

Q. No 2. What are the problems faced by Criminal Justice System in Pakistan and what are some measures to eliminate those problems?

Answer.

1. Introduction

The criminal justice system in any jurisdiction aims to maintain law and order, investigate crime, prosecute offenders, and ensure fair trial and ~~rehabilitation~~ rehabilitation.

In Pakistan, it broadly consists of three main components: the police (law enforcement and investigation), the judiciary (trial, adjudication, and appeals), and the correction system (Probation, Parole, and confinement). Despite its importance, Pakistan's Criminal Justice System faces a serious number of serious problems which undermines its effectiveness, fairness, and public trust, but these problems can be eliminated through certain reforms.

2. Problems of the Criminal Justice System in Pakistan

2.1 Acute paucity in financial resources in the police system

The police throughout Pakistan suffer from inadequate budgets, poor equipment,



weak infrastructure, and insufficient funds for investigation. In Punjab the police demanded Rs. 9.8 billion for the cost of investigation but were only provided Rs. 210 - 270 million. (Dawn) Such financial shortfalls hampers effectiveness of criminal justice system in Pakistan.

2.2 Acute shortage of man power

There is a significant shortfall in police personnel. For instance, In Islamabad the police force was short by 1,716 personnel against sanctioned posts of 11,544 as of 2022. Similarly, according to a report of Pakistan Journalist Association inadequate workforce remain constant among core issues of the criminal justice system in Pakistan.

2.3 Huge backlog of cases in judiciary

A major challenge lies in the enormous pendency of cases, which causes delays in justice. According to a report of Pakistan Social Sciences Review, roughly two million cases are pending in Pakistan across courts. Such backlogs erode the right to a speedy trial and create huge pressure on the Criminal justice system in Pakistan.

2.4 Shortage of judges

Linked to the backlog is the insufficient number of judges relative to population and case loads. For example: In one study it was noted that "only around 4000 judges" handle a large population of over 207 million. This understaffing slows adjudication and further adds up to the problems in criminal justice system in Pakistan.

2.5 Overcrowding in prisons

The correction system is under tremendous stress from overcrowding, especially for under trial prisoners. According to the report of The Amnesty International, national over-crowding rate in Pakistan's prisons is 134%. Likewise, The NCHR (2025) report indicates there were 74,918 under trial prisoners across four provinces, making up around 73% of total prison population.

2.6 Massive corruption in the correction / prison system

There are documented cases where influential inmates receive preferential treatment in the prisons, leading to corruption. For example, the case of Shahrukh Jatoi, where after his conviction his treatment in prison was very lavish. Moreover, in prisons lack of resources is compounded by corrupt practices, such as prisoners being required to



purchase food.

2.7 Lack of proper oversight and accountability mechanisms

Across all components (police, judiciary, correction) there is weak oversight and weak accountability. According to a research of the University of Punjab, the police lack effective internal control and oversight system, and policing is heavily politicised. Similarly, the judiciary and correction systems suffer from absence of robust monitoring system, which is problematic for the criminal justice system in Pakistan.

3. Measures to Eliminate Problems of The Criminal Justice System in Pakistan.

3.1 Amending the CRPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) to establish a robust protection programme.

A modernised CRPC can mandate timelines, introduce pre-trial diversion, protect vulnerable parties, and ensure better prosecutorial frameworks.

3.2 Addressing overcrowding in Prisons

In order to address overcrowding in

Prisons, new prison infrastructure should be build and there should be implementation of alternatives to incarceration for minor offences.

3.3 Ensuring prisoners are fully resourced
Budgetary allocations must improve. Also, corruption in prisons should be addressed by monitoring how resources are used.

3.4 Carrying out comprehensive assessment of gaps in investigation and prosecution

In order to improve the criminal justice system in Pakistan, the capacity of prosecution services should be improved. Moreover, a comprehensive audit of police investigation should be conducted, to identify where evidence was weak and lack of training.

3.5. Maintaining average judge-population ratio

The number of judges should be increased, the courts should be expanded, and there should be introduction of specialised criminal courts in order to maintain average judge population ratio.

4. Conclusion

To conclude, the criminal justice system in any state plays a vital role in maintaining law and order.



Pakistan's criminal justice system has certain problems, which not only undermines justice for victims and accused, but also erodes public confidence. However, these problems can be eliminated by systematic systemic reforms, which can reinforce the Criminal justice system in Pakistan back to efficiency.