



Sociodemographic Factors Contributing to Youth Recidivism; A Case Study of District Swabi

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Abstract: *Recidivism refers to the tendency of a person who has been released from prison to re-offend and return to prison. It is often measured by the percentage of individuals who are re-arrested, re-convicted, or re-incarcerated within a certain period of time after their release from prison. This study aims to identify the predictors of criminal recidivism in District Swabi. Data pertaining Ex-inmates' data was collected through interviews. Social stigma, unemployment, lack of reintegration, personal distress, violent prisoner, drug abuse, and lack of educational facilities were found to have effects on criminal recidivism, as the respondents revealed based on their experiences, and it is also revealed that such predictors if experienced, can lead to further reoffending. Various strategies have been proposed to address recidivism, including providing education and job training programs for prisoners.*

Key Words: Recidivism, Swabi, Factors

Introduction

Recidivism refers to the tendency of a person who has been released from prison to re-offend and return to prison. It is often measured by the percentage of individuals who are re-arrested, re-convicted, or re-incarcerated within a certain period of time after their release from prison. Moreover, recidivism is a complex issue that can be influenced by various factors, including the individual's history of criminal behavior, the severity of their initial offense, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in rehabilitating offenders, and their social and economic

circumstances upon release from prison (Loeffler, & Nagin, 2022; Durose, & Antenangeli, 2021). In addition, the risk that an offender would commit another crime is one of the most critical elements evaluated while determining treatment and rehabilitation options. The prediction of recidivism is essential for enhancing rehabilitation decision-making, choosing who should get parole and what sort of monitoring is required, as well as giving an instant measurement of programme efficacy (Toch, 1978). The recidivism research literature represents repeated attempts to extract elements

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that differentiate between recidivists and non-recidivists, as well as efforts to increase the accuracy of prediction algorithms as a foundation for criminal justice judgments.

Rearrests, reconviction, incarceration, parole revocation, rearrests or incarceration as an adult, or reconviction for a felony or severe crime are all examples of juvenile recidivism. Recidivism is frequently dichotomized into recidivists and non-recidivists. This definition does not consider the seriousness of the act, therefore a person who skips school and violates parole may be labelled the same as a murderer. Sellin and Wolfgang (1964) used parole violation, misdemeanor, and felony outcomes to quantify offending severity. This strategy distinguishes outcomes but needs more extensive analysis than simple dichotomies (Kerr, 1982). Prediction studies need criteria specification. Holland et al. (1983) observed a failure rate of 10–57% depending on which of the six recidivism categories was used. Criterion measurements may also indicate law enforcement practices or issues with official measures rather than re-offense rates. Recidivism studies have follow-up periods of a few months to 10 years. A murderer who commits a second crime seven months after a six-month follow-up study will not be labelled a recidivist. Hence, "at risk" time duration affects study results, specifically recidivism rates.

Knowing recidivism variables helps predict future crime. Predispositional factors (demographic and criminal history variables including sex, race, and age at first arrest) and researchers (personality factors, length of employment, and family relationships) have isolated environmental or therapeutic variables. Risk is a likelihood that may be attributed to an individual based on actual experience with comparable groups. Risk statements have success and mistake rates. If 60% of male juvenile thieves reoffend, 40% will not. If these rates are applied to a parolee with a 60% likelihood of recidivism, the forecast will be inaccurate 40% of the time

(Kerr, 1982). Correctional management worries about the risk prediction false positives and negatives. "False positives" are non-recidivists anticipated to become recidivists, whereas "false negatives" are those who became recidivists. If risk forecasts impact parole decisions, administrators must worry about false negatives (parolees committing crimes in the community) and false positives (delinquents denied release who would not have reoffended if released). Predicting a low probability of occurrence leads to many false positives (Monahan, 1981). To evaluate prediction, first estimate the population's base rate of recidivism (Ohlin and Duncan, 1949). Base rates do not predict recidivism, but they may be used to assess rehabilitation therapy efficacy by comparing post-treatment recidivism rates to the population's base rate. Base rates may help evaluate prediction system efficiency. Risk groupings complicate prediction accuracy calculations (Kerr, 1982). "Mean Cost Rating" is the most prevalent metric for risk group separation and recidivism rates (Duncan, Ohlin, Reiss and Stanton, 1953). Prediction systems that outperform chance are valued. With a 10% recidivism base rate, predicting a non-recidivist is 90% accurate. A prediction system with less than 90% accuracy cannot contribute at this base rate. High or low-base rate populations make forecasting accuracy harder (Kerr, 1982). Most predictor systems are evaluated retroactively by applying the forecast to a known derivation sample. Applying the forecast to a fresh or "validation" sample of the target population proves accuracy. The deviation sample maximises chance correlations, reducing the accuracy rate in a validation sample (Kerr, 1982).

