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## Neighborhood Characteristics and their Association with Delinquent Behavior: A Multi-city Spatial Assessment of Juvenile Delinquency in Punjab, Pakistan

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### ABSTRACT

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The current examination focuses on discovering the interplay between spatial variations in adolescent delinquent behavior and neighborhood characteristics in Punjab, Pakistan, across multiple cities. In literature, neighborhood divided into two section, neighborhood structure and neighborhood process. So in this research, researchers measured neighborhood process through the role of family characteristics, peer group influence, and role of mass media while neighborhood structure through spatial variation. Data collected from the juvenile housed in Bahawalpur's Borstal Institution and Juvenile jail through an interview schedule. To find out the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and juvenile delinquency, regression analysis was employed. According to the regression analysis, researcher found that neighborhood have no direct effect on delinquent behavior but through the spatial variation, as a mediating variable, the result of between neighborhood process and delinquent behavior. To encourage open communication, the research recommends that families and guardians stay informed about engaging in activities for children, dedicate meaningful time together, and nurture a close bond.

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## **Introduction**

The terms "juvenile" and "delinquency" both originate from the Latin word's juveniles, meaning youthful, and delinquent, meaning neglect (Sweta, 2021). In 1484, William Coxton coined the term "delinquent" to characterize someone found guilty. According to the Coxton's concept of delinquent, juvenile delinquency refers to illegal activities by teenagers, typically under 18, engaging in behaviors considered criminal (Madan & Bansal, 2019). When children commit unlawful acts in society, they are labeled as delinquents. Consequently, a person breaking the law under the legal age is termed a "juvenile" or "child" (Nanjunda, 2019). Identifying the causes of delinquency is a priority for sociologists, criminologists, and psychologists globally. Some philosophers attribute juvenile delinquency to family issues, emphasizing parental attitudes, socialization, and family size and structure (Wu, 2023). Socioeconomic circumstances are seen by many scholars as the primary contributors to juvenile criminality (Emmelkamp et al., 2020), while others dispute claims that peer groups and criminal affiliations drive deviant behavior (Wojciechowski, 2019).

When examining the impact of a neighborhood on adolescent behavior, researchers differentiate between neighborhood social processes and neighborhood structure. Neighborhood social processes, frequently assessed through resident perspectives, reveal the social connections within the community. In contrast, neighborhood structure encompasses sociodemographic characteristics obtained from census data (Kubrin, 2022). In social science research, neighborhood study has a utilitarian contribution to understand a range of phenomena. Recent research examines the neighborhood effects with specificity, evaluating them at different units like residential properties, regions, and administrative borders (Sohn et al., 2018). The socio-spatial perspective in social research focuses on neighborhood demography, defining a "neighborhood" by varying characteristics influencing criminality. This perspective incorporates the built environment, geographic factors, and their connection to crime and deviance (Cole, 2019). Yet, some studies explore how social dynamics impact crime in a specific community (Sharkey & Faber, 2014). Social demography asserts that family and individual factors strongly influence crime patterns, independently linked to neighborhood characteristics (Adeyemi et al., 2021). Some studies connect various demographic characteristics to criminal conduct, including sex, age, residential mobility, concentration of immigrants, ethnicity, and residential mobility. Consequently, crime rates fluctuate over time and geography (Jones & Dantzler, 2021). Geography plays a pivotal role, with place, space, and environment influencing inhabitants' behavior (Guo et al., 2019). Sociologists examine crime at individual, community, interpersonal, and societal levels within an ecological framework, exploring the complex connections influencing adolescent behavior. These elements fall under individual, family, peer, media, and neighborhood factors (Finigan-Carr et al., 2019).

### **National view of juvenile delinquency**

Despite being the future of the nation, many young individuals turn to a life of crime due to poverty, lacking necessities like food, shelter, clothing, education, compounded by insufficient guidance and flaws in the local judicial system (Ellem et al., 2019). In Pakistan, young offenders are treated similar to convicts, compelled to coexist with criminals, enduring not only deplorable

living conditions but also facing mistreatment from police officials (Hadait et al., 2023). Alarming reports further indicate instances of police officials torturing and assaulting juveniles during their detention in prison (Purvis & Blanco, 2020).

