**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**CHILDHOOD MALTREATMENT AS PATHWAY TO DELINQUENCY**

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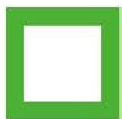
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# ABSTRACT



**OBJECTIVE**

To explore the predictive relationship of childhood maltreatment towards the involvement in delinquent behaviors in their later life and to figure out the most significant form of childhood abuse that predict the delinquency.

# STUDY DESIGN

Correlational Research Design

# PLACE AND DURATION OF STUDY

Study was completed from Feb-2017 to Feb-2018. Data was collected from the four prisons of District Punjab (Lahore, Sialkot, Gujrat, Rawalpindi) Including District Jail Lahore, District Jail Sialkot, District Jail Gujarat, and from the Central JailRawalpindi.

# SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Total sample of 517 was gathered from prisoners with age range of 18 to 60 years old. Data was collected through the purposive sampling technique. Child maltreatment was measured through child abuse self-report scale including the four sub domains of physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexualabuse and neglect while delinquency wasinvestigated through theself-reporteddelinquency scale.

# RESULTS

Simple Linear Regression and Multiple Linear Regression Analysis were used to measure the predictive effect of childhood maltreatment towards the involvement with delinquency. Results revealed the positive predictive relationship of childhood maltreatment withdelinquency.

# CONCLUSION

Findings revealed the childhood maltreatment asa significant predictor towards the involvement in delinquent behaviors. Further, it was explored that the prisoners who experienced the sexual abuse and neglect were more involved in delinquent behaviors in their later life as compare with physicaland psychological abuse.

# KEYWORDS

Childhood Maltreatment, Delinquency, Prisoners, Regression Analysis

# INTRODUCTION

Childhood maltreatment is a combine form of abuse and neglect that children get experience in their childhood under the age of 18 years. Childhood maltreatment included all types of physical abuse. sexual abuse, psychological abuse as well as physical and emotional neglect that could cause visible or latent harm to the child's mental as well as physical health. World Health Organization' reported the childhood maltreatment in four forms of abuse the including the Physical abuse as deliberated harm for the child,including punching, biting,strangling or kicking tendencies toward child while emotional abuse is the ongoing harm or emotional neglect for a child. It involved deliberately gazing, humiliation, Isolation or deprivation of the child from basic needs. Child sexual abuse is unwanted sexual activity intentionally performed by other personstowardschildinvolving the form of sexualconduct forcing achild to havesexor performasexualactivity.

World Health Organization' gave the detailed account on childhood maltreatment. According to the facts approximately 20% of women and 5-10% of men gave account of being sexually abusedas children, while 25-50% of all children reported being physically abused. According to the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuseand Neglectlnformation'that childhood maltreatment is any act or failure to act towards child that leads toward the physical injury, emotional exploitation, sexual or psychological harassment,or evenchilddeath.

The situation of childhood maltreatment in Pakistan is devastating day by day. A significant study' contributed the Pakistan situational analysis withrespect to child abuse and neglect.It wasconcluded thatin Pakistan child has to encounter with childhood maltreatment at much as cornpared withanyother South Asian country.It reported thatunder age of 5 years almost 40% children suffered from malnutrition and approximately 63%of childrenbetween theagesof 6 monthsand 3 years havecompromised growth. The percentage *of* feeble and underweight children was reported around 42 percent. Furthermore in educational sector conditions were reported much more poor', about 23 million children have to face the parental educational neglect. Parents did not send them to school to acquire formal education. In Pakistan parents used the physicalpunishment to train theirchildren,

Delinquency is defined as 'the expression of any behaviors typically considered beingdelinquent, verbally or physically aggressive'. Another significant study looked into the distinction between delinquent and antisocial behaviors and concluded the distinction in severity could be made: delinquent behaviors are less severe in nature than antisocial behavior.''



A studyexamined the relationshipbetween childhood maltreatment and the later involvement in delinquent behaviors in adulthood. Results indicated that childhood maltreatment leads to the delinquent behaviors which ultimately move a child to commit crime. They concluded children who suffer from physical abuse are significantly morelikelyto commitviolent and nonviolent crimes'.



