

# Exploring juveniles' delinquent behavior and associated factors: a cross-country comparison of Pakistan and Thailand

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Studying juvenile delinquency has been of great importance for policymakers, social scientists, as well as public and private social organizations.

**Objectives:** This study aimed at exploring juveniles' delinquent behavior and the associated factors in Pakistan and Thailand.

**Methods:** Quantitative research techniques were used for gathering and analysis of data related to juvenile delinquency. Primary data were collected from juvenile delinquents protection and rehabilitation centers at Bangkok and Karachi through interviewer-administered questionnaire. A total of 174 respondents were selected for this study through, simple random sampling. The statistical tests: Chi-square test, Pearson correlation, and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regressions were used for analysis.

**Results:** The results showed significant differences in juveniles' delinquent behaviors in Pakistan and Thailand. Among Pakistani juveniles, smoking cigarettes, using drugs, damaging property and stealing money from family, whereas, smoking cigarettes, having sexual relations, skipping classes and gang fights were the leading delinquent behaviors among Thai juveniles. For Pakistani juveniles, defection from school, self-control, drug use, lack of daily activities schedule and peer influence were significant factors of delinquency. For Thai juveniles, delinquent behavior was significantly influenced by self-control, family type, lack of daily activities schedule and character of friends.

**Conclusions:** The findings suggest that socio-economic and environmental factors drive the patterns and causes of delinquency, therefore, they may be given importance in combating delinquency. Policymakers, law enforcement agencies and parents are suggested to adopt the context-specific strategies for reducing delinquency among juveniles keeping in view the local socio-economic and cultural perspectives. Policymakers should take serious initiatives to control school dropouts and drug use among juveniles.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The research on juvenile delinquency has been of great importance for policymakers, social scientists, as well as public and private social organizations. Understanding juvenile delinquency has been a complex problem because of its varied relationship with families, social institutions, law enforcement agencies, media, and judiciary (Brown, 2005). Children being considered the important asset are given high importance in the socio-economic development of any country. Policies and plans are formulated and executed for their well social upbringing in order to make them socially advantageous. However, in many

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societies, children get fail to get the constructive social environment and get indulged in criminal activities. Their criminal activities are literally termed as "juvenile delinquency".

Juvenile delinquency is conceived differently due to the differences in cultural contexts and laws of the country, thus it has been defined differently in the literature. According to Ukris (2004), "Juvenile delinquency refers to the behavior of non-adults which violates the rules and regulations set by the government or society". For understanding juvenile delinquency, it is important to define juvenile. Globally, there is no consensus over the definition of juvenile. In the context of Pakistan, juvenile is defined as the "child" who is below 18 years at the time of committing an offense (Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights Pakistan, 2000). Whereas, in the case of Thailand, "Child" is a person who is below 18 years of age, with the condition that he/she would not have married (Ministry of Justice Thailand, 2003). Based on the definitions given above, it can simply be concluded that any crime against the law committed by children under 18 years old may be categorized as juvenile delinquency.

Several theories have explained the phenomenon of delinquency and the associated factors. Most of the theories explain the effects of juveniles' personal characteristics, physical and psychological conditions, and the effect of family and environmental factors upon their delinquent behavior. Strain theories examine the effect of social structure, and attempt to determine which forces drive people to commit a crime (Laub, 2005a; Vold et al., 2002a). Eker (2010) reviews that social disorganization theory focuses on macro-level variables, such as groups, communities, and community structures and "minimizes individual differences, such as psychological and biological" traits. This approach argues that the cause of crime is external because social forces affect a person's engagement in crime (Laub, 2005b). Unlike theorists who claimed that "traits of individuals" cause criminality, theorists from the Chicago School argued that "traits of neighborhoods" are "the key to understanding crime" (Cullen & Agnew, 2003). Similarly, Shaw and McKay (2003) asserted that traits of locations determine the level of criminal incidents. Edwin Sutherland Sutherland (1939) proposed that youth's moral values are affected by the intensity and frequency of contact with others. Biosocial theory was proposed by Du (2019). Delinquent behavior was learned in interaction with another person, especially intimate one. Travis Hirschi's Control Theory stated that "delinquent acts result when an individual's bond to the society is weak or broken" (Hirschi, 1969). Control Theory states that people commit crimes because there is temptation and there are too few countervailing controls to restrain their behavior. In other words, adolescents do not break the rules because parents teach them the rules. They conform to the rules and believe that the rules are right. Delinquency occurs because socialization is incomplete or faulty.

