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PART-II

SECTION-I

QUESTION NO.3

Social Disorganization theory

Rising Crime rate of Urban areas of Pakistan in light of SDT.

I. Social Disorganization theory:

Social Disorganization theory links the patterns of Crime and Delinquency to the **structure, stability, and social organization of neighborhoods**.

It was first developed by **Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay** in the 1920s-1930s through their **Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas study in Chicago**, which examined the residential patterns of juvenile offenders.

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• Central Proposition of Social Disorganization theory:

The central proposition of social disorganization theory is that crime is more likely to happen in communities that are socially disorganized, meaning they lack the ability to maintain effective social controls and community norms.

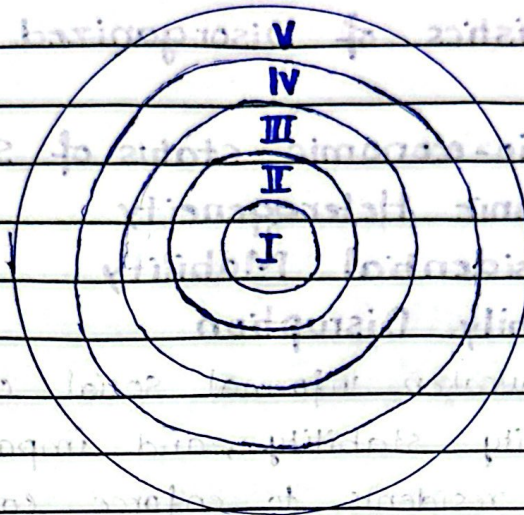
• Shaw and Mckay on social Disorganization theory:

An 1942, researchers from "Chicago school of Criminology", Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay developed social disorganization theory. Their work emerged in a period of rapid industrialization, urbanization, and immigration in the city of Chicago. They were interested in the question that:

Why does crime remain high in certain neighborhoods even when the people living there change?

Their answer led to the development of Social Disorganization theory. Shaw and McKay studied Chicago because it was a rapidly industrializing and socially diverse city with clear urban zones, high population mobility, and excellent crime records, making it an ideal natural laboratory for studying the relationship between urban environments and crime.

A. Chicago School Model (Concentric Zone model)



- I. CBD
- II. Zone of Transition
- III. Working class zone
- IV. Residential zone
- V. Commuter zone

Shaw and McKay used Concentric zone model to map crimes.

Five Urban zones:

1. Central Business District (CBD)

offices, factories, commercial activity

2. Zone of Transition

Slums, poor housing, overcrowding
(High crime and delinquency rates)

3. Working class residential zone

4. Middle class residential zone

5. Commuter zone

Suburbs, elite class

Key Finding:

Shaw and McKay found that zone of Transition consistently showed the highest crime and juvenile delinquency, regardless of who lived there.

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According to Shaw and McKay, **social disorganization** occurs when a community cannot maintain social order and control.

A. Key Characteristics of Disorganized Areas :

1. Socio-economic status of Society
2. Ethnic Heterogeneity
3. Residential Mobility
4. Family Disruption

These factors weaken informal social control, reduce community stability, and impair the ability of residents to enforce common norms and regulate behavior.

B. Mechanism : How Disorganization Leads to Crime.

The theory explains that :

Cause

Effect

Low socioeconomic status of Society



Reduce investment in community institutions (e.g. schools).

Ethnic Heterogeneity



Complicates shared norms and reduces cohesion.

Residential Mobility



Prevents long-term relationships and mutual trust forming among residents.

Family Disruption



Youth supervision is minimal, deviant behavior goes unchallenged.

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C. Cultural Transmission of Crime:

One of Shaw and McKay's most important contribution was the idea of cultural Transmission which argues that criminal behavior is learned through interaction and delinquent values are passed from older youth to younger youth.

II Rising Crime rate of Urban Areas of Pakistan in the light of SDT:

Social disorganization theory posits that crime rates are not evenly distributed across a city but are highest in areas with weak social structures and institutions.

Applying this framework to Pakistani cities helps examine why certain urban zones particularly transitional, low income inner city areas experience disproportionately high crime rates.

• Urban Crime in Pakistan: Patterns and trends

Pakistan's major cities especially Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi/Islamabad are expanding rapidly with massive rural-to-urban migration. This has led to the growth of unplanned settlements (katchi abadis) with inadequate infrastructure, limited employment, and poor governance. Such conditions are core drivers of social disorganization.

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• Social Disorganization theory at play in Pakistan:

A. Karachi (Highest Crime in zone of Transition)

Karachi's zone of transition includes Lyari, Orangi town, Korangi etc where highest crime rate is observed including street crimes (snatching, armed robbery), Gang violence, drug trafficking, extortion etc. These areas exhibit:

- Extreme population turnover due to internal migration
 - Fragmented ethnic composition (Baloch, Pashtun, Sindhi, Urdu-speaking)
 - Weak municipal and police presence
 - Limited neighborhood surveillance
- Crime is highest and most persistent in Karachi's zone of transition, not in elite or suburban zones.

