

## Analysis of the Communal Attitudes Concerning Police System and Policing in Pakistan

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### ABSTRACT

Police system and policing are diverse concepts having multiple specifications and complexities in association with law implementation. However, the current study has been delimited to the attitude of community concerning police and policing in District Dir Lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The sample for the current study has been drawn from diverse community classified into three main categories i.e. lawyers, offenders and general community members of age 20 and above. The empirical data was collected from 200 using convenient/purposive sampling approach because the exact population of the three strata was unknown. Further, structured interview schedule was used as a tool of data collection. Besides, apart from the manual handling of the data, computer and statistical package especially SPSS was carefully utilized to process and analyze the data. The information reveal that police and policing have been influenced by elite class have been held responsible for negative perception of people. The study suggest that if police perform their due role and function for collective benefits, public will be satisfied and expect more from police positively in spite of fear and hesitation.

**KEY WORDS:** Police, Policing, Community, Racism, Elitism, Economic Orientation.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### Background of Study

Police is a public institution accountable for crime detection and deterrence as well as to maintain the rule of law (Otwin, & Dilip, 2000). As an organization, police system and policing communicates meanings through temperament of law and its execution which is expressed as *category of thought and affect* (Banas, & Robert, 1985). Police and policing lessen nervousness, create hope, maintain law and order to bring social control which connects the social life of community. Further, police are observed as perfect agents and establishment of the community while individuals considered them to reinforce ethical arrangements (Brown, 1997). According to (Charrier, 2000), police must not presents themselves only like a simple guard of society but shall be invariably and vigorously busy in formation and rehabilitation of civilization through law and order implementation.

Research studies point out that the achievement of police needs both advancement of their training and skills, awareness and well equipped backing and political support (Cheema, 2011). According to Eck, & Rosenbaum, (1994), police must goes beyond a rash force which will respond to committed crimes and they must be more practical towards those evils and circumstances that interfere public interest and peace of life. Similarly, the researcher also argued that through expanded and direct contact of police with citizens, generally on a schedule and informal basis, it assists to solve crimes and arrest lawbreakers. Further, in the view of Khan, (2012), police are the first who respond towards any break of law in civilization while according to Ilhan, (2006), police all over the world are trying desperately to measure up the task of prevention and detection of crimes. Police are responsible for positively representing state authority, their behavior toward citizens plays a critical role in promoting respectable attitudes among the public. Good relations with citizens can help the police in humanizing trust, while aggressive or rude relations can aggravate antagonism, criminality and even terrorism specifically in youth (Ilhan, 2010). Besides, a number of research studies have recommended reforms in policing towards professionalization at governmental level which resulted in the separation of the police from the community (Banas & Robert, 1985).

Research has indicated that civilization expects police to be reactive to emergency as well to respond to non-emergency by holding fairness and justice impartially (Eck & Rosenbaum, 1994). Moreover, concerning schedule and activities of police, confidence of public has been lost because of group values and community norms

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are regularly found deteriorating. In this regard, the study of Taylor, (2003) has enveloped that elimination of crime from society need public cohesion and integral sense of living (Foucault concept of control). Similarly, police are the assessing political government and status quo directly or indirectly and the core noticeable figure and force to help out their government. Up to greater extent, police actions and manner are indeed the outcome and reflection of political, economic, racial and capitalist societies (Shelden, 2001).

As for as police and policing in Pakistan is concerned, the British maintainers shape Pakistan Criminal Justice System which performs like an ancestor to understand police system and policing of current era (Reiner,1978). In the context of Pakistani police system and policing, generally they are perceived as dishonest and corrupt, the government has prioritized reforms of police, and other law enforcement agencies but still the police force is one of the country's few institutions in which internal reforms effort are actually underway (Finn, 2001). The policing culture of Pakistan had foundation in colonial structure to serve elite class while the masses remained neglected. In this regard, public opinion also suggests that political interference had affected the police performance and instead of public servant they are a representative of sovereign and elite (Malik, 1997). Moreover, political hold and elitism in the country has made police unable to sustain law keeping while the same classes also are held responsible for exploitation of the police force. In this context, according to Policy Outlook (2010), the Pakistan political royals are enjoying high protocols, security services and common masses have been on the verge of their own risk, which is aggravating a negative propagation against the police and police system in the country.