Research studies have explored the causal factors of juvenile delinquency. There exists a relationship between a single personality trait or a group of traits and criminal behavior (Van Domburgh et al., 2009a). In the context of Pakistan, studies have shown that delinquency in juveniles is caused by the personality traits such as depression, hypochondriasis, schizophrenia, and psychopathic deviate (Kausar et al., 2012a), illiteracy and drug use (Levine & Coupey, 2003; Mahmood & Cheema, 2004; Ruangkanchanasetr et al., 2005) and lack of self-esteem and loneliness (Ruangkanchanasetr et al., 2005). Studies have found relationship between having sexual relations and delinquent behavior among juveniles (Levine & Coupey, 2003; Mahmood & Cheema, 2004; Rhucharoenpornpanich et al., 2010). Research studies have also reported the influence of mood disorders on their criminal behavior. For example, the disruptive behavior leading to criminal behavior (Ryan & Redding, 2004a). Similarly, delinquent behavior of male and female juveniles is caused by personality traits, agitation, and emotional senselessness (Meier et al., 2008a), and it is the outcome of mental conflicts, rising up in the unconscious or subconscious minds (Williams, 2004a).

In the case of family factors, studies have reported that parental negligence and inappropriate attention towards their children are the potential causes of delinquency in children (Blackburn, 1993a; Demuth & Brown, 2004a). Similarly, parental conflicts and abusive attitude of parents (Mahmood & Cheema, 2004b; Malik & Shirazi, 2010) and parental criminal history (Wagner-Rizvi et al., 2003), were positively influencing

the delinquency among juveniles. Likewise, according to [Bano et al. \(2009\)](#), larger family size, gender of the siblings and intelligence significantly affected delinquency in juveniles. The broken homes, poverty, unemployment, delinquent family members, family disorganization and death or divorce of parents are significant factors causing delinquency among juveniles ([Aoulakh, 1999a](#); [Haider & Mahsud, 2010](#); [Wagner-Rizvi et al., 2003](#)). Studies have also shown that parents' low income and low educational levels lead to the risky home environment, which ultimately results in low school performance and weak attachment and negative school experiences ([Mahmood & Cheema, 2004](#); [Silpasuwan et al., 2011](#)). Moreover, [Chamrathirong et al. \(2010\)](#) mentioned that the spirituality of parents and youths significantly decreased the delinquent behaviors among youth in Thailand

In the case of community factors, findings of studies show that delinquency among juvenile to a large extent caused by the peer group influence ([Aoulakh, 1999](#); [Haider & Mahsud, 2010](#); [Narkvichetr, 2008b](#)) and community environment ([Alba et al., 1994](#); [Mahmood & Cheema, 2004](#)). In addition, research studies have reported that urban youth is engaging in these risk behaviors no more frequently than their nonurban counterparts ([Levine & Coupey, 2003](#)). Nonattendance, teacher rejection, low academic achievements and school dropout provide a platform to youth for going towards delinquency and violence ([Aizer & Currie, 2019](#); [Alba et al., 1994](#); [Ruangkanchanasetr et al., 2005](#); [Silpasuwan et al., 2011](#)).

Saving juveniles from delinquency has been on focus of multilateral and international agencies. International development organizations have emphasized on education and social wellbeing of the children through their worldwide programs and projects. For instance, the United Nations has stipulated primary education as the second objective of Millennium Development Goals, titled "universal primary education" in order to promote social development among children at the global level ([World Bank, 2002](#)). The United Nations' in order to secure the socio-economic life of children has also promoted the universal declaration titled, "Convention on the Rights of Children" at the global level ([Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1990](#)). Global efforts of international development agencies are aimed at securing children from social ill doings. Controlling juvenile delinquency at international level has been linked with the social development of the countries and their compliance to the objectives and programs of international agencies.

For reduction of delinquent behavior among juveniles, studies have found the positive role of fear of God and teaching of religion ([Malik & Shirazi, 2010](#)), strong family bonding and family supervision ([Aowsuwan, 2007](#); [Qazi, 2011](#)). Studies have also reported relationship between the prosocial behavior and the religiosity. [Mahaarcha and Kittisuksathit \(2013\)](#) report the positive relationship of adherence to the five principles and the application of the Buddhism's doctrine into the daily life and pro social behavior among Thai adolescents. Moreover, findings of a research study also mention that the spirituality of parents and youths are found significantly decreasing the delinquent behaviors among youth in Thailand ([Chamrathirong et al., 2010](#)). Religion teaches moral development and responsible prosocial behavior. Religious gatherings help people develop prosocial behavior. Highlighting the role of Church, [Leung and Brittain \(2009\)](#) found the prosocial behavior among those who used to attend the church regularly. Focusing the relationships between parenting practices and delinquent behaviors among Thai sons and daughters adolescents [Rhucharoenpornpanich et al. \(2010\)](#) report that daughters were more monitored and faced the parental disapproval of sex as compared to sons by their parents. The findings of the study also include that parental monitoring and closeness to their daughters helped in saving them from sexual and delinquent behavior. The study was conducted by employing 153 convicted juveniles in three provinces i.e., Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where according to [Aziz and Khan \(2008\)](#), majority of the juveniles were convicted for thefts, mobile phone snatching, drugs trafficking, rape, kidnapping, murder and one wheeling ([Aziz & Khan, 2008](#)). Another study has highlighted its finding as the delinquents went for stealing and robbing because they found it the easiest way of earning and profits ([Rojanaphruk, 2001](#)).

