

Question no.3

Social disorganization theory

Introduction:

Social disorganization theory explains crime as a product of weak social institutions and breakdown of community controls rather than individual pathology. Developed by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay of the Chicago School, the theory argue that

"Crime construction in urban areas is due to structural conditions"

In Pakistan, the rising crime rate in major cities such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad can be critically examined through the lens of Social disorganization Theory.

Concept and origin of Social disorganization Theory

Social disorganization theory developed in early twentieth century through the work of Shaw and McKay, in their studies Juvenile Delinquency and Urban areas. They observed that crime rates remained persistently high in certain

neighborhoods despite changes in population. According to them, crime is rooted in community level factors as poverty, residential instability and ethnic heterogeneity which weaken informal social control.

Core assumption of the theory

The theory assumes that crime flourishes where social institutions such as family, school, religion and local leadership fail to perform their regulatory role. Disorganized neighborhoods lack collective efficacy, meaning residents are unable or unwilling to supervise youth or intervene for the common good. As a result, criminal values are transmitted across generations.

Key elements of social disorganization

One key element is economic deprivation. Persistent poverty limits access to education and employment, increasing frustration and deviant adaptations. Another element is residential mobility. Frequent migrations weaken social

bonds and trust among residents. Ethnic and cultural ~~hegemony~~ heterogeneity also reduces communication and shared norms, making collective action against crime difficult.

Urbanization and crime in Pakistan

Pakistan has experienced rapid and unplanned urbanization over the last four decades. According to the Urban Sociologist such as Imran Ali and Hassan Askari Rizvi, cities have expanded faster than the capacity of the civic institutions. This has created informal settlements, where state presence is minimal and social regulation is weak, fitting classic description of social disorganization.

Case study of Karachi

In Karachi, a clear illustration of social disorganization can be seen. The city has high levels of poverty rate, ethnic diversity and population turnover. Shaw and McKay's idea of cultural transition is visible in areas where gangs and organized crime

networks recruit youth. Weak policing, political interference, and erosion of community trust have further reduced informal social control, leading to ~~street~~ street crimes, ~~drug~~ trafficking and violence.

Case study of Lahore

In Lahore, crimes has increased in Peri urban areas with dense migrant populations. These neighborhood lack strong kinship ties and community leadership. As noted by Pakistani Criminologist Shahid Masood, the absence of community cohesion allows petty crimes and drug abuse to grow, especially among unemployed youth. This align's with the theory emphasiz on residential mobility and weakened institutions.

Critical evaluation of the theory in Pakistan

While social disorganization theory effectively explains spatial concentration of crime, It has limitations. It under plays the role of state failure, political

patronage and organized corruption which are significant in Pakistan. Moreover, crime also occurs in affluent urban areas, suggesting the factors beyond disorganization such as greed and white color crimes must be considered.

Policy implication

The theory suggests that crime control should focus on community development rather than only punitive policing. Strengthening local institutions and encouraging community participation can restore informal social control. Shaw and McKay emphasized social reforms as a long term solution, a lesson highly relevant for Pakistan.

Conclusion:

Social disorganization theory provides a strong framework to understand rising urban crime in Pakistan. The work of Shaw and McKay highlights how poverty, instability and weak social institutions create environments conducive to crime. Although the theory does not explain all forms of criminality, it remains highly relevant

for analyzing urban crime patterns and designing policies in Pakistan.

Question no.

Introduction:

Criminal trials form the backbone of any justice system because they determine guilt or innocence and protect fundamental rights. In Pakistan despite constitutional guarantee under Article 10 (A) of the constitution which ensures the right to fair trial, the criminal justice process suffers from serious structural and procedural flaws. These problems have weakened public confidence and contributed to delayed justice. A critical evaluation to the trials of criminal, along with practical suggestions for improvement is essential for meaningful reforms.

Structural problems in criminal trials

Delay in disposal of cases

One of the most serious problem is excessive delay. Criminal trials often

take years or even decades to conclude. According to legal scholar Martin Lau, delay has become a defining feature of Pakistan justice system rather than an exception. Overburdened courts, frequent adjournment and shortage of judges contribute to this crime.