According to Citizen Police

Liasion Committee reports

(2025), over 60,700 crimes were reported in Karachi in 2025 including theft, robbery, vehicle crime, murder etc.

B. Lahore (Crime concentration in Transitional Belt)

While Lahore's overall crime rates have

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shown fluctuations due to improved policing initiatives, specific zones, particularly older, densely populated inner areas e.g. **Mozang, Shabdara, Data Darbar surroundings** etc. embody characteristics of social disorganization. These neighborhoods show overcrowded housing, seasonal labor migration, weak local guardianship as compared to suburb zones.

Lahore recorded ~2,24,700

FIRs in 2025.

In the first months of 2025,

4,686 crimes were recorded

overall with street crimes,

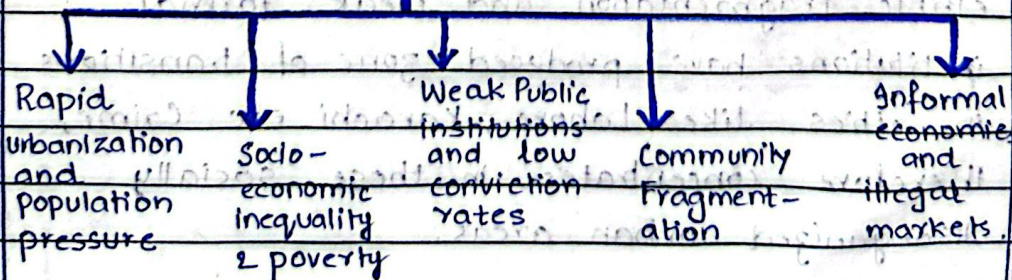
(snatching) at 839 cases,

according to official reports.

Though down from previous years, these urban figures still point to significant criminal activity in inner-city Lahore.

III Causes of Rising Crimes in Urban Areas : (SDT Lense)

Causes



IV Recommendations to cope with the issue of Rising Crime rates in urban areas of Pakistan:

A. Strengthen local Governance and Community institutions

B. Targeted policing and Community partnerships

Lahore has been ranked among the world's safest cities according to the 2025 Crime and Safety Index released by global agency Numbeo, securing 37th position.

highly due to improved policing

C. Improve Justice Delivery

D. Improve socio-economic conditions

E. Data transparency and Crime mapping

V. Conclusion :

The Rising crime rate in Pakistan's urban areas is best understood through the lens of Social disorganization theory. Rapid urbanization, poverty, residential instability, ethnic fragmentation and weak formal institutions have produced a zone of transitions in cities like Lahore, Karachi etc. Crime therefore concentrates in these socially disorganized urban areas.

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SECTION-II

QUESTION NO. 4

Problems in Criminal Trials in Pakistan.

Suggestions for Improvements

I. Introduction

Criminal trials form the backbone of any justice system, as they determine guilt or innocence, protect fundamental rights, and uphold rule of law. In Pakistan, however, the criminal trial process suffers from deep-rooted structural, procedural, and institutional weaknesses that have severely undermined its effectiveness. There is an urgent need to improve Pakistan's criminal trial system to ensure timely, fair, and effective justice.

II. Problems in Criminal Trials in Pakistan:

A. Excessive Case Backlogs and Delay of Justice

Pakistan's courts face an enormous backlog of cases, causing years or even decades of delay in criminal trials.

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Over 2.3 million cases remain pending nationwide, including many criminal matters, with district courts bearing largest share.

(Law and Justice Commission)

Delays ^{reinforce} ~~violate~~ the principle that "Justice delayed is justice denied." Speedy justice is constitutionally guaranteed but practically unattainable for most ordinary litigants.

B. Weak and Flawed Police Investigation :

Poor investigation by police results in weak evidence, incomplete challans, and acquittals. Investigating officers often **lack training** and use outdated methods, which fail to meet legal standards. Police often rely on oral evidence or confessions rather than forensic standards. Moreover Pakistan faces a rising crime load but IO's are fewer than required.

According to an official 2024 report from Punjab ombudsman, out of ~ 3.65,000 cases, only 1516 IO's were posted, meaning each IO handled 24 cases per year.

This is in contrast with international standards (30-53 cases per IO per year).

C. Low Conviction Rates :

Due to weak investigation and poor prosecution, criminal courts secure very few convictions - even in violent crimes.