Several research studies have been conducted on the different aspects of juvenile delinquency. However, little is known about the cross-country comparison of juveniles' delinquency. The previous research studies have explored factors related to personal, family and society, ignoring the importance of integrated framework encompassing diverse factors. The prominent limitation of the previous studies also includes that such studies are based on narrowly defined theories which do not adequately explain the causes of juvenile delinquency (Leung & Brittain, 2009). Moreover, due to socio-cultural differences, the personal, family and societal attributes vary across communities and countries. Studies of narrow scope are confronted with the limitation of generalizability. Keeping in view the limitations of the previous research studies, the current study contributes to the body of knowledge by exploring the multi-dimensional and cross-country factors affecting juvenile delinquency in Pakistan and Thailand.

## **2. METHODS**

### **2.1 Research design**

This study used quantitative research techniques for gathering and analysis of data related to juvenile delinquency. By using case study design, Pakistan and Thailand were taken as two cases for this study.

### **2.2 Setting**

For this study, Bangkok and Karachi were selected as study areas. The reason behind the selection of the mentioned two cases include; first, it will provide cross-country and cross-cultural comparison and perspectives of juvenile delinquency. Second, because both Bangkok and Karachi are the largest cities of Thailand (Map 1) and Pakistan (Map 2) respectively. Third, both mega cities have juvenile protection and rehabilitation centers. In the case of Pakistan, Juveniles Offenders Rehabilitation School at Karachi Jail was selected whereas, in the case of Thailand, the Juvenile Protection and Observation Center, Bangkok was selected for data collection.

### **2.3 Participants**

The juvenile delinquents under 18 years prisoned at the juvenile protection and observation centers in Karachi and Bangkok were selected as respondents for this study.

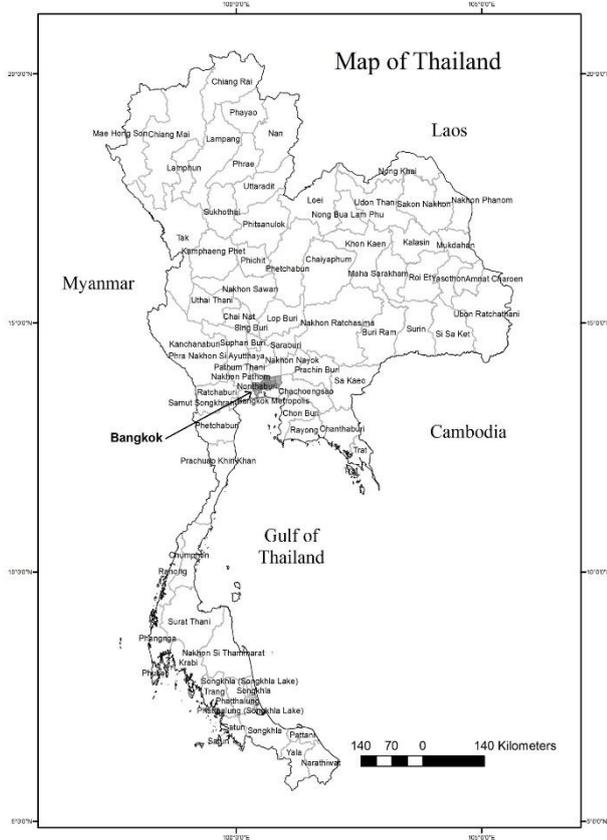
### **2.4 Integrated Conceptual Model**

For exploring the factors affecting juvenile delinquent behavior, research studies have used several theories. Studies have explained the relationship of personal characteristics such as physical maturity, mental stability, self-control, habits, educational level and the age with delinquent behavior. Likewise, research studies have also demonstrated the effects of family factors; family type, family size, parents' mutual relationship, parents' marital status, parents' criminal history, orphanage, family income, parental supervision, and parental neglect, on juvenile's delinquent behavior. The effects of community factors such as peer groups, a company of criminal friends, sexual or physical abuse, crime dominated area, and defection from the school, on the delinquent behavior have also been studied. However, this study has used an integrated conceptual model for exploring juveniles' delinquent behavior and associated personal, family, and community factors.