### **The Study Rationale**

Crimes and other evils alter ethical system and hinder development and people search for counter department and agencies of social control to secure life standard and better achievement through collective values and defense as well by producing ethical standards (Docking, 2003). Since independence in 1947, when Pakistan was visualized, the inborn management left greater planning on shoulder of its administration as well upon people (Johnson,1996). The police background had the colonial basis and approach, prospered in the independent Pakistan as the privileged became neo-colonial-masters and police failed to develop into a service to the people (Jackson, et. al. 2009). Police sustained to serve those at the helm of associations while the masses remain ignored; preference was usually given to those who mattered and this capture of state is beyond significant basis that why excellent control and governance is delays (Malik, 1997). In current capitalist society elitisms, racism and class difference have segregated the influential from underprivileged poor and making of policies are limited to those influential only that have made it. In this regard, police of Pakistan have not been costumed as a civil servant but only representing independent and influential class of society (Ayub, 2009). This widespread employ of police on individual instructions of the ruling leaders corroded the previously shambled organizational potency of police (Hough, & Roberts, 2004). Again, the power culture and domination by no means come from common people but forever stand like the fundamental right of upper group class. Finally, instead to develop and support common masses, police became share holder with elite class in such a dirty system which convert police and police department from service oriented to class and force oriented specifically in our country Pakistan (Greene, & Stephan,1988).

Studies argue that the way citizens think about police system and policing is being altered (Huang, & Vaughn, 1996). Police have vanished from holy blessed<sup>1</sup> (a settled and clear picture department in which police had an iconic position) to blasphemous<sup>2</sup> where once police department and personnel had holy and uniqueness-behavior concerning life of people but now the system had moved and communal assurance and confidence is almost uncertain (Moore, & Darrel,1991). Besides, the police service itself has modified from a narrow and local set of police force to a complex bureaucratic organization where the public may see the police as less visible and accessible than they once were (Chow, 2012). Apart from the above, police have strongly spoiled their name and fame due to every day cases of maltreatment; dishonesty and corruption while public suggest police to be equal to no existence (Dawn News, 2013). Police system and policing in essence is the alliance between police and community that identifies and solves community problems (Allevato, 1989). Police are the only guardians regarding maintenance of law and order having strong coordination and bond with community for safety, protection and welfare of society in which all community members seems like stake holder. Moreover, such policing has a broad and extensive allegation, their roles are to avoid and control the crimes as well as to make community dwellers participant observer in said process in order to make society crime free and resolve conflict and problems (American Association of Retired Persons 1983).

<sup>1</sup> Those aspects of social reality that are set apart and deemed forbidden.

<sup>2</sup> The every day, the common place, the utilitarian and the mundane aspects of life.

In fact police is a great force striving and applying all means composed of economic, political and other social to get community submissive one (Behan, 1990). Analyzing the ideal and real picture of police in Pakistani, it is obvious that the police system has roots in British colonial system, mostly influenced by the elite and influential class. The system remains same and still police continued to serve those at the controls of affairs while the common masses remained neglected. The current study thus aims to highlight and explain the phenomenology of police with the citizens in while illuminating the various facets of the police system from public point of view. In addition, the study will also focus on the attitudes and judgment of public towards police role and performance in the implementation of law and bringing social order and control in society. More specifically, the study focuses on the following main objectives:

**Study Objectives:**

- To identify public perception concerning the use of police authority and function
- To study the degree and level of satisfaction of local community about police and policing

**Hypotheses of the Study**

- 1- Racism, class system and economic orientation affect police functions negatively
- 2- The involvement of police in elite services, lesser would be satisfaction level of common people

**METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

The current study has been systematically attempted about identifying public attitudes concerning police function and policing while supporting a particular class, race or elite in society. Particularly, the field information has been obtained in District Dir Lower from general public & experts who had some wisdom and knowledge on the issue of policing in the region. As the nature of the study is quantitative, therefore, data has been collected from 200 male samples on the basis of purposive/convenient sampling from the selected population of three categories i.e. Lawyers, Offenders and Community members. As the population of the study was unknown, therefore purposively/conveniently data is obtained from 30 Lawyers (N1) 77 Offenders (N2), and 93 common people (N3) who have administered cases in police stations in Tehsil courts of Adenzai and Timergara using interview schedule as tool of data collection. The collected information is analyzed through SPSS and Chi-Square test is used for the verification of hypotheses while the data is presented in the form descriptive statistics i.e. frequency, percentage; while summarization and description of numerical information was made in the form of range, mean, variance, standard deviation. However, in inferential statistics, generalization is made with the help of chi-square, and correlation in order to test the hypotheses. Moreover, the collected information has been narrated under various headings with the support of diagrams.

**DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

**Race, Class and Policing: A Public Response**

The literature evidently shows that police deliver both force and services not limited to one or few groups of the society or based upon race and class (Alexander, 2000). Studies have explained that the elite class and racially strong background people felt greater satisfaction of police services as compare to lower class people experiences. Recent migration shifts have modified the relationship among citizens and police and a huge difference is found in relation to police with ethnic minorities and dominant community (Hall, 1991). Similarly, the police force has an additional range of discretionary authority and power for criminal target to implement law and to make public law obedient (Brown, 1997). However, such power of police is controversial, especially for minorities and lower class it does nothing, except of teasing and damaging ethnic groups relations with police (NACRO, 1997). In the context of the secondary data, the literary discussion shows black race are somewhat less satisfied with police action and they perceive police to be unfair to certain groups and therefore not surprisingly, are less willing to co-operate with the police than white race people (Foucault, 1977). Besides, racism and racial violence is found common throughout police history and according to Bowling (1999), during the 80s, priority was given on emergency basis to police authorities, local authorities, home offices and other governmental agencies to study racial violence in policing. The findings concludes that whenever a case related to lower class is registered with police, it is dealt as rubbish such reports are considered as not worthy for investigation. Further, the most common complaint among those who were dissatisfied from police response which to Bowling &Phillips (2003) is the police failed to ‘do enough’ and failed to keep the victim informed and seemed to have no interest. Only a very small minority generally are very satisfied with the way in which racist harassment is dealt by police force (Freeman,1989). Thus, from secondary analysis, it is obviously analyzed and debated that the police are confined to investigation and treatment of the people on the basis

of available stratification in the form of class, caste and race. Similarly, such strata in many situations is the leading factor in generating social disequilibrium, inequalities and distrust among people. The analysis of the field data as obtained from different categories of people is also reported and presented in the following table in the form of frequency and percentages. Such analysis also indicates that the police force is bound to treat people on the basis of basis of inequalities i.e. race, class and other economic backgrounds (See Table-1) below:

**Table-1: Race, Class and Policing: A Public Response Analysis**

Categories	Statements	F	%	C.P
C1	Due to incentive from upper class	45	22.5	22.5
C2	Antagonistic attitude towards a specific group	18	9.0	31.5
C3	Because of personal prejudice and hate	21	10.5	42.0
C4	Police have been made by the upper class	49	24.5	66.5
C5	Due to lack of accountability in police	23	11.5	78.0
C6	Political pressure from elite class	28	14.0	92.0
CT	Total	200	100.0	

Source: Field Information

The analysis of the field data (as given above) regarding the response of the public towards the impact of race and class on policing system in the area shows that policing in the locality is dependent on class and racial basis and it is much overt that police system is much dependent upon upper and elite class due to multiple reasons. In this context, the reasons of why police are attracted towards elites and upper class people have been analyzed from local and public perspective and the tabular data demonstrate that 45 respondents (22.5%) of the target population agreed upon the statement that the dealing of police reflect class base treatment with the public while such treatment is for getting incentives from upper class as denoted by C1 in the table. Police also have an antagonistic attitudes towards specific ethnic group i.e. 18 (9.0%) of the respondents were found in favor of the statement as denoted by C2. Similarly, 21(10.5%) of respondents were of the opinion that police also have personal prejudice and hate to deal public on class and race basis which is a great stigma on their professionalism. Further, different studies have extracted that police have been made by the upper class for their services and still working for the elite and upper class of the society where the mentioned statement is supported by majority 49 (24.5%) of the research sample (denoted by C4). Yet another factor is the lack of accountability system in police by the public and 23 (11.5%) of respondents support the notion in the table (given in C5) and even the political pressure on police is geared by the political elite is supported by 28(14%) respondents denoted by C6. The views of the public and its analysis thus reflect that police system is more subjugated towards race and class system and thus neglect the middle and lower class people of the society, which is producing a distrust, and lack of confidence among public.