One study'revealed that childhood maltreatment leads to the adult imprisonment due to the involvement in different criminal activities. Result indicated that 19.6%abused or neglected groupof individual were imprisoned ascompare with control group who hadno history of abuseor neglect.Gender effectwasexplored withparticular to the abused or neglected male or female experienced adversities in their child hood. Males had moreimprisonment record as compare with females'.

The study ofWidom also based on the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment. Hepostulated the idea from previous researches and find out the likelihood of arrest records, suicide attempts, psychological problems, drug abuse and/or dependency in those who weremaltreated in theirchildhood.Result revealed that the 31.2

% individual who were abused in their childhood had most arrest record as to those who wereno maltreated, 18.8% abused children had suicide attempts; 18.4% maltreated respondent had the antisocial personality disorder in their later life. While a largeportion, 54.5%of abusedor neglected community wasindulged in alcohol or hassubstancedependencerecord'.

In another study data wascollected from National YouthSurvey and investigated the consequences of physical abuse that lead toward the criminal activity including theft, robbery, burglary, gang fights andsexualabuse.Results revealed thatisPhysical abuseis associated with anincreaseof 97 percent in criminalactivity".

In the same domain another significant study was carried out by Grogan-Kaylor and Otis",Theyexplored the tendency of beingarrest due to the violent and criminal acts in the influence of their experienced by physical abuse, neglect and sexual abuse.Through analysis it wasrevealed that0.45moreneglected childcommitcrime and got imprisonment and as well as physical and sexual abuse concerned it increases the number of arrestsby 0.18and 0.09percent respectively.

Throughdifferent researches it got evident that childhoodabusehas stronglonglasting effect.

With particular to this concern in Pakistan different disciplines are working and with passage of time the field of forensic psychology is becoming the incursion area for researchers. But there's a dearth of systematic research withrespect to the eminent variables of study.

With particular to Pakistan context, A case study was conducted in

July 2015 at District Bahawalnagar" that highlight the significant results that harsh or neglected attitude towards individual by the parents, peer groupand from significant others can lead toward the crime.

Same findings were explored through another research" that emphasized at the effect of family environment including restrictive behavior, negligence, improper supervision, and delinquent

behavior of their parents that leads towards the Juvenile delinquency. In the same context another study", examined the major causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan and concluded the childhoodabuseasmostsignificant.

In the current study the wide range of delinquent behaviors including theft,crimes against persons, index offenses, drug abuse/ dependence and sexual harassment and abuse were explored and childhood maltreatment in form of physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse and neglect was explored. In Pakistan most of researcher hasstartedto workon the etiology of crimebut effortsare not satisfactory. The dearth of systematic research work done in this context put the interest into explore the predictors of delinquent behaviors.

# RATIONALE OFTHESTUDY

There has been found the remarkably large and robust effects of maltreatment towards the involvement in delinquent behaviors. Over here childhood maltreatment is considered as the integral composition of childhood disciplinary training. Parents considered the punishment as an essential part of training without considering the adverse consequences which have to face by the child in their later life. The present study purely worked on this specific domain and tried to address the effects of childhood maltreatment. Further the available Pakistani literature onlyaddressed the statisticsof child abuse and neglect, but there's scarcity of research with particular to the consequences of childhood maltreatment, so the current study will trytoaddress thisissue.

# SUBJECTS AND METHOD

### Participants

Data was collected through Purposive sampling technique by using the crosssectionalcorrelational research study.Only thoseprisoners were the part of study that experienced childhood maltreatment before the age 18 years in any form of abuse including Physical, Psychological, sexual or neglect. Sample was comprised at 517 prisoners; bothmaleand female prisoners with age range of 18 to 60 years old were the part of study. Data was collected from the four prisons of District Punjab (Lahore, Sialkot, Gujrat. Rawalpindi) Including District Jail Lahore, District Jail Sialkot, DistrictJail Gujarat, DistrictJailLahore,and fromtheCentralJailRawalpindi.

### Instrument

Childhood Maltreatment was measured through the adapted version of Child Abuse Self Report Scale"; it was comprised on **41** items with four subscales of Psychological, Neglect, Physical and Sexual Abuse. Delinquent behaviors were measured through 27 items.self-Reported Delinquency Scale".