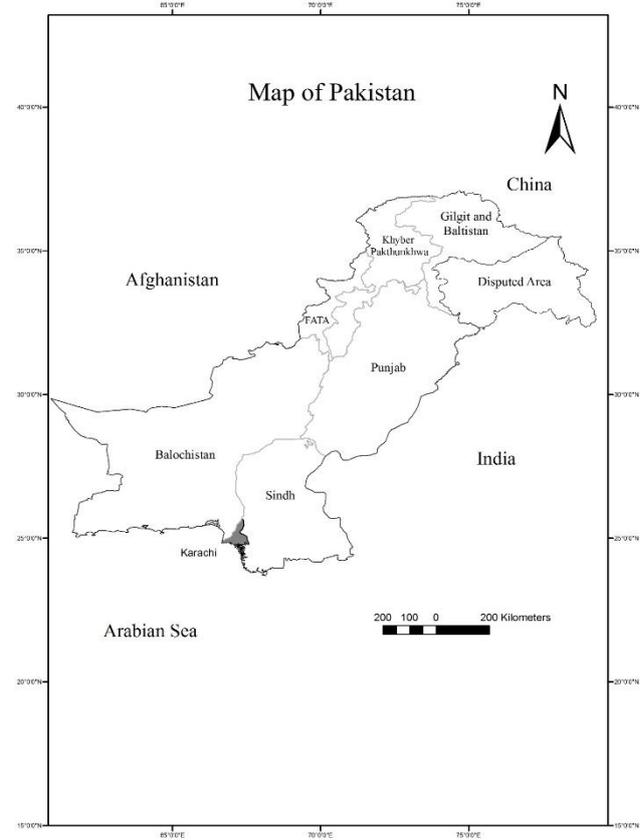
### **2.5 Variables**

#### **2.5.1 Dependent variable**

The dependent variable for this study is the delinquent behavior of the juvenile. It contains 13 variables related to the juvenile behavior. The items used for the construction of dependent variables are derived from the Self-Report Delinquency Items - National Youth Survey (Elliot et al., 1983) and (Man, 1996). The juveniles were asked the question as; *How many times (0-5) in the past twelve (12) months have you committed the following?*



Map 1 Thailand's map showing Bangkok



Map 2 Pakistan's map showing Karachi

**Table 1** Delinquent behavior of juveniles as dependent variable

Delinquent Behavior	Level of Measurement					
1. Damaged the property of other people	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. Stolen the money from others people	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. Stolen the money from family members	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. Knowingly bought, sold or held stolen goods	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. Involved in gang fight or beat other schoolmates	0	1	2	3	4	5
6. Had sexual relations with a person of the opposite/same sex	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. Sold drugs such as heroine, chars, cocaine or _____	0	1	2	3	4	5
8. Used drugs such as heroine, chars, cocaine,	0	1	2	3	4	5
9. Cheated on school tests/examination	0	1	2	3	4	5
10. Run away from home	0	1	2	3	4	5
11. Skipped classes without excuse	0	1	2	3	4	5
12. Smoke cigarettes/used tobacco	0	1	2	3	4	5
13. Practiced gambling	0	1	2	3	4	5

Adapted from (Man, 1996)

### 2.5.2 Independent variables

For this study, twelve (12) independent variables were selected in accordance with the proposed integrated model. These variables are related to the personal characteristics, family factors and community factors that affect delinquency among juveniles. The personal characteristics included; defect from school, self-control, and use of drugs and intoxicants. The family factors included family type, parental supervision, and mother supervision. The community factors included peer group, character of friends, influence of peer group, friends schooling status and friends' criminal history.

### 2.6 Data Sources

The Primary data were collected for this research through interviewer-administered questionnaire. Data were collected from January 2016 to April 2016. The interviews were conducted in the presence of the concerned center staff at the juvenile protection centers both at Karachi and Bangkok. The questionnaires were translated to Thai language for ease in data collection. Two research assistants were hired for data collection from juveniles at Juveniles Protection and Observation Center Bangkok, Thailand.

### 2.7 Sample design

Simple random sampling was used for the selection of respondents. The juvenile delinquents under 18 were respondents for this study. The data regarding juvenile delinquents were collected from two juvenile protection centers. The juvenile respondents were selected randomly for the questionnaire survey. The sample size was calculated after conducting the reconnaissance survey of the study areas i.e. juvenile protection and observation centers in Karachi and Bangkok. There was not much difference in the population of juveniles at the selected sites. For instance, the total population of juveniles in the Juvenile Protection and Observation Centers in Karachi and Bangkok was 230 and 236 respectively. Therefore, the total population was 466 for this study. A sample size of 174 was determined based on the proportion of the population using following formulae (Yamane, 1967). Based on the formula, the sample size for Pakistan was 86 while for Thailand the sample size was 88. However, a sample of 87 was purposively taken as a standard sample size for each juvenile's protection and observation centers in Karachi and Bangkok.