Recidivism refers to the tendency of individuals who have been released from prison or jail to reoffend and return to incarceration. Drug abuse, on the other hand, refers to the use of drugs in a way that is harmful to the individual's health or well-being. These two issues are often interconnected, as drug abuse is a

common factor in recidivism. Drug abuse can lead to criminal behavior, as individuals may commit crimes in order to obtain drugs or money to buy drugs. Additionally, drug addiction can impair judgment and increase the likelihood of engaging in risky or illegal behavior. When individuals with a history of drug abuse are released from prison or jail, they may struggle to stay sober and avoid relapse, which can increase their risk of recidivism. Addressing drug abuse is therefore an important part of reducing recidivism. Treatment programs that address drug addiction and provide support for individuals in recovery can help reduce the likelihood of relapse and improve the chances of successful reentry into society. Additionally, addressing the underlying issues that contribute to drug abuse, such as poverty, trauma, and mental health disorders, can also help reduce recidivism rates. (Jaffe, Du, Huang & Hser, 2012; Pearson & Lipton, 1999). Recidivism and unemployment are also interconnected issues. Individuals who have been incarcerated often face significant barriers to finding employment after their release, which can increase their risk of returning to criminal behavior and recidivism. The stigma of a criminal record can make it difficult for individuals to find jobs, as many employers are hesitant to hire individuals with a history of incarceration. In addition, a lack of education, job skills, and work experience can make it challenging for individuals to compete in the job market. These barriers can lead to high rates of unemployment among individuals who have been released from prison, which in turn can increase the likelihood of recidivism. Addressing unemployment is therefore an important part of reducing recidivism. Programs that provide job training, education, and employment opportunities can help individuals acquire the skills and experience they need to find stable employment and avoid returning to criminal behavior. In addition, policies that support fair hiring practices and reduce discrimination against individuals with criminal

records can help break down barriers to employment and reduce recidivism rates (Siwach, 2018; Bowen, 2020).

Recidivism and marriage are also interconnected in various ways. Marriage can provide individuals with a stable support system and a sense of belonging, which can reduce their likelihood of returning to criminal behavior and ultimately reduce recidivism. Research has shown that married individuals are less likely to reoffend than their unmarried counterparts. This may be due to a range of factors, such as increased social support, financial stability, and a sense of responsibility to their partner and family. Additionally, marriage can provide a motivating factor for individuals to change their behavior and avoid returning to criminal activity. For example, individuals who are motivated to be positive role model for their spouses and children may be more likely to make positive changes in their lives and avoid criminal behavior. However, it is important to note that marriage is not a guaranteed solution to reducing recidivism. It is also possible for a marriage to be a source of stress and conflict, which can exacerbate existing problems and potentially lead to criminal behavior. Overall, while marriage can play a positive role in reducing recidivism, it is important to address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior, such as substance abuse, mental health disorders, and lack of employment opportunities (Kendler, et., al 2017).

Recidivism and social stigma are closely connected issues. Social stigma refers to the negative attitudes and beliefs that society holds towards individuals who have been incarcerated, which can create significant barriers to successful reentry into society and increase the likelihood of recidivism. The stigma of a criminal record can make it difficult for individuals to find housing, employment, and educational opportunities, as well as to build positive relationships with family and friends. This can lead to social isolation,

which in turn can increase the likelihood of returning to criminal behavior. Social stigma can also contribute to a lack of support and resources for individuals who have been incarcerated, as many people view them as undeserving of assistance or second chances. This can make it difficult for individuals to access the help they need to address underlying issues such as substance abuse, mental health disorders, and trauma, which can increase the likelihood of recidivism. Addressing social stigma is therefore an important part of reducing recidivism. This can involve increasing awareness and education about the challenges that individuals who have been incarcerated face, as well as advocating for policies and programs that support successful reentry into society. Providing resources such as job training, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment can also help individuals overcome the challenges they face and avoid returning to criminal behavior. Additionally, creating supportive and inclusive communities that welcome individuals who have been incarcerated can help break down the stigma and reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Recidivism and education are also interconnected issues. Education can play a key role in reducing recidivism by providing individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to successfully reintegrate into society and avoid returning to criminal behavior. Research has shown that individuals who participate in educational programs while incarcerated have lower rates of recidivism than those who do not. Education can help individuals develop critical thinking skills, improve their communication and problem-solving abilities, and increase their employability. In addition, education can provide individuals with a sense of purpose and motivation to make positive changes in their lives and avoid criminal behavior. However, accessing education can be challenging for individuals who have been incarcerated, as many lack the financial resources, educational background, and support system

needed to pursue educational opportunities. Additionally, many correctional facilities do not provide adequate educational programs or resources to support individuals in pursuing their educational goals. Addressing these barriers to education is therefore an important part of reducing recidivism. Providing funding and resources for educational programs, both inside and outside of correctional facilities, can help individuals develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. In addition, providing support for individuals as they transition from incarceration to the community, such as through mentoring and tutoring programs, can help them continue their education and build a brighter future. This present study was carried out with the following objectives;

Objectives

- To know about the factors responsible for recidivist behavior among ex-prisoners in the study area.
- To put forward recommendations for reducing the recidivist behavior among ex-prisoners.