As per Pakistan's Penal Code of 1860, juvenile offenders are individuals involved in either serious offenses (Act XIV of 1860) or less severe transgressions (Act XLV of 1860) against minors. Within the legal framework, a "Major Offence" is characterized as a criminal act that carries a sentencing range of three to seven years of imprisonment, either with or without a fine, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Pakistan Penal Code of 1860 (Act XIV of 1860) or any applicable law. Conversely, a "minor offense" is one for which the most severe punishment, according to the Pakistani Penal Code of 1860 (XLV, 1860) or other legal provisions, entails a three-year imprisonment along with a financial penalty. The Juvenile Justice Act of 2018, sanctioned by Pakistan's parliament, takes a comprehensive approach by focusing on a child's fundamental rights, needs, personality, and development. It categorizes an individual as a "Child" if they are below the age of 18, instructing the state to oversee the juvenile justice system and social reintegration with a focus on the child's best interests. The Juvenile Justice legislation includes a "diversion" approach designed for the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, with the objective of fostering accountability and guidance rooted in socio-cultural, economic, psychological, and educational contexts, all without resorting to formal legal measures. The primary focus is on acting in the well-being of the adolescent (National Assembly, 2018). Due to the poorly maintained official data in Pakistan, obtaining accurate statistics on current juvenile delinquency is quite challenging, despite the implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) in 2017. Official figures from the Punjab government indicate a total of 1,175 juvenile detainees in Pakistan, with 559 in Punjab (having the highest proportion), 338 in KPK (ranked second), , 168 in Sindh, and 70 in Baluchistan. An alternative study suggests there may have been a total of 4,000 juveniles in 2017 (Tarar, 2018).

### **Significance of the Study**

Behavioral patterns in individuals of all ages are shaped by a multitude of factors, leading to the development of social or asocial behaviors. The purpose of the current research is to identify the primary factors influencing this phenomenon, considering the complexity of pinpointing precise reasons for such occurrences. It is crucial to recognize and assess the elements impacting social behavior. The external aspect of the environment significantly affects how individuals act, with social and interpersonal interactions, as well as structural and cultural variables, shaping the circumstances in which decisions are made. Consequently, neighborhoods have gathered significant policy attention, especially concerning the future generation in Pakistan. Unfortunately, some teenagers exhibit deviant behavior due to an inappropriate environment and other encouraging factors. This study seeks to identify the underlying causes of teenage criminality in juvenile correctional institutions. Numerous reasons for juvenile delinquency have been explored within theoretical and philosophical frameworks, with familial traits and the socioeconomic status of the neighborhood being identified as primary factors by various scholars. Some attribute crime to associations with criminals, while others focus on how the media influences juvenile behavior.

Interestingly, prior research has yet to explore how general neighborhood characteristics affect juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. This study addresses this gap by investigating how neighborhood factors influence deviant conduct, examining neighborhood structure and neighborhood social process, separately, across multiple cities in Punjab, Pakistan. According to the best of researcher knowledge, no research is conducted in Pakistan who measure measured neighborhood in both level so this research contributes new insights. By exploring the relationships between family, peer groups, media, and spatial variation in crime and delinquency, the study provides an opportunity to analyze resources and policies associated with these factors. The study supports the idea that various factors can contribute to predicting juvenile crime, emphasizing the impact of neighborhood features. Future researchers can use this study to explore how these traits affect juvenile delinquency and initiate discussions on potentially preventing failure through public and private resources and regulations.

### **Objective of the Present Study**

To examine the role of neighborhood structure between the neighborhood process and delinquent behavior of adolescents in Punjab

### **2.0 Literature Review**

Guarnaccia et al. (2022) conducted a study on juvenile delinquency, focusing on factors such as sociodemographic characteristics, familial influences, and the propensity for offensive behavior among juvenile offenders. They identified low income and low family educational attainment as risk factors for delinquent behavior. The study also highlighted the importance of insufficient parental control in relation to juvenile delinquency, as parents struggling to establish effective discipline and oversight increased the likelihood of their children engaging in offensive acts. The absence of a strong parental presence or authoritative figure further exacerbated the issue.

Wheeler's (2022) study explored the impact of peer dynamics on adolescents, focusing on the relationship between sports engagement and juvenile delinquency. The research found that sports significantly influence boys' involvement in nonviolent delinquency compared to nonathletic activities. The study also revealed that boys involved in sports had higher chances of engaging in nonviolent delinquent behaviors compared to those solely engaged in nonathletic activities. This highlights the complex relationship between peer context and adolescent engagement.