A comprehensive report by the Sustainable Social Development organization (SSDO), based on data obtained from police departments across Pakistan, revealed critically low national conviction rates for serious crimes:

- Rape and Honor Killings : 0.5%
- Kidnapping : 0.1%
- Domestic violence : 1.3%

(2024)

D. Delay in Registration of FIRs :

Delayed or refused registration of FIRs (First Information report) undermines the criminal trial before it even begins, weakening the evidence and delaying justice. Under **Section 154 of the CrPc**, Police is mandated to register FIRs promptly for cognizable offence. Any refusal or delay weakens evidence collection, gives opportunity for evidence manipulation and harms victim's rights.

F. Fabricated Evidence and Fake Witnesses :

Evidence both oral and documentary is sometimes fabricated or manipulated by

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Police, prosecutors or influential actors that favor the party. Fabricated evidence misleads courts, delays justice, and sometimes results in innocent people being jailed while perpetrators escape.

Moreover, witnesses are often coerced, bribed, or planted, sometimes testifying for the benefit of powerful individuals, undermining the credibility of trials.

Fake witnesses and fabricated evidence violates the Principle of:

"Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus." — falsehood in one part vitiates the whole.

F. Poor Prosecution and Lack of Coordination with Police:

In criminal trials in Pakistan, the role of Prosecutor is weak and often sidelined from investigation. This disconnect leads to weak charge sheets and poor presentation of cases in courts.

Pakistan's Prosecution is under-resourced, lacks authority, and often fails to secure convictions due to poor case foundation.

Furthermore, Lack of Coordination between police and Prosecutors prevents correction of legal defects early on.

G. Outdated Investigations

and Trial Techniques:

Criminal trials in Pakistan suffers significantly due to outdated investigative and trial methods, coupled with old statutes that have not kept in pace with modern crime patterns, technology or procedural needs.

Pakistan relies on Code of Criminal Procedure (1898), Pakistan Penal code (1860), Evidence QSO (198) which it inherited from British.

- Police investigations still rely on manual diaries to record FIRs and case files leading to procedural delays and do not use modern forensic techniques.
- Moreover, Court procedures are largely paper-based with no integrated digital case management. Judges grant frequent adjournments due to incomplete investigations or missing witnesses, contributing to delays.

H. Corruption and Political Interference:

Corruption and Pressure from influential actors distort investigations and trial outcomes, affecting fair justice delivery

According to the National Corruption Survey 2023:

• Police - Most Corrupt

Police was perceived as the most corrupt institution, with 30% of respondents identifying them as such.

• Judiciary - 3rd most corrupt

The judiciary ranked third with 16% perceiving it as corrupt.

III. Suggestions for Improvements in Criminal Trials in Pakistan:

A. Modernise and Update Procedural Laws:

There's a dire need to comprehensively revise procedural laws, i.e. Code of Criminal Procedure, 1908 to simplify procedures, reduce technicalities that cause delays and make timelines explicit for key trial stages.

B. Strengthen Investigative Capacity and Forensic Science:

Pakistan should invest in forensic labs nationwide with modern equipment and training, and standardise evidence collection protocols and chain of custody rules to ensure admissibility.

Punjab's Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) offers a model for other provinces.

C. Establish a Professional Independent Prosecution Service:

Prosecutors often lack independence, training, and case preparation support. The suggestion is to **expand and empower** provincial prosecution services with clear paths. Ensure prosecutors are **actively involved** in investigations to improve evidentiary strength.

D. Enforce early Presentation of Detainees before Magistrate:

Delay in presenting arrested persons before magistrates undermines fair trial rights. There is a need to **strictly enforce the 24-hour rule** requiring detainees to be brought before a magistrate, with sanctions for police violations.

Ensure that all parties in a case are heard, adhering to the legal maxim:

"Audi Alteram Partem", which guarantees that no one should be condemned/punished unheard.

E. Reduce Adjudgments and incentivise Quick Hearings:

Frequent adjournments extend trial duration and raise costs for all parties. The suggestion is to require strong justification for adjournment requests and use stricter case scheduling rules to ensure

continuity of hearings.

F. Provide Continuous training for all actors (police, judges etc):

There is a need of providing specialized training for police investigators, prosecutors, and judges in modern legal concepts, evidence handling and digital forensics.

G. Advance Anti-Corruption and Accountability measures within System:

There is a need to introduce independent oversight bodies with authority to audit police, prosecutors, and judges for corrupt conduct.

H. Expand Use of technology and Digital Evidence Systems:

Pakistan should digitize court records, filings, evidence logs, and hearing schedules, and introduce secure digital platforms for police, prosecution and judiciary to share admissible materials instantly. This will improve transparency and speed.

IV. Conclusion :

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Criminal trials in Pakistan face deep-rooted challenges, including outdated laws, weak investigations, overburdened courts etc which collectively result in delays, low conviction rates and public distrust. Addressing these issues require comprehensive reforms.