### 2.8 Data analysis methods

This study is based mainly on quantitative data; therefore, statistical analyzes were employed to unveil and compare the differences between the juveniles of both countries and the factors affecting delinquent behavior. The statistical tests were applied such as Chi-square test, Pearson correlation, and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regressions analysis. Chi-square test was employed for the comparative analysis of differences in socio-demographic characteristics of juvenile delinquents. T-test was used for exploring differences in delinquent behavior between juvenile at the juvenile protection centers in Karachi and Bangkok. For investigation of the relationship of personal, family and community factors, bivariate analysis was conducted. After bivariate analysis, the variables which had significant relationship with dependent variable were used in the model for regression analysis (Equation1). Simple linear regression was used to explore the factors affecting juvenile delinquency.

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 + \beta_8 X_8 + \beta_9 X_9 + \beta_{10} X_{10} + \beta_{11} X_{11} + \beta_{12} X_{12} + \epsilon_i \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where,

- $Y_i$  = Frequency of delinquent behavior
- $\beta_0$  = Constant
- $\epsilon_i$  = Error term

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of juveniles

The results in Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of juvenile delinquents in Pakistan and Thailand. Majority of them were boys in both countries. Likewise, most of them fall in age group of 16-18 years. Contrary to Thailand where majority of juveniles were educated until junior high school, most of juveniles in Pakistan were illiterate. In Pakistan, Islam was the dominant (95%) religion whereas in Thailand Buddhism was mostly (92%) followed by juveniles. In both countries, juveniles were living with their natural parents. Family size was small (63.0% with less than 5 family members) in the case of Thailand whereas it majority of the juveniles (54.0%) were living was medium to large (5-10 family members) in the case of Pakistan. Majority of juveniles were living in nuclear family in Pakistan whereas in Thailand juveniles' family type was extended.

#### 3.2 Comparative analysis of juveniles' delinquent behavior

The comparative analysis of delinquent behavior of the juveniles, composed of 13 different indicators, is shown in Table 3. The findings shows significant differences in the delinquent behavior between juveniles in Pakistan and Thailand. Regarding Pakistan, the highly committed delinquencies included smoking cigarettes, using drugs, damaging property, stealing money from family, practicing gambling and running from homes. Besides these, skipping classes, gang fights, stolen money from people, bought stolen goods and cheated on examination were also important delinquencies committed by juveniles. Among these, the lowest ranked were drugs selling and sexual relations respectively. In the case of Thailand, the most prevalent delinquencies among juveniles included smoking cigarettes, sexual relations, skipping classes, gang fights, using drugs, gambling and selling drugs respectively. Besides these, running away from home, cheating on examinations, stealing money from family and damaging property were also important delinquencies committed by juveniles. The lowest ranked delinquencies included stealing money from people and buying stolen goods respectively. These differences are the socio-economic, cultural and religious differences between both countries (Table 3).

#### 3.3 Results of t-test for differences in delinquent behavior of Juveniles

T-test was used to compare the means of delinquent behavior among juveniles in the protection centers in Karachi and Bangkok to indicate whether the means of the two independent samples are unequal (significantly different) or equal (not significantly different). The results of t-test indicated significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) differences in all selected indicators of delinquent behavior except sold drugs, used drugs, cheated on examinations, runaway from homes, smoking cigarettes and gambling (Table 4).

#### 3.4 Results of Regression Analysis

Table 5 shows the results of regression analysis. The dependent variable was the delinquent behavior of the juveniles. The independent variables included the significant factors selected from the bivariate analysis. The Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression was employed to explore how the factors affect delinquent behavior. The results of regression analysis were obtained by using the 'enter method' in SPSS 22. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for Pakistan was 0.467, while for Thailand it was 0.507. The  $R^2$  for total sample was 0.394.