### Procedure

This study was performed after obtaining due permission from higher police authorities as it involved jail inmates as subjects and then the subjects were approached with the police constables.The representative sample that experienced the physical, psychological,



emotional abuse and neglect in their childhood and with involvement of delinquent behaviors wasdrawnfrom prisons of four Punjab districts of Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sialkot and Gujrat. Before to get administer the questionnaire, respondents were briefed about the purpose of studyand privacy wasassured.Thequestions related to the childhood maltreatment and delinquent behaviors were asked in Urdu language so participants could comprehend statements easily and chose the most relevant option with their personalexperiences.

## RESULTS

Simple and Multiple Linear Regression Analysis was conducted to find out the predictive relationship between Childhood Maltreatment and Delinquency and the four types of temperament

Psychological Abuse explained 26.8 % variance in delinquency and the significant p value shown that it is a significant predictor of delinquency. One-unit increase in Psychological Abuse will increase the relational aggression scores by .666. The third dimension advantageous comparison explained the 21.4 % variance in the delinquency while one-unit increase in it will increase score in the delinquency by .470. The Significant p value showed that it is a significant predictor of delinquency. The fourth dimension sexual abuse explained the 42.2 % variance in the delinquency whileone­ unit increase in domain of sexual abuse will increase score on

delinquency by 2.437. Significant p valuerevealed the sexual abuse as **a** significant predictor of delinquency in later life.

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Pear$Oll Correlation fatrix, Correlation between Four Sub types of Childhood

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|  | **Theft** | **Drug**  **Abuse** | **Ly**.**tng** | **C !\on' ompl**  **anc •1-**  **to adult** | **-Police Encounter**  **and**  **Escape** | **,f**"' | **Cbeating**  **and**  **Gambling** | **S**II**exual**  **a:aar,a,n- s.** |
| Physical  Abuse | 353•• | .347\*\* | .235\*\* | .145° | .233•· | .31l\*\* | .237\*\* | .347\*\* |
| Psycho-  logical AblL"-e | 296:+lt | ..247° | .187"\* | .1454• | ,196•• | .237"'\* | .193° | .283° |
| Sexual 464-t14 .403 282..  Abuse | | | | .211° | .265-\* | ,383"· | \_317..:, | .439"· |
| Neglect 203' "' .218\*\* .174\*' | | | | .088° | .145° | .181'\* | .176° | .2.13\*4= |

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| with delinquency. Results showed that temperament is significant  predictorof delinquency.  **Table** I  Summary of Multiple f.inear Regression 1\nalysis of SuhTypes of C:hilrlhoocl Maltreatment (Physical, Psychological, Sexual abuse and Neglect) as Predictor of Dclim.1ut:nl behlwiors in Pri.soncn. (X=5I7) | | | | |  |
| **\larbbl..** | ***1l*** | ***SE*** |  | **p** |
| Physical Abuse | .212 | .214 | .059 | .322 |
| l)sycholog1cal Abuse | ·.091 | .143 | ·.037 | .525 |
| Sexual Abuse | 2.229 | .390 | .3S6 | .000 |
| Neglect | .360 | .08R | .164 | .000 |
| R | .458 |  |  |  | *Note:* \*\* *P<.01* |
| R' | .209 |  |  |  |  |
| L\.R | .202 | | | | Abovetableindicated the correlation matrix between two constructs |
| F | 27.082 | | | | and highlighted the significant correlation within the subtypes of |
|  |  | | | | both constructs. Result depicted that sexual abuse in childhood |

**e**

Findings of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of four types of childhood maltreatment including physical, psychological, sexual abuse and neglect as Predictor of Delinquent behaviors in prisoner, revealed that childhood maltreatment play a significant role with particular to the involvement in delinquent behaviors. Table indicated thatfour subscales collectively account for 20.2% variance in thedelinquency.

Further simple linear regression analysis was carried out to explore the significant predictive effect of sub-dimensions of Childhood Maltreatment. The results revealed that all sub-scales of Childhood Maltreatment were the significant predictor of Delinquency.