Christie-Mizell (2022) found that neighborhoods with structural disadvantages, such as limited access to education, healthcare, and employment, have high rates of juvenile crime and youth violence. These issues are linked to social circumstances and the lack of parental guidance and positive role models. The underlying causes include limited economic resources, persistent poverty, and the absence of positive role models, making young people vulnerable to negative influences and criminal behavior.

André and Crosby's (2022) research aimed to create a roadmap for studying neighborhood dynamics, highlighting the significant impact of neighborhood setting and qualities on young people's beliefs, standards, and behaviors. Impoverished neighborhoods, characterized by high unemployment rates, deplorable economic conditions, mistrust of law enforcement, uneven

treatment by institutions, instability, and ethnic heterogeneity, were identified as key characteristics.

Avery et al. (2021) used census data and linear regression models to identify the most effective combination of social and economic stress factors for explaining juvenile involvement in criminal activities. They found that poverty, single-parent households, and overcrowded dwellings are the main predictors of stress influencing juvenile delinquency, while unemployment or stability is not essential for predicting juvenile criminal behavior.

Gazimbe and Khosa (2021) argue that the family is a crucial microsocial environment for a child's personal development, as they provide them with social norms, values, beliefs, and practices. Factors like family economic status, structure, control, and religiousness are linked to delinquency. The family is the most significant socialization force in human history, influencing each member's personality and character from early childhood through adolescence and adulthood. Although external circumstances can influence a person's character, the family has the most lasting impact.

Erdmann (2021) also found that neighborhood characteristics significantly influence the prevalence and extent of peer deviance among adolescents. The environment in which individuals reside shapes their peer networks, impacting the likelihood of engaging in deviant behaviors. Neighborhood safety and crime also play a role in shaping peer deviance. High crime rates and a sense of insecurity create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust, leading adolescents to form bonds with deviant peers for self-preservation. This can inadvertently reinforce and normalize delinquent activities among the youth.

Mohammad and Nooraini (2021) said that children's perception of delinquency is influenced by their peers' attitudes and beliefs. Exposure to deviant behavior and reinforcement from deviant peers gradually erodes moral boundaries and fosters a more accepting stance towards delinquent behaviors. As children form connections with deviant peers, they develop more tolerant views towards delinquent behavior. This phenomenon can be attributed to factors such as the normalization of deviant actions within the social group, the desire for acceptance and validation from peers, and the reshaping of one's moral compass to align with peer group norms.

Smirni et al. (2021) found that media violence, including video games and movies, significantly contributes to severe violent behavior among adolescents and teenagers. Exposure to violence through online and offline forms is linked to instances of serious behavior, including drug abuse, youth violence, and criminality. Police also report cases of juveniles arrested over child pornography and sexual immoralities, particularly in bars and nightclubs.

Bunders and Weerman (2020) found that media consistently reports on incidents involving young individuals, often categorized as crimes or delinquency. Delinquency is primarily minor offenses like theft or vandalism, while crimes involve more severe transgressions like assault or homicide. The media exposes the public to these behaviors, raising awareness and triggering discussions on the causes and solutions for addressing youth-related offenses, whether it's delinquency or crime. This exposure serves as a catalyst for societal change.

### **3.0 Methodology**

This study was specifically concentrated on the juvenile population in Punjab, Pakistan. The ease of access to adolescent participants within the confines of B.I & J. Jail in Bahawalpur, researcher adopted a quantitative research design. The study's universe comprised all juveniles in Punjab, while the target population was confined to children housed in B. I & J. Jail in Bahawalpur, amounting to a total of 103 individuals during the data collection period. In this instance, the researcher opted for a comprehensive approach, gathering data from the entire target population without employing any specific sampling technique. An interview schedule was used as the primary tool for collecting the response of the juveniles. The research incorporated three types of variables in the current research: neighborhood characteristics served as the independent variable, delinquent behavior as the dependent variable, and spatial variation as the mediating variable. Three distinct sources were employed to gather comprehensive data, census data, police records, and responses from the juveniles themselves. The methodology employed in this study involved regression analysis to quantify the impact of the mediating variable in relation to the dependent and independent variables. By using this rigorous approach and considering the unique challenges posed by the juvenile population, the research aimed to provide valuable insights into the intricate dynamics between neighborhood characteristics and adolescent delinquent behavior in the context of Punjab, Pakistan.