In the case of Pakistan, defect from school, self-control, use of drugs, having time schedule for activities, and peer influence in crimes were significant factors of juveniles' delinquent behavior. Defect from the school had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) and positive ( $\beta$ -coefficient=4.688) relationship with the delinquent behavior of the juvenile. Keeping other variables constant, a unit increase in defect of schools will change

**Table 2** Socio-demographic characteristics of the juveniles

Characteristics	Pakistan		Thailand		Chi-Square p-value
	f	%	f	%	
<i>Gender</i>					
Female	7	8.0	0	0.0	0.007**
Male	80	92.0	87	100	
<i>Age (in years)</i>					
11 - 15	23	26.4	13	14.9	0.061
16 -18	64	73.6	74	85.1	
Mean age	16.61		16.23		
<i>Birth order</i>					
Eldest	25	28.7	35	40.2	0.070
Middle	36	41.4	22	25.3	
Youngest	26	29.9	30	34.5	
<i>Education</i>					
Illiterate	49	56.3	3	3.4	0.000**
Primary	16	18.4	30	34.5	
Junior High School	12	13.8	47	54.0	
Senior High School	10	11.5	7	8.0	
<i>Religion</i>					
Islam	83	95.4	7	8.0	0.000**
Buddhism	0	0.0	80	92.0	
Christianity	4	4.6	0	0.0	
<i>Guardian</i>					
Natural Parents	78	89.7	71	81.6	0.005**
Step Parents	0	0.0	5	5.7	
Grand Parents	1	1.1	8	9.2	
Uncle	8	9.2	3	3.4	
<i>Family size (numbers)</i>					
< 5	30	34.5	55	63.2	0.000**
5 - 10	47	54.0	30	34.5	
>10	10	11.5	2	2.3	
<i>Family type</i>					
Extended	16	18.4	35	40.2	0.000**
Nuclear	71	81.6	48	55.2	
Missing	0	0.0	4	4.6	
Total	87	100	87	100	

Source: Primary Data, 2015,

Significance levels: P<0.05\*; P<0.01\*\*

**Table 3** Differences in delinquent behavior of juveniles of Pakistan and Thailand (Multiple responses)

#	Type of behaviors					
	Pakistan	f	%	Thailand	f	%
1	Smoking cigarettes	295	20.2	Smoking cigarettes	334	20.0
2	Used drugs	201	13.8	Sexual relations	286	17.2
3	Damaged property	147	10.1	Skipped classes	183	11.0
4	Stolen money from family	124	8.5	Involved in gang fights	168	10.1
5	Practiced gambling	120	8.2	Used drugs	164	9.8
6	Run away from home	106	7.3	Practiced gambling	150	9.0
7	Skipped classes	81	5.6	Sold drugs	117	7.0
8	Involved in gang fights	80	5.5	Run away from home	85	5.1
9	Stolen Money from people	79	5.4	Cheated on examination	52	3.1
10	Bought stolen goods	77	5.3	Stolen money from family	49	2.9
11	Cheated on examination	64	4.4	Damaged property	40	2.4
12	Sold drugs	43	3.0	Stolen Money from people	24	1.4
13	Sexual relations	40	2.7	Bought stolen goods	15	0.9
	Total Responses	1457	100		1667	100

Source: Primary data, 2015

**Table 4** Results of t-test for differences in delinquent behavior of Juveniles

Type of Delinquent Behavior	Mean		tt-test	P-value
	Pakistan	Thailand		
Damaged property	1.69	0.46	5.059	0.000*
Stolen money from other people	1.43	0.56	3.644	0.000*
Stolen money from family	0.91	0.28	3.648	0.000*
Bought stolen goods	0.89	0.17	3.715	0.000*
Involved in gang fights	0.92	1.93	-3.837	0.000*
Sexual relation	0.46	3.29	-11.537	0.000*
Sold drugs	0.49	1.34	-3.403	0.001*
Used drugs	2.31	1.89	1.299	0.196
Cheated on examinations	0.74	0.60	0.663	0.508
Run away from home	1.22	0.98	1.062	0.290
Skipped classes	0.93	2.10	-3.985	0.000*
Smoke cigarettes	3.39	3.84	-1.480	0.141
Practiced gambling	1.40	1.72	-1.081	0.281

Source: Primary data, 2015

Note: † t-test

Significance level: \* =  $P < 0.01$

the delinquent behavior by 4.688 units. The relationship was found significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Self-control had a significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) and negative association ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -5.974) with juveniles' delinquent behavior.

Similarly, use of drugs and intoxicants had a significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) and positive relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = 4.894) with the delinquent behavior of the juveniles. Daily time schedule for activities had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) negative relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -4.439) with the delinquent behavior of the juvenile. Moreover, the peer influence in crimes had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) and a positive relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = 4.924) with the delinquent behavior of the juveniles.

In the case of Thailand, self-control, family type, having time schedule for activities, and character of friends were significant factors of juveniles' delinquent behavior. Self-control had a significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) and negative relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -9.469) with the delinquent behavior of the juvenile. Keeping other variables constant, a unit increase in self-control will drop the delinquent behavior by 9.469 units. Family type had a significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) and negative relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -7.651) with juveniles' delinquent behavior. Likewise, daily time schedule for activities had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) negative relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -4.080) with the delinquent behavior. Lastly, the character of friends had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) and negative relationship ( $\beta$ -coefficient = -2.544) with the delinquent behavior.