The application of Chi-Square test further shows a strong association among the tested variables. The test is significant on the value of  $(P=.000^{***} < .05)$  with D.F=36 while the chi square value is  $x^2 = 7.00$  where such association falls in the accepted region. The given test is thus validating the hypothesis.

**Chi-Square Results for Public Response on Class and Race Based Policing**

Variables	Chi-Square	D.F	P-Value	Conclusion
Pearson Chi-Square	7.00	36	.000	Significant
No of Valid Cases	200	-	-	-

The result of correlation has also been given in table below for the given hypothesis.

**Correlation Results for Table-1**

The given variables		Police system and policing	Police system and policing
Public Response on Class and Race Based Policing	Pearson Correlation	1	.966**
	Sig.(2-tailed)	-	.000
	No of cases	200	200
Association of police with Economic specialization in modern era	Pearson Correlation	.966**	1
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	-
	No of cases	200	200

The results of correlation further reveal a significant association among the given indicators at the 0.01 level  $r(200) = 0.966^{**}$ ;  $p < .01$ .  $r^2 = 0.96$ . In this case, at least 96% of the variance is shared and supporting the validity of the given hypothesis as well.

**Police, Policing, and Control of Dominant Class in Society**

The historical evidences regarding the development of police institution shows that police as a system has been created by the upper and dominant class of the society. Similarly, it is evident from the findings that the devising of the policing is to serve the elites and to safeguard their vested and personal interest (Frey, 2011). In this context, it has been argued that the dominance of a particular social or economic class influence the efficiency and work of police and police organization in most of the third world countries (Goldstein,1979). Additionally, not only the formal behavior but also even the discretionary power is affected by a class of people to a major extent (Brown, 1997). Further, the hold of the class system it damaging the identity of police system and the relation of the common people as well (NACRO, 1997). The field information and their analysis regarding the hold of class system has been given in table-2 below, where the discussion indicates that public opinion also demonstrate that the police system is strongly influenced by a dominant class ideology.

**Opinion of the respondents regarding creation of police institution by dominant class**

Categories	Statements	F	%	C.P
C1	Research population who are not in favor of dominant class for police creation	14	7.0	7.0
C2	An instrument for preservation of its control over basic resources	31	15.5	22.5
C3	Over political apparatus governing this access	29	14.5	37.0
C4	Over the labor force	23	11.5	48.5
C5	Over the necessities to provide surplus upon which dominant class live	26	13.0	61.5
C6	For changing the rules in favor of dominant class	22	11.0	86.5
C7	For dominant class security	28	14.0	75.5
C8	Separation of elite class from common people	27	13.5	100.0
CT	Total	200	100.0	

Source: Field Information

Similarly, the statistical data in the table also provides the reader with such information in the research area and different approaches have been collected. In this concern, out of 200 respondents only 14( 07%) research population are not agree with the mentioned statement and said police have not been created by dominant class denoted by C1 while the rest of the sample size agreed in one way or the other. Among the agreed respondents 31 people being (15.5%) reflects police as a legal instrument of elite and dominant class for preservation and control over basic resources, while 29 respondents being (14.5%) of the total mentioned police as political apparatus for governing access to the resources as denoted by C2 & C3. Besides, 23 being (11.5%) of the sample size perceived police has been created by the dominant class for controlling of labor force and 26 respondents being (13%) perceived police creation for provision of surplus necessities upon which dominant class live as denoted by C4 & C5. Further, the information in the table constitutes police have been made for creation and changing the rules of law in the favor of dominant class and supported by 22 (11%) respondents denoted by C6. Moreover, dominant class security is also one of the important issues especially in our country Pakistan and regarding this issue 28 respondents being (14%) were of the opinion that police have made by dominant class for their own security. Following the research questions and variables in the table 27 being (13%) of the total respondents accept police have been created by the emerging dominant class for their security, protocol and to make them separated and distinguished from common people as denoted by C8.