#### 4.0 Results

##### Descriptive Statistic

Variables	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean Deviation	Std.
Delinquent Behavior	103	16	80	41.00	19.822
Family Characteristics	103	17	69	43.51	18.021
Peer Group Characteristics	103	11	55	32.78	13.215
Mass Media Characteristics	103	9	45	27.74	13.522
Spatial Variation	103	10	12	10.57	.620

##### Major findings

To fulfill this goal, the researchers collected data from juveniles incarcerated at B.I & J. Jail in Bahawalpur. The study found that 84.4% of participants in Punjab, Pakistan, were older teenagers 14 years and above, indicating a significant prevalence of juvenile delinquency. This underscores the importance of targeted interventions and preventive measures to tackle the challenges faced by young people and adolescents. The majority of participants in this study were aged 14 years and above. Meanwhile, only 2.9% of respondents fell within the 7–10 age range. The findings of this study align with those of Nourollah et al. (2015), indicating that a significant portion of adolescents aged 17 to 18 were involved in delinquent behavior.

The study reveals that 28.2% of the 103 surveyed juvenile delinquents were incarcerated

due to rape cases. Notably, Nourollah et al.'s (2015) research underscores that a substantial majority (40.8%) were grappling with issues related to drug addiction. The study shows that a significant majority of participants (72.8%) lack formal education, suggesting limited access to formal learning opportunities. However, 27.2% have managed to access some form of education, suggesting a positive impact of educational efforts. These findings align with Lochner's (2020) disclosures.

The results of the research uncover notable income inequality within 69.2% of participants, signifying significant financial difficulties and economic hurdles experienced by a substantial portion of the surveyed juveniles. This underscores the necessity for a deeper understanding of their socioeconomic status. The majority of respondents in Pakistan, with 81.6%, reported a household income of less than 20k, indicating significant financial instability. This is in contrast to 30.8% who reported a monthly income exceeding 5000. The increasing inflation rate in Pakistan underscores the difficulties confronted by families with insufficient incomes in sustaining a basic standard of living. The research aligns with previous studies on the impact of poverty on families, including physical and mental health, social exclusion, and personal development opportunities. The research reveals that 95.1% of the surveyed juveniles identify as Muslim. This highlights the cultural and religious diversity that shapes young individuals' daily lives. Nourollah et al.'s (2015) research provides a comprehensive exploration of the complicated ways in which religion exerts influence on the daily lives of young individuals. The study delves into various aspects, shedding light on how religious beliefs shape their values, decision-making processes, social interactions, and overall lifestyle. By examining the multifaceted impact of religion, the research contributes valuable insights into the nuanced role that religious practices play in shaping the daily experiences of the youth.

The study shown that 75.7% of respondents belong to single-parent families, reflecting the evolving dynamics of contemporary society. 21.4% have both parents alive, indicating a diverse and multifaceted parental presence. However, 2.9% of respondents have both parents passed away, highlighting the resilience and adaptability of families. This highlights the need for additional support and care for adolescents who experienced parental loss, highlighting the importance of family in shaping society. The results from the investigation undertaken by Jacobsen and Zaatut (2022) enhance the comprehension of the survey findings, analyzing the association between single-parent families and juvenile delinquency is positive. The research explored the link between youth delinquent behavior and family structure, highlighting the unique challenges faced by single-parent families, such as limited resources, reduced supervision, and emotional impact. It also highlights the importance of socioeconomic status, peer influences, and community support. The study discloses a noteworthy demographic pattern, with 74.8% of respondents residing in rural areas, highlighting the geographical distribution of the population and the correlation between residential location and juvenile delinquency. However, Boccio and Beaver's findings (2019) revealed a significant pattern, suggesting that tendency of adolescents' involvement in criminal activities is higher in urban environment. Young individuals may face distinctive challenges and risk factors in urban environments, which could contribute to the development of delinquent

behavior due to factors such as population density, economic disparities, and diverse social influences. Conversely González-Carrasco et al. (2019) examined the rural areas in the context of adolescents' involvement in delinquency compared to metropolitan ones. Traditional rural children have a lower risk of delinquency due to their stable, close-knit communities, stronger social ties, and shared responsibility. The research indicates that youngsters in conventional rural regions face a reduced risk of delinquency due to their stable, close-knit communities, stronger social ties, and shared responsibility, creating a supportive environment.