Table 2

Summary or Simpk. Lim:ar Rcircssiou Analy is, ubtypcsof Childhood Maltreatnient as Predictor of Oelinquent behaviors in Prisoner, (N-517)

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| **Varlabl,.** | **.C:.R'** | **8** | **SE** | **p** | **F** | ***p*** |
| r'hysical Ahuse | . II I | 1.202 | ,149 | .336 | 65.344 | .000 |
| Psychological Abuse | .070 | .666 | .106 | 268 | 39.85 | .000 |
| Sexual Abuse | \_l76 | 2.44 | .231 | .422 | 111.49 | .000 |
| Negkcl | .044 | .470 | .094 | 214 | 24.834 | .000 |

In above table physical abuse sub scales sub dimension explained

33.6 % variance in delinquency and the significant p value shown that it is a significant predictor of delinquency. One-unit increase in Physical abusewill increase the relationalaggression scores by 1.202.

maltreatment leads toward the involvement in different forms of delinquent behaviorsmoreascompareto anyotherform of abuse.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of the present studywasto explorethe predicting effect of childhood maltreatment on delinquency.It washypothesized that the childhood maltreatment will predictor the involvement in subsequentdelinquent behaviorsin laterlife.The resultsof thestudy indicated that childhood maltreatment is significant predictor of

delinquent behaviors in prisoners. It was indicated that childhood maltreatment account the 20.8% variation to predict the

involvement in delinquent behaviors (R= 0.456'\*. R'= .208\*\*, p =

<.01).

The prisoners reported the different forms of maltreatment thatthey have to face in form of Neglect, Psychological, Physical, and sexual abuse. Subject reported that during their childhood they did not receive care from their parents, caregivers and from relatives. They used to ridicule, over criticized, taunt and used to blame in other presence. In most of the time they get hold of burden beyond their potentiality, due to this kind of dehumanization subject started to develop the strong feeling of rejection and as unwanted child and started to develop astrongdesire to live withanyotherfamily instead of their own. In category of neglect prisoners reported that in their childhood they found their significant caregivers careless towards the fulfillment of basic needs and bring into being less concerned towards their wishes and intentions. Furthermore it was reported that they couldn't get proper care of hygiene, food and sleep in



childhood. This behavior gradually originated the sentiment that their parents, caregivers and other family members will not help themin emergency situations.



Physical abuse was the highlighted feature of their childhood maltreatment too. Parents, caregivers and other family members were reported to beat frequently. Sometimes they used to beat so hard that resulted in a major injury (broken bones, head injury etc). Some of respondents reported that in their childhood they have been beaten at minor things and sometimes received punishment without anymistake.

These adverse experiences eventually lead toward the involvement in delinquent behaviors.Prisoners reported involvement of different forms of delinquent behaviors including theft, drugabuse,lying, non compliance to adult, police encounter and escape, violence related to delinquency, cheating and gambling and sex related delinquent behaviors. The results are consistent with the results of previous studies"·"'',which bring into being that the frequency of childhood maltreatment predicts the frequency of involvement in delinquent behaviors.

Furthermore results of present study highlighted the significant predictive effect of different forms of childhood maltreatment and reported 33.6% variation delinquency by the physical abuse, abuse and 21.4% variation wasreported by neglect respectively. Predictive effect of sub types of childhood maltreatment on delinquency has beenidentified inpreviousresearches1·"·"; In thatresearches physical neglect,emotional neglect,and sexualabuse were found significant in individual's likelihood of committing crime in later life. Physical abusewassignificant apredictor of laterdelinquent behavior".

The involvement in delinquent behaviors due to the childhood maltreatment might be due to Freudian theory of repetition compulsion"and Bandura's social learning theory"; it would make sense for physical abuse to be more highly correlated with violent offending, especially because abused children are more aggressive than neglected children"". Theory of repetition compulsion sl!ggested that maltreated children who become juvenile offenders would most likely commit offenses that mimic the maltreatment they suffered. Social learning theory, a theory of repetition compulsion is the human propensity to repeat maladaptive relationship patterns and to seek out relationships that simulate early, significant attachments with caregivers.In lightof thistheory,it makessensethatmaltreated children wouldbemorelikely than non­ maltreated children to becomeoffenders.