In the case of total sample, defect from school, self-control, use of drugs, family type, having time schedule for activities, character of friends and peer influence in crimes were significant factors of juveniles' delinquent behavior.

**Table 5** Results of regression analysis

Variables	Pakistan		Thailand		Total	
	$\beta$	P-value	$\beta$	P-value	$\beta$	P-value
<i>Personal factors</i>						
Defect from School	4.688	0.038*	1.244	0.624	3.375	0.021*
Self-control	-5.974	0.006**	-9.469	0.000**	-6.677	0.000**
Use of drugs and Intoxicants	9.407	0.000**	0.081	0.967	4.617	0.002**
<i>Family factors</i>						
Family type	2.119	0.411	-7.651	0.000**	-3.638	0.018*
Mother supervision	-0.022	0.994	-1.017	0.665	-0.008	0.996
Parental supervision	1.145	0.709	-1.607	0.496	-0.641	0.736
Time schedule for activities	-4.439	0.029*	-4.080	0.043*	-4.859	0.001**
<i>Community factors</i>						
Having peer group	-0.481	0.904	3.417	0.437	0.867	0.768
Character of friends	-0.746	0.446	-2.544	0.015*	-1.716	0.016*
Peer influence in crimes	4.924	0.043*	1.560	0.470	3.095	0.045*
Friends schooling status	-1.074	0.593	-1.741	0.539	-1.184	0.453
Friends criminal history	4.211	0.145	1.898	0.305	2.416	0.118
(Constant)	11.534	0.060	39.960	0.000	27.145	0.000
R Square	0.467		0.507		0.394	
Adjusted R Square	0.381		0.428		0.349	

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Significance levels:  $P < 0.05^*$ ;  $P < 0.01^{**}$

Note:  $\beta$  = beta-coefficients

#### 4. DISCUSSION

This study aimed at exploring the juveniles' delinquent behavior and the associated factors in Pakistan and Thailand. The results showed significant differences in the delinquent behaviors between juveniles in Pakistan and Thailand. Similarly, differences were also found in the personal, family and community factors between juveniles in Pakistan and Thailand. The results obtained through regression analysis showed that delinquent behavior was significantly influenced by personal, family and community factors. With regards to delinquent behavior, among Pakistani juveniles, smoking cigarettes, using drugs, damaging property and stealing money from family, whereas, among Thai juveniles, smoking cigarettes, having sexual relations, skipping classes and gang fights were the leading delinquent behaviors. Likewise, in the case of Pakistan, defection from school, self-control, drug use, lack of daily activities schedule and peer influence were significant factors of delinquency. For Thai juveniles, delinquent behavior was significantly influenced by self-control, family type, lack of daily activities schedule and character of friends.

The findings of this study showed that defect from the school had a significant and positive influence on juveniles' delinquent behavior. The current findings are in agreement with findings of [Palmore \(1967\)](#) who reported that delinquency was significantly associated with the juveniles drop out of school. Our findings are also in line with [Sweeten et al. \(2009\)](#) who reported that strong correlation between delinquency and dropout after comparing the juveniles who dropped out with those who did not. Furthermore, our results support those of [Cardoso et al. \(2013\)](#) who after conducting the school survey outcomes in Portugal reported that juvenile with negative school integration have higher chances of involvement in delinquent behavior. Lastly, this study supports the findings of [Haider and Mahsud \(2010\)](#) who reported that school dropout play a critical role in the adoption of delinquent behavior by juveniles in Pakistan.

The finding of this study revealed that self-control had significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) negative relationship with the delinquent behavior among juveniles both in Pakistan and Thailand. The findings of this study are in agreement with the findings of [Kausar et al. \(2012\)](#) who reported that the delinquency in juveniles in Pakistan is caused by the personality traits such as depression, hypochondriasis, schizophrenia, and psychopathic deviate. Similarly, the findings of this study support those of [Meier et al. \(2008\)](#) who reported that the delinquent behavior of male and female juveniles were having association with agitation, and emotional senselessness and are in agreement with those of [Williams \(2004\)](#) who reported that the criminal behavior among juveniles is the outcome of mental conflicts.

With regards to use of drugs, the findings of our study showed that the use of drugs and intoxicants had a significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) positive relationship with the delinquent behavior of the juveniles in Pakistan. The findings of this study are similar with the findings of [Aowsuwan \(2007\)](#) who reported that drug abuse is the major cause of delinquent behavior among juveniles. Similarly, these also supports the findings of [Levine and Coupey \(2003\)](#) who reported the association of youth engaging in substance use and sexual risk behaviors. Likewise, the findings of our study are also in agreement with the findings of [Mahmood and Cheema \(2004\)](#) who reported that drug use, sexual assault, honor killing, and illiteracy were the major factors responsible for juvenile delinquency.