**Hypothesis Testing**

Neighborhood structure (Spatial variation) change the relationship between the neighborhood process and adolescent's delinquent behavior

**Model Summary**

<b>R</b>	<b>R-sq</b>	<b>MSE</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>df1</b>	<b>df2</b>	<b>p</b>
.8381	.7024	21.4554	238.3406	1.0000	101.0000	.0000
<b>Regression</b>						
	<b>Coeff</b>	<b>se</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>LLCI</b>	<b>ULCI</b>
constant	-7.1385	1.9039	-3.7493	.0003	-10.9155	-3.3616
NC	.1908	.0124	15.4383	.0000	.1663	.2154

Outcome Variable: Delinquent Behavior (Dependent Variable)

**Model Summary**

<b>R</b>	<b>R-sq</b>	<b>MSE</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>df1</b>	<b>df2</b>	<b>p</b>
.3531	.1247	350.8097	7.1221	2.0000	100.0000	.0013
<b>Regression Model</b>						
	<b>Coeff</b>	<b>se</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>LLCI</b>	<b>ULCI</b>
constant	30.2509	8.2171	3.6815	.0004	13.9484	46.5535
NC	-.0900	.0916	-.9820	.3285	-.2717	.0918
SIV	1.1310	.4024	2.8111	.0059	.3328	1.9293

**Total effect of X on Y**

<b>Effect</b>	<b>se</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>LLCI</b>	<b>ULCI</b>
.1259	.0517	2.4365	.0166	.0234	.2284

**Direct effect of X on Y**

<b>Effect</b>	<b>se</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>LLCI</b>	<b>ULCI</b>
-.0900	.0916	-.9820	.3285	-.2717	.0918

**Indirect effect(s) of X on Y**

<b>Effect</b>	<b>BootSE</b>	<b>BootLLCI</b>	<b>BootULCI</b>	
SIV	.2158	.0903	.0252	.3799



## **Interpretation of the Hypothesis**

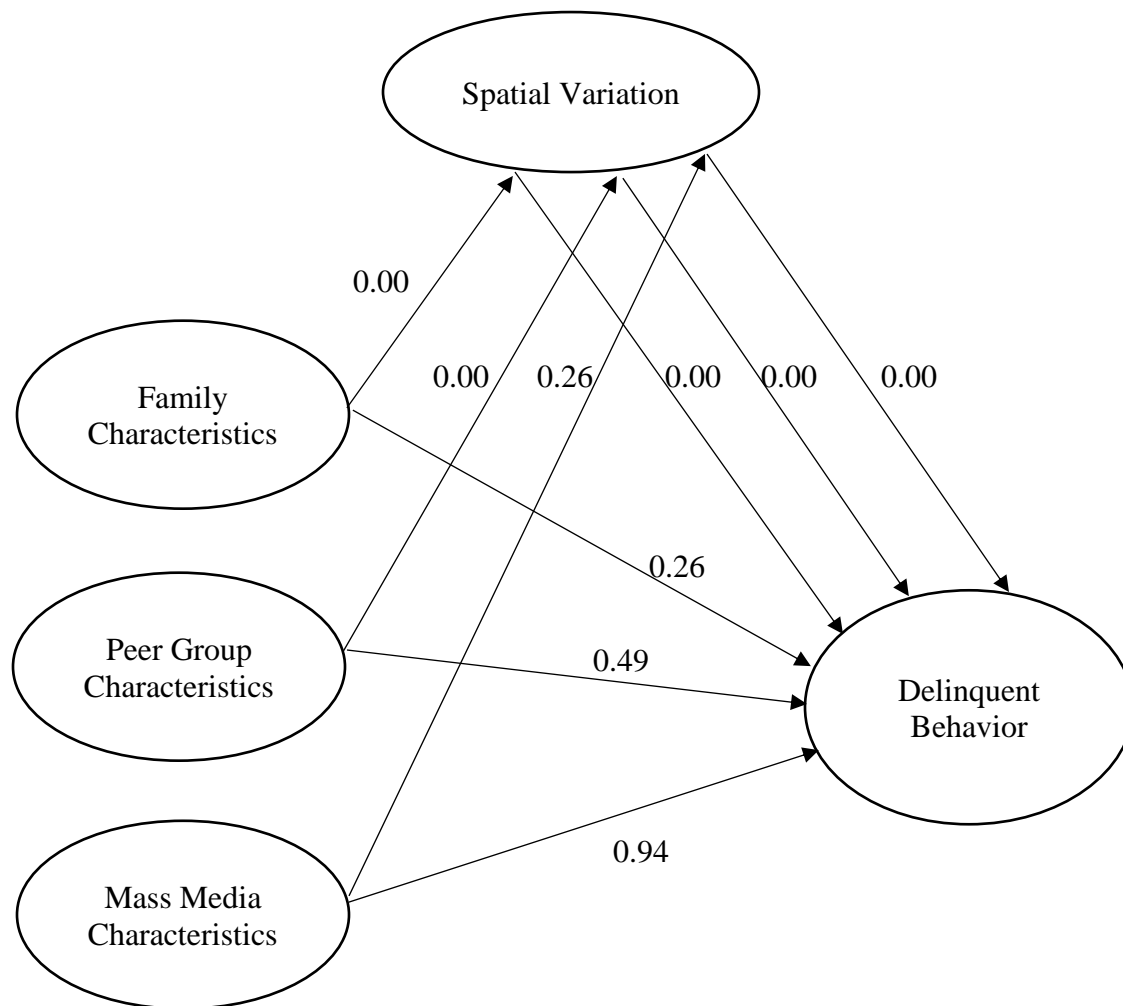
The analysis mentioned above explores the correlation among neighborhood attributes, delinquent behavior, and spatial differences. Neighborhood characteristics include three independent variables: family, peer group, and mass media. The regression analysis was appropriate, leading to four additional hypotheses. The analysis assumptions supported the central hypothesis. Relationship between the spatial variation and neighborhood characteristics analyzed in the first section of the regression table. The significance value was 0.00, which is less than the significant value 0.05. As a result, the researcher accepted the alternative hypothesis rather than the null hypothesis, which suggests a connection between neighborhood traits and spatial variance. A significant value of 0.32 was shown in the regression table's subsequent section for the association between neighborhood traits and delinquent behavior. Alternative hypothesis rejected by the researcher on the base of significance value, showing that the variables related to the neighborhood exhibit no statistically significant impact on delinquent behavior, suggesting that the neighborhood process does not play a significant role in influencing or contributing to the occurrence of delinquent activities. Furthermore, the significance value of 0.00 in this section implies a potential correlation, suggesting a connection between spatial variation and delinquent behavior. The dependent and independent variables' direct and indirect impacts were shown in the regression table's last section. The independent variable (neighborhood characteristics) had an immediate effect of -0.090 and an indirect effect of 0.215 due to spatial variation, making the total effect value between the variables 0.125. This part of the table showed that while neighborhood variables have an indirect impact on delinquent behavior due to spatial variance, they do not directly influence delinquent behavior.

