

Moreover, with compromised law enforcement structure, increasing graph of poverty has significantly contributed in prevalence of crime in the society. Poverty has gone above 40 percent in the country according to World Bank. However, as poverty is already high, the rising cost of living has added fuel to the fire. Hence, if prudent measures are taken to eliminate poverty, incidence of crime can show visible decline in short ^{span} of time. People commit crimes, mostly, to meet their ends.

Apart from this, corruption in public institutions has created trust deficit among general populace. Resultantly, people are opting for alternative options. Corruption has rendered institutions, such as police, dysfunctional and terribly compromised. So when people know they can circumvent law if they have money, they, of course, never shy away from committing theft and robbery. Thus, ill of corruption should be dealt with if incidence of crime is to decline.

Conclusively, theft and its sister crimes are prevalent in the society due to compromised regime of law enforcement, increasing poverty and rampant corruption.