**Research Paper**

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RESEARCH PAPERS

Throughout history, violence has been considered as one of the major problems. According to World Health Organization (WHO), violence is defined as “the intentional use of physical force and power against oneself, against a group or community or another person, that either result in maldevelopment deprivation, death, psychological harm and injury” (Krug et al. 2002). In recent years, increased research has been conducted in the field related to violence. One of the reasons can be due to the hazardous effect of violence on communities and society. An attitude of an individual can be defined as a personal tendency to take a positive and negative stand on any matter and phenomenon (Morgan 2015; Sickmund and Puzzanchera 2014). At a large population-level study, attitudes are usually described as opinion surveys in which participants usually state their opinions regarding any matter. Attitudes toward justice and crime have been of great importance to researchers, policymakers, criminal justice practitioners and researchers. Cultural-based learning is a pedagogical approach that integrates learning with community service. Students must have an understanding of diversity, social injustices, crime, and the justice system (Anderson et al. 2006). In this modern era, one of the most important roles of education is to develop an enlightened and informed citizen. Worldwide, almost all people can have contact with the police in a different number of ways, such as interaction on the street or to report to jury duty in their life. In media also the system of crime and justice is heavily reported but despite this, the majority of the people especially students are not aware of the justice system (Anderson et al. 2006; Brockenbrough, Cornell and Loper 2002).

RESEARCH PROBLEM

Over the last two decades, youth violence has been increasing rapidly. It is an alarming condition that affects both communities and individuals. Youth violence can be between peers, groups and dating partners. In the US, violence between peers and groups is considered to be one of the second leading cause of death (Anderson et al. 2006; Brockenbrough, Cornell and Loper 2002). Youth violence has substantial personal, emotional and financial costs. The UK and the USA crime statistics showed that approximately 21 % of all the recorded crime that is committed by youth is due to their violent and aggressive nature (Morgan 2015; Sickmund and Puzzanchera 2014). Given the scale and scope of this issue, it is important to determine the attitude of young people towards violence as it plays an important role in preventing crime. The research on the opinion of students about justice and crime system has been neglected area and the major focus of the past studies were on the attitude of the public towards justice and crime. Therefore, this study will be conducted with the main aim to determine the student attitude towards justice and crime.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Developed countries are fascinated with justice and crime. From magazines, films, newspapers, television broadcast and books to routine conversations, we are engaging constantly in crime talk. Mass and social media also play an important role in the construction of the criminal justice system. The public perception of violent criminals, law enforcement officials have largely been determined in different studies. Studies have shown that a public knowledge about justice and crime is derived from mass and social media (Anderson et al. 2006).. A study was conducted by Melossi in which he examines the social factors associated with the crime. Results showed that justice and crime are influenced by social and economic dynamics. Studies have shown that attitude towards justice and crime plays an important role in society. Respect for public opinion and system are closely tied. Another study was conducted in which it was shown that the opinion of the public is connected directly with pressure to change the policies of crime especially when there is a large fear of crime. Some studies have been conducted in which the gender differences concerning the perception towards crime and justice have been explored. It was shown that males have more confidence in the justice and crime system as compare to females (Resnick, Ireland and Borowsky 2004). As compare to male's females have a high fear level of crime. The result also showed that females are more likely to support incapacitation and rehabilitation programs. The difference in attitude towards justice and crime system was also seen across different age groups. In 2012, a survey was conducted which showed that almost 40% of the individuals between ages 18-19 years were confident in the crime and justice system whereas individuals between age 31-49 years old were least confident in the crime and justice system (Anderson et al. 2006).. The more the age increases the view of crime and justice becomes more conservative.