According to Maslow", the most fundamental human need is physiological; above all else, humans are driven to satisfy their hunger and thirst and need for adequate air and temperature. After these basic physiological needs are met, a hierarchy of needs including safety, love, self-esteem, and self actualization come forward. When physical neglect is present, none of these needs are met,whichhassevereeffectson achild.Perhapsadolescents whoare physically neglected become moreviolent becausetheywereforced to survive on their own as children and learned to use unconventionalmeans,such asviolence, to survive.It ispossible that growing up without basic physical necessities caused the children and adolescents to behave in an un-socialized manner to get their needsmet.

Whereas the 42.2 % variation was reported by the sexual abuse and

26.8 % variation was depicted through the psychological abuse. In childhood maltreatment the most significant result was the tendency of sexual abuse received in their childhood. Most of prisoners reportedthatthey became the victimof sexual harassment and abuse in their child hood.They dig up sexually maltreated from singleor morethanonepersonat oneor morethanonetime.

Prisoners reported that they were forcefully a.sked to touch other's private body parts and forced to exhibit our own too. Furthermore they highlighted the occurrence of forceful relationship imposed by someadults.Studyresultsareconsistent withprevious researches'," "·'"that highlighted the results in shape of psychological abuse and sexual abuse as significant predictors of delinquency and sexual abuse was the significant predictor of property damage, violent crime, and status offending. In the current study sexual abuse was moresignificant predictor ascompareto the anyother formofabuse.

Furthermore tendency to involve in different forms of delinquent behaviors wasmeasured through the eight domainsof self reported delinquency scale16 including theft, drug abuse, lying, non compliance to adult, police encounter and escape, violence related to delinquency, cheating and gambling and sexual harassment and abuse. Pearson correlation results revealed that overall theft, drug abuse, violence, sexual abuse and harassment as compare to other form of delinquent behaviors were more prevalent in maltreated individuals , so it became evident that individual with abusive tendency have the greater potential to involve in delinquent behaviors. It clearly portrayed through analysis that child who received sexualabusein their childhood has the greater tendency to get involve in negative behaviors of theft, drug abuse, violence, sex related delinquent behaviors and cheating and gambling at large than any other forms of abuse. Through individual analysis it got astonishingly evident that the strapping predictor of criminal behaviors wasSexual abuse,Physical abuse,Psychological abuseand Neglect respectively. In light of this eminent study it was revealed that sexl!al abuse and neglect have serious and lasting consequences on victims, especially in terms of later involvement in delinquent behaviors.

# CONCLUSION

Paper highlighted the effect of childhood maltreatment and figure out the pattern of delinquent behaviors. It became astonishingly evident thatthestrappingpredictor of criminal behaviors wasSexual abuse,Physical abuse,Psychologicalabuseand Neglect respectively. Different types of maltreatment areassociated withincreased risk of subsequent delinquent behavior.Sexual abuse wasmost significant factorthat leadstoward theinvolvement in different activities.

# LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Even though the intensive effort was put on to complete the study but still some limitations were the part of study. The participants were approached with great difficulty. Data was gathered in presence of two police officers who were appointed for safety and prisoner has to account in front of them. This condition was not suitable for illiterate respondents as they cannot read the questionnaire and have to answer the questions in front of appointed staff,it make themuncomfortable and it might cause not

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to report actual account regarding the involvement in delinquent behaviors.Data wascollected through the prisons of District Punjab, so the findings have the generalize ability issue as respondent from different environment/region might have different temperamental traits, so to get more accurate results study must be replicate in different provinces too. Currentstudy hasthe crosssectional nature, future research mustbefocused on the longitudinalresearch design. So the temperamental effects can be studied with particular to the developmental changes.

Furthermore it has been suggested that criminology is an interdisciplinary field so authorities must have to give space to interlinked disciplines to work with collaboration and. It will enrich the literature asisdearthof availableliterature.

Further studiesnot onlyfocused on the linkage of temperament and delinquency but alsofocused on the intervention or the strategies to how overcome the likelihood effect to get involved in delinquent behaviors due to the negativetemperamentaI tendencies/traits.

### Conflict of Interest

Therewasno conflictofinterestwas foundamongauthors.

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