## **5.0 Discussion**

The researcher found that neighborhood characteristics are influenced by spatial variation, which is the distribution and arrangement of physical, social, and environmental elements within a geographical area. The distinctive features of a neighborhood, such as its appearance, demographics, socio-economic dynamics, and overall atmosphere, are shaped by this spatial variation, ultimately contributing to the identity and defining traits of the community. The study suggests that neighborhood attributes like family, peer group, and mass media do not significantly influence delinquent behavior among residents. This indicates that other factors, beyond observable neighborhood characteristics may be more influential in causing delinquent behavior. The hypothesis suggests a correlation between spatial variation in a geographical area and delinquent behavior, referring to the distribution of housing, amenities, social services, and community resources. Spatial variation in an area can influence delinquent behavior by creating disparities in access to resources, opportunities, and social support networks. This can make specific individuals more susceptible to delinquent behaviors due to limited or unfavorable circumstances. Comprehending this connection can provide insight into how the actions and choices of individuals in a particular area are influenced by the physical and social environment.

As per the hypothesis, neighborhood characteristics such as infrastructure, demographics,

or socioeconomic status do not directly influence residents' delinquent behavior. This statement suggests that neighborhood characteristics indirectly impact delinquent behavior by way of spatial variation. The way things are arranged in a neighbourhood is known as its spatial variation, and it serves as a bridge between neighbourhood features and delinquent behaviour. It establishes conditions that influence the likelihood of such behavior. Neighborhood characteristics indirectly influence delinquent behavior through spatial variation, affecting resource allocation, opportunities, and social dynamics, ultimately shaping the environment and influencing delinquent activities within the neighborhood.