A study was conducted in which it was shown that those individual who has been victimized or has family that has been arrested or victimized are more likely to favor rehabilitation as compared to the general public. The attitude is described by Allport as a most indispensable and distinctive concept. Fear of crime is a part of public discourse which shapes the policies of crime in many developed countries (Morgan 2015; Sickmund and Puzzanchera 2014). Another study was conducted in which the opinion of the public towards criminal justice was seen. Results showed that most of the people were confident about the criminal justice system. In this study sentencers and courts have received a low rating. In another study opinion of the public regarding the causes of crime were determined. Results showed that factors such as drugs, unemployment, drugs, failure of the justice system and person value crisis contribute to increasing crime. It is also found in some studies that the economy plays an important role in increasing crime rates especially nonviolent crime (Resnick, Ireland and Borowsky 2004). Despite the rising rates of crime, low priority is given to crime as a national issue. It is found in one study that only 3% believe that crime is one of the most important issues which the nation is facing. A study was conducted and results showed that 48% of Americans reported fear of walking alone at night. Americans are most concerned about followed by someone vandalizing or stealing a car or someone (Morgan 2015; Sickmund and Puzzanchera 2014). In a study conducted in California, it was determined that violent crime victims are mostly from low socioeconomic class, Latin/ African American or younger than 30 years. Results also showed that individuals age 18-24 years old are more likely to fall victim to violent crime. Men are most likely to be assaulted from strangers whereas women experience crime by someone they know. Victims of California crimes also report stress and anxiety and also difficulty sleeping, work, and relationship. More than half of the respondents in this study stated that it takes more than 6 months to recover (Resnick, Ireland and Borowsky 2004). Majority of the respondent were not aware of the assistance services available to victims of crime such as navigating crime and justice system and victim compensation. Those who have assessed this assistance service, more than half stated that they were difficult to access.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the attitude of students toward crime and justice?

What is the level of fear among students?

What is the attitude of students towards violence?

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this study is

To assess the attitude of students towards violence

To assess the level of fear among students

To determine the attitude of the student towards the justice system

To determine the association between the level of fear and gender

To determine the association between, age, level of education and time spent on social media and violence.

METHODS

*Research Design*

The research design is defined as a plan which indicates a method by which a research study is conducted. Research design can be exploratory, causal in nature and descriptive. This study will be based on a descriptive research design. Research design selection is based on the sampling design, nature of the study, required data type, techniques used for data analysis and study area. A survey is usually a group of research method that is used to find the present status of the population. In this study, a questionnaire survey method will be employed to collect data. This method will be considered more appropriate because it will permit to measure the opinion of participants towards the crime and justice system.

*Participants*

Population in the research study consist of a group of individuals from whom the sample is drawn. In this study population will consist of university students who were studying criminology, psychology, criminal justice and legal dispute. Sampling is usually done in two ways: probability and non-probability sampling. In this study, random sampling will be used to determine the sample. In particular, stratified random sampling will be used, in which the population will be stratified into different groups which are known as strata. According to Creswell, stratification is very useful in a true representation of a population. This sampling will also ensure that all categories of disciplines are involved in the process of sampling

*Informed Consent*

Ethical approval will be taken from the college to carry out the survey. Before starting this survey, written informed consent will be taken from each participant in which they will be told about the study objectives. All the participants in this study will be assured of the privacy and confidentiality of the information.

*Research instrument*

The most commonly used method for data collection is observation, interviews, and questionnaires. For this study self-administered questionnaire will be used as an instrument to collect data. A questionnaire is defined as a precise and organized instrument that is used for collecting data from a large number of population. The questionnaire is of two types: structured and unstructured. In this study, the structured questionnaire will be used. A questionnaire will be formulated that comprised of different sections. Demographic information will be included in the first section and the other section will include questions regarding the attitude of participants towards justice and crime. In particular, the Likert scale questions will be developed to determine the attitude of students towards criminal justice and violence. This scale that will be used in this study has been validated by many researchers.

*Data Collection*

Different students who were studying criminology, psychology, legal dispute, and criminal justice will be approached through twitter, Facebook, and email. Data will be collected by using an online survey and students will be allowed to fill the questionnaire in 20 minutes.

*Data Analysis*

Data will be collected and then entered into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) after coding. The data will be double-checked for any errors. Both descriptive and inferential statistics will be calculated. A chi-square test will be used to find the association between different variables.

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