Case study

In the State vs Liakat Ali the supreme court observed that prolonged delays weaken prosecution cases and violate the constitutional rights to fair trial under article 10A.

Overburdened judiciary

Pakistan has a low judge to population ratio. One judge handles hundreds of cases simultaneously, making effective scrutiny of evidence difficult. As noted by justice (R) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, justice delayed due to overload often become justice denied.

Procedural deficiencies in Criminal trials

Weak investigation and poor collection of evidence.

Criminal trials heavily depends on police investigation, which is often flawed. Evidence is poorly collected, mishandled or fabricated. Forensic science is underutilized, and reliance on confessional statement remains high despite legal restrictions.

Defective investigation

Criminologist Dr. Muhammad Munir argues that defective investigation are the primary reason behind high ~~age~~ ~~age~~ ~~age~~ acquittal rates in Pakistan.

Frequent adjournment and abuse of procedure

Adjournment are routinely granted at the request of prosecution or defense without strong justification. The practice frustrates victim and ~~be~~ benefits influential accused persons.

Critical evaluation

While adjournments are legally possible, their excessive use reflects weak judicial control and lack of accountability.

Institutional Weaknesses

Ineffective prosecution system

Public prosecutors often lack training, independence, and resources. Many act as passive participants rather than active case managers. Political interference further weakens their role.

Case Study

In *Salman Akram Raja vs Government of Pakistan*, the Supreme Court highlighted the absence of a professional and independent prosecution service.

Police interference and corruption

Police influence over witnesses and evidence distorts the trial process. According to Transparency International reports, corruption with law enforcement directly affects fairness in criminal trials.

Witness related problems

Witness intimidation and Hostility

Witnesses face threats, harassment and social pressures. As a result, many turn hostile during trial. There is no effective witness protection mechanism in most provinces. In Ghabaz Lodhi case, several witnesses step back from statements due to intimidation weakening the prosecution.

Lack of ineffective prosecution system

Witnesses are not compensated for time, travel or risk. This discourages cooperation and prolongs trials.

Legal and social political constraints

Influence of powerful accused over justice

Elite capture of justice system allows pressure influential accused to manipulate trials through pressure, compromise or delays tactics. This undermines equality before law.

Low public trust in justice system

Repeated failures in criminal trials reduce public confidence. Victims often avoid courts and resort to influence means of dispute resolution.

Suggestions to improve justice system

Judicial reforms

Increase in number of judges and establish specialized criminal courts to reduce backlog. Strict limits on adjournments should be enforced.

Police and investigation reforms

Modernize investigation through forensic science, digital evidence and independence oversight on crime. Training programs should focus on evidence based policing.

Strengthening prosecution service

Ensure prosecution independence, merit based appointments and continuous legal training. Prosecution should be made accountable for negligence.

Witness protection mechanism

Implement effective witness protection laws, as recommended by Supreme court of Sri Lanka. Financial and security support should be granted.

Use of technology

Introduce case management system, video recording of evidence, and virtual hearing to reduce delay and manipulation.

Conclusion:

Criminal trials in Pakistan face multifaceted problems from delays and weak investigation to institutional inefficiency and witness intimidation.

These issues collectively erode the criminal justice system. Drawing upon criminal judicial observations and criminological scholarships, it is evident that piecemeal reforms are inefficient. A holistic approach addressing structural, procedural, and institutional flaws is essential to restore public trust and ensure fair timely criminal trials ~~and~~ in Pakistan.

Question no

I. Introduction:

Investigation of juvenile crimes must follow special legal and ethical standards that protect the rights and dignity of children while balancing the need for justice. Because juveniles are legally defined as persons under the age of eighteen and especially vulnerable, both national law and international instruments required child-oriented process distinct from adult criminals investigations.

These guidelines aims to safeguard rights from constitution, promote rehabilitation and prevent further harm to children

all stages of inquiry protect the

involved in the criminal process.

Legal framework for juvenile investigation

National Law in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 (JJSA) provides the statutory basis for investigating crimes involving juveniles. The Act mandates,

Special police officers not below the rank of SHO or sub-inspector to investigate juvenile cases.

Involvement of probation officers or special social welfare during investigation

Immediate notification of guardians upon arrest of a juvenile.