**Conclusion**

The current research identified a correlation between neighborhood features and delinquent behavior in adolescents, highlighting the importance of understanding these factors for effective interventions and policies to reduce delinquency rates. This study explored the impact of neighborhood characteristics on juvenile deviant behavior in Punjab, Pakistan. It fills a research

gap by examining the spatial variation of different cities, individual and neighborhood characteristics. The research aimed to fill the existing body of scientific knowledge on the role of family structure, parental self-importance, socio-economic conditions, criminal association and role of mass media in determining juvenile delinquency. Employing a multi-city spatial approach, the research investigated various factors—family, peer group, media influence, and spatial variations—to understand adolescent delinquency in Punjab. This methodology facilitated the examination of the geographic distribution of juvenile criminality across the cities of Punjab. This study confirms the role of neighborhood characteristics in juvenile delinquency rates in Punjab, Pakistan. As per the research findings, delinquent behavior in Punjab shows a positive correlation with family factors, particularly among teenagers from single-parent households. This is due to the lack of necessities, social control, and supervision, which increases the likelihood of delinquent acts. The study also highlights the role of living conditions beyond financial poverty, suggesting that individuals not necessarily poor but living in deficient households may also be at risk. The study reveals that family characteristics do not directly influence delinquent behavior in adolescents and spatial variation mediates this effect, emphasizing the importance of considering multiple factors in addressing deviant behavior. The study suggests that an individual's social circle, including peers of similar age or background, is linked to their time spent with deviant or delinquent peers. Stronger affiliation with these peers and more time spent with deviant peers increases the likelihood of adopting similar behaviors. Social interactions and peer influence significantly shape an individual's behavior. The research indicates that the characteristics of peer groups do not have a direct impact on delinquent behavior in adolescents. However, spatial variation acts as a mediating factor, underscoring the significance of spatial context in shaping delinquency outcomes. Family traits, peer groups and mass media influence delinquent behavior through spatial variations. This research focused on adolescent delinquency emphasizing the impact of neighborhood factors. The aim is to provide evidence-based insights to politicians, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies about the relationship between adolescent criminal behaviour and neighborhood features, facilitating the development of specialized plans to promote safer environments for children.

### **Recommendation**

The research focuses on adolescent delinquent behavior and urges the government to implement early intervention programs and establish support networks. It underscores the seriousness of drug-related issues and emphasizes the need for comprehensive approaches to address this pressing problem. Further research and efforts are needed to create a safer environment for adolescents, reduce incarceration, and foster a healthier society. The lack of education among juvenile delinquents calls for a reevaluation of the educational system and targeted interventions to address systemic barriers and empower vulnerable youth with the necessary tools for a brighter future. The research highlights the significant impact of education on employment opportunities and income levels, particularly for individuals with limited education and training. Lack of quality education and skill acquisition leads to low-paying jobs, perpetuating financial insecurity and hindering upward mobility. A comprehensive approach is essential for tackling the income

disparity, encompassing initiatives to enhance job opportunities, implement vocational training programs, and make advancements in education. It is crucial to advocate for religious values and ensure that young individuals receive comprehensive support from their communities, families, and educational institutions. Through open communication, mentoring, and nurturing environments, adolescents can be empowered to make informed decisions and translate their religious convictions into positive behaviors. This fosters a generation with a strong moral compass and active community contributions, promoting a compassionate and understanding society. A comprehension of family dynamics and their influence on juvenile behavior can aid in crafting specific interventions, such as fortifying social support systems, allocating resources, and cultivating a sense of community belonging. Policymakers should consider the unique factors influencing juvenile behavior in urban and rural settings when developing interventions to address delinquency and support adolescents. Urban interventions may focus on socioeconomic disparities, increased access to education, and community engagement, while rural interventions may strengthen community ties, mentorship programs, and resources. This approach fosters a more equitable environment for all youths. Researchers assert that Punjab, Pakistan should promptly implement initiatives aimed at increasing both the quantity and quality of parental involvement in their children's lives. These programs should educate adults on the importance of effective communication with their children, offering strategies to facilitate this process in cases where parents encounter challenges. Given the findings of this research linking early socialization to earlier delinquent behavior, and potentially juvenile delinquency, it becomes crucial to actively limit exposure, whether it occurs at home, on social media, or through television. Initiatives ought to highlight safety guidelines to protect children from witnessing or hearing intimate activities. While certain parents may already be acquainted with these principles, others may require awareness of their significance. It is crucial to acknowledge that the systematic rise in the phenomenon of children growing up without one or both parents is a consequence of previous delinquency.

**Adeel Ur Rehman:** Problem Identification and Model Development, Literature search, Methodology,

**Dr. Muhammad Ramzan:** Supervision and Drafting

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The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest in this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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