**Chi-Square results for Hypothesis**

Variables	Chi-Square	D.F	P-Value	Conclusion
Pearson Chi-Square	8.21	42	.000	Significant
No of Valid Cases	200	-	-	-

The tabulated value for the chi-square test also shows that the given association is strong one with respect to the variables i.e. between involvement of police in elite services, public satisfaction and police system and policing. The value of the test is also significant i.e.  $(P=.000^{***} < .05)$  with D.F=42 whereas the same result for

square value is  $\chi^2 = 8.21$ . Further, the chi-square value and the association fall in the region of acceptance and thus confirm the given hypothesis as valid and authentic. The relationship of the mentioned variable has also been defected in table as;

#### Correlation results for Hypothesis

		Police system and policing	Police system and policing
The change in police relation from kinship to a class dominated society	Pearson Correlation	1	.965**
	Sig.(2-tailed)	-	.000
	No of cases	200	200
Opinion of the respondents regarding the creation of police institution by dominant class	Pearson Correlation	.965**	1
	Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	-
	No of cases	200	200

In the case as mention above, the results in the form of correlation reveals a significant association at the 0.01 level  $r(200) = 0.965^{**}$ ;  $p < .01$ .  $r^2 = 0.96$ . Further, in such a case, 96% of the variance is shared reflecting that the association and the relationship is strong with respect to the information as well as test statistics.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Police system and policing are very broad concepts and carry diverse connotations with reference to the law and its proper implementation. The current study, nevertheless, has been delimited to the study of communal attitude towards Police system and policing and its concomitant association with the existence or lack of harmony and peace in society. The prime objective of this study has been to come up with a scientific explanation of policing in local cultural terms i.e. knowing the public expectation regarding police as well as knowledge about how police use their authority. The study also aimed at offering a brief explanation of the satisfaction level of common people regarding police system and policing. In addition, the study attempted to decide on the most appropriate methodology in order to ensure the best possible scientific results. In this regard, hypotheses formulation was made sure at the very outset. In the light of literature, as well objectives given and discussed above, it become very clear that police do not responds to crimes to make society prosperous and if they do responds, it is limited. A great amount research base verification indicates that governmental reposes given to crimes and other social problems are almost meaningless and have no such influence over social control. The common response of government includes:

- Appointing and hiring of more and more police officers
- Utilization of traditional policing in the form of patrolling
- Manual investigation manner and quick responses to all events and happening
- Follow up of criminals etc

Moreover, it would be wrong to say that the above mentioned policies or changes have nor importance but government should create all those effective strategies and law which satisfy the expectation and thirst of public safety which are still under perform in our country Pakistan. Similarly, the local government officials and elected members need to fulfill their commitment of public safety by providing good policing. Of course, a lot of pressure and criticism would generate if these policies failed but it would be deal with modesty. On the other hand, for effective police and policing community collaboration is needed direly because irrespective of police huge training and providing major resources as well power police is defendant upon the strong support of and help of communal people in order to bring fair and effective control. The support of community is necessary due to some major findings and reasons like the strength of police personnel on duty is minimum and less then citizen's imagines even police can not provides their physical appearance in all places of the society. Police authority, great as it is for certain tasks, is often relatively inadequate compared with what people expect of police as well as police cannot captured and control directly all conditions and disorder of community. Police abs authority ash is founded in part, of course, on what the law grants, but the extents to which police can effectively use their legal authority heavily depends on the public's support of and trust in the police, which police must constantly strive to cultivate and sustain.

## Recommendations

On basis of research findings, the following policy recommendations are made:

- Community mobilization for advocacy needs to be enhanced
- Developing skills regarding negotiations and arbitration among public to solve conflicts
- General information awareness method (e.g., to reduce exaggerated fear, to generate public awareness)
- Awareness and avoiding of those factors which contributes to create problems
- To inform people concerning the limits of police power and authority
- Establishment of such a physical environment in which opportunities for problems happening is reduce
- Civil laws enforcement
- Effective and well flourished conditions of probation and bail
- Moreover, Police must develop effective planning's and policies, protocols as well working interaction with all of the above systems. As a local government officials the officers must keep large amount of influence over relations, interdependency of inter departmental works as well as having influence over other systems through which you can encourage or promote good relations with your police agency.

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