The findings of this study showed that family type was the significant predictor of the delinquent behavior of Thai juveniles. However, in the case of Pakistan, the influence of family type of insignificant.

The findings of this study revealed significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) negative relationship between lack of daily time schedule of activities at home and delinquent behavior in both Pakistan and Thailand. The findings of this study are in agreement with the findings of [Qazi \(2011\)](#) who highlighted the role of strong family

supervision in controlling the delinquent behavior in Pakistan. Similarly, the findings of this study supports the findings of [Blackburn \(1993\)](#)<sup>b</sup> and [Demuth and Brown \(2004\)](#)<sup>b</sup> who have mentioned that parental negligence and inappropriate attention towards their children are the potential causes of delinquency in children.

The findings of present study revealed that character of friends had a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) negative relationship, and the influence of friends in crimes with the delinquent behavior of the juveniles. These findings are in agreement with the those of [Haider and Mahsud \(2010\)](#)<sup>d</sup> who reported that criminal friends play a vital role in the adoption of criminal behavior among juveniles. Similarly, with our findings support those of [Aoulakh \(1999\)](#), [Haider and Mahsud \(2010\)](#)<sup>e</sup> and [Narkvichetr \(2008\)](#)<sup>b</sup> who reported that the influence of criminal peer on delinquent behavior by juveniles.

This study had a few limitations. The first among them was the difficulty in dealing with the juvenile delinquents because few of them used to deny the continuation of interviews. The reason for their discontinuity and boring attitude included shyness and introverted behavior. Few of them denied to continue the interview, which were then replaced with other randomly selected juveniles. Some of the juveniles provided contradictory information which were triangulated with the record of the protection centers. The authenticity of self-reported information about delinquent behavior remained a challenging limitation.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The present study found significant differences in juveniles' delinquent behavior as well as in the personal, family and community factors affecting their delinquent behavior. The results showed significant differences in the delinquent behaviors between juveniles in Pakistan and Thailand. Among Pakistani juveniles, smoking cigarettes, using drugs, damaging property and stealing money from family, whereas, smoking cigarettes, having sexual relations, skipping classes and gang fights were the leading delinquent behaviors among Thai juveniles. In the case of Pakistan, defection from school, self-control, drug use, lack of daily activities schedule and peer influence were significant factors of delinquency. For Thai juveniles, delinquent behavior was significantly influenced by self-control, family type, lack of daily activities schedule and character of friends. Differences in type of delinquent behavior among juveniles of both countries reflect the effects of socio-economic and cultural differences of the selected countries-Pakistan and Thailand. The findings suggest that socio-economic and environmental factors drive the patterns and causes of delinquency, therefore, they may be given importance in combating delinquency. Policymakers, law enforcement agencies and parents should promote strategies for reducing delinquency among juveniles keeping in view the local socio-economic and cultural perspectives.

The focus of current research was exploring delinquency through quantitative techniques. However, future research may employ qualitative methods for in depth analysis of the issue.

### Policy implications

The majority of the juveniles in the selected cities of both counties were illiterate or having a low level of education. Policymakers should focus on the issue of school dropout and start some special programs for the education of illiterate juveniles. One of a good example is set by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan on 21 November 2015, by starting a juvenile protection center titled, "*Zamung Kor*" - Our Home - for helping the street children by providing education and skill training. The ratio of drug use was alarming among juveniles in both of the countries. Thus, need the attention of the police and anti-narcotics departments to collaborate with other related departments to control the use of drugs. Parental care and monitoring play an important role in juveniles' protection. Apart from using electronic

and social media, the Government Organization (GOs) in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should take serious steps for initiating parental awareness campaigns in order to spread awareness about parental duties in the process of children development, protection and rehabilitation.

## DECLARATIONS

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**Author Contributions:** Dr. Sanaullah Panezai wrote the article. Hidayatullah Panezai designed the study and collected data from the Juvenile Protection Centers both at Bangkok and Thailand. Professor. Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan supervised the writing process of research. Dr. Shahab E Saqib assisted in statistical analysis.

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**Ethical considerations:** This study was approved by the examination committee, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. Prior to conduct the surveys, written permissions were obtained from Director, Juvenile Observation and Protection Center, Bangkok, Thailand and Home Secretary, Government of Sindh, for collecting data from juveniles at Juveniles Offender and Rehabilitation School Karachi. To protect the privacy of juveniles, their names were de-identified by giving codes.

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