Age determination procedure, first through documents and often (if needed) medical examination

Prohibition of handcuffing during

arrest or detention.

Separate handling of female juveniles by female officers.

These provisions ensure legally compliant and child-sensitive investigations that differ markedly from adult prosecution.

International standards and principles

United Nations standard minimum (Beijing Rules)

The UN standard minimum rules for the Administration of Juvenile outline global norms that must guide investigations.

Juveniles are to be treated as children first not criminals.

Procedural safeguards are mandatory including presumption of innocence, right to counsel, right to be heard and privacy throughout investigation and trial.

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Presence of parents/guardian is ensured to support the child.

Age, background and social circumstances must be considered to determine the appropriate investigation and justice response.

Right-based guidelines

Regional human rights bodies also stress upon the necessity of respect due process, equality, and non-discrimination to juveniles investigations.

→ specialized trainings for children

→ alternatives to formal proceedings

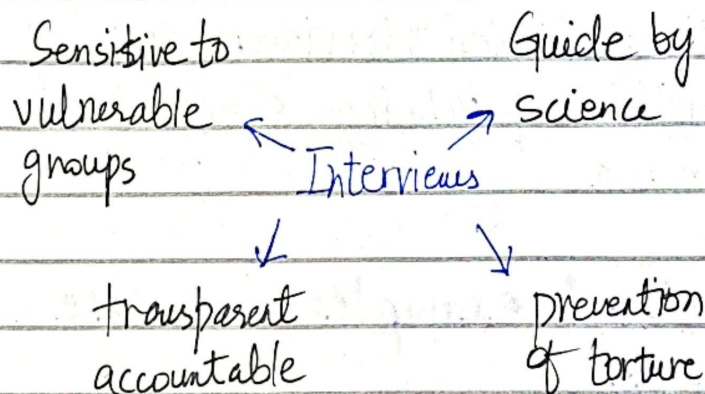
The UN CRC (Convention to the Right of Child), ratified by Pakistan in 1990, further underpins these protections by requiring humane and right-respecting procedures for all children in conflict with the law.

Ethical guidelines for juvenile Crime investigation

Investigations of juvenile cases must be ethically sound, centering on the best interests of the child.

Respect to dignity and avoid harm

Investigation must conduct questioning in a manner that avoid coercion, threats or psychological harm. The emerging Méndez Principle on effective interviewing emphasize that investigative interviews should



Confidentiality and privacy

Ethical investigation requires that all stages of inquiry protect the

identity of juveniles identity and reputation. Publishing names of juveniles offenders is usually prohibited to prevent stigmas and facilitates rehabilitation.

Participation of parents

Children must be allowed to have parents or guardian present during investigation, both legal and emotional support, unless such presence jeopardize the child's interests.

Child friendly procedures

Investigations should avoid adult environments and move to child-friendly settings. Skilled interviewers trained to juveniles psychology should lead to process.

Practical examples and case scenarios

Arrest procedures in Karachi

A 15 year old suspected of theft in Karachi was taken into custody by a dedicated juvenile unit. under JJSA

framework. The officer immediately informed the parents. Engaged a social welfare officer for social investigation. He did not use restraints, respecting the statutory prohibition on handcuffing ~~and~~ juveniles. Ensured the parent remained during questioning. This adherence to legal and ethical standards helped maintain due process and reduce trauma for the child involved.

Challenges to JJSA

Despite strong legal frameworks practical implementation remains inconsistent in Pakistan due to

(i) Lack of comprehensive training for police and prosecutors on juvenile rights

(ii) Insufficient infrastructure for child-friendly investigation spaces.

(iii) Social attitudes that treat juvenile offenders as criminals rather than rehabilitative cases.

Scholars argues that mere statutes are not enough and effective enforcement and cultural change within criminal justice institutions are essential.

Conclusion:

Legal and ethical guidelines for investigations juvenile crime require both statutory protections and right-based practices. Pakistan Juvenile Justice System Act, informed by International Instruments such as the UN CRC and Beijing Rules, seek to ensure that investigations are child-centered, protective and fair. Ethical imperatives, like dignity confidentiality, and non-coercive interviewing further strengthen juvenile investigation. However, only through consistent training specialized units, and societal commitment to children's rights can these standards be fulfilled real.