Methodology

Thus, this section will go through the research design, the population of the study, the sampling and sample size of the study, the tool for data collection, data analysis. A quantitative research design was adopted for the current study. For this purpose, an interview schedule was developed to gather information from respondents in face-to-face interaction. District Jail Swabi was selected as the universe of the study. For the present study, 30 criminals from the District Jail Swabi were randomly selected as a sample of the study. The survey made on a Likert scale was utilized to gather primary data from the respondents. A well-structured interview schedule was adopted to portray information from the study respondents. The interview schedule was pretested before data collection to avoid any

repetition and ambiguity in the interview schedule or to add any important question. The collected data was entered in SPSS and for

analysis of data simple frequencies and percentages, distribution was applied.

Result and Discussion

Table 1. Shows the Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Questions.

S.No	Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Percentages
1	Unemployment is a cause of recidivist behaviour among ex-prisoner	27(90.00%)	1(3.33%)	2(6.66%)	30(100%)
2	Recidivism among ex-convicts is influenced by social stigma.	29(96.66%)	1(3.33%)	0(0.00%)	30(100%)
3	Violent prisoners effect the behaviour of other prisoner.	27(90.00%)	2(6.66%)	1(3.33%)	30(100%)
4	Ex-convict recidivism is a result of personal distress	26(86.66%)	3(10.0%)	1(3.33%)	30(100%)
5	Drug misuse causes recidivism in formerly incarcerated individuals.	28(93.33%)	1(3.33%)	1(3.33%)	30(100%)
6	The recidivism of ex-offenders caused by their family's criminal past.	11(36.66%)	15(50.00%)	4(13.33%)	30(100%)
7	In jail Inadequate, educational facilities contribute to the recidivism of former inmates.	12(40.00%)	10(33.33%)	8(26.66%)	30(100%)
8	Ex-prisoners' recidivist behaviour is affected by a lack of Re-integration.	18(60%)	5(16.66%)	7(23.33%)	30(100%)

The findings of the study shows that almost all of the respondents (90.0%) were strongly agreed with the statement that unemployment is a cause of recidivist behaviour among Ex-Prisoners. This can be attributed to the fact that Unemployment can be a contributing factor to recidivism, as individuals who are unable to find stable employment after their release from prison may be more likely to return to criminal activity as a means of supporting themselves. Unemployment can also lead to financial instability and difficulty meeting basic needs, which can increase stress levels and lead to mental health issues, both of which can increase the risk of recidivism. Moreover, (96.66%) were strongly

agreed with the statement that social stigma is the factor of recidivist behaviour of ex-prisoners. It could be in line with the fact that Social stigma can be a contributing factor to recidivism, as individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system may face discrimination and negative attitudes from others in their community, which can make it difficult for them to reintegrate into society and lead productive lives. This social isolation and rejection can lead to a sense of hopelessness and despair, which can increase the likelihood of recidivism. In addition, most of the respondents (90.0%) strongly agreed with the statement that violent prisoners effect the behaviour of other prisoners. Likewise,

(93.33%) were strongly agree with the statement that personal distress cause recidivist behaviour of ex-prisoner. Besides, more than half of the participants (60%) were strongly agreed with the statement that lack of Reintegration is a factor of the recidivist behaviour of Ex-Prisoners. Reintegration is a crucial factor in reducing recidivism among ex-prisoners. When individuals are released from prison, they face a number of challenges in re-establishing their lives and re-entering society. These challenges can include finding housing, obtaining employment, accessing healthcare and social services, and reconnecting with family and community.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This empirical study was conducted in District Swabi. In this study, several primary constructs were used as predictors of recidivism in the criminal justice system (unemployment, lack of

reintegration, personal distress, violent prisoner, and social stigma). Findings of the study disclosed that, unemployment, lack of reintegration, personal distress, revenge, violent prisoner, prison, stigma are proven to have a positive effect towards recidivism. Based on study findings the present study recommend that law and enforcement agencies of Pakistan should implement strict laws against Recidivist Prisoners. Likewise, public awareness should be brought into society through different activities like seminars, conferences, social media, etc. to stop Recidivist or Criminal behavior. Besides, employment opportunities should be providing to the local people which is alternately reduce recidivism behaviour because of their poverty and living conditions. By providing support and resources to ex-prisoners, we can help to reduce the risk of recidivism and promote successful reintegration into society. This, in turn, can help to improve public safety and reduce the societal costs associated with repeat criminal behavior.

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