
Investigating the Role of Radicalization and Parenting in Delinquent Behavior Among Youth

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Original Article

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Abstract

The current study explores the impact of radicalization and parenting on delinquent behavior in youth from Swat (KP), Pakistan. A correlational research design was used in this study, data was collected from 100 male participants. Participants were aged 18-34 years. These participants were from similar cultural backgrounds. They all experienced delinquent behavior. They were approached by (District Swat) KP. Three standardized instruments were applied in this study, including the Extremism Scale, Parenting Style Scale, and Delinquent Behavior Scale. Results revealed a significant positive correlation between parenting and delinquent behavior but no significant relationship between radicalization and delinquent behavior. These results emphasise the critical impact of parenting in shaping youth behavior and offer localized insights for preventive interventions.

Introduction

Scholars of securitization and criminology disagree on the topic of radicalization. While some claim that discontent and vulnerability are the primary reasons for radicalization, others argue that the Jihadi-Salafi ideology, which seeks to purify Islam, is the driving factor behind radicalization (Borum, 2011; Wiktorowicz, 2005; Bizina & Gray, 2014; Brown & Saeed, 2015). The notion of radicalization is vague, according to the opposing perspective, and is hard to interpret through religious and ethnic lenses (Coppock & McGovern, 2014; Heath-Kelly, 2013; Kundnani, 2015; Hussain & Bagguley, 2012). The discussion over radicalization is rife with disagreement. While the first school views this as a phased process, another school interprets these interpretations of the radicalization process as a narrative to show the safety of specific communities and religions (Sageman, 2006).

Radicalization and violent extremism are the main problems that countries worldwide are facing. According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), about 100,000 people were killed in terrorist attacks between 2014 and 2017 (Institute of Economics & Peace, 2018). Even while the annual number has been falling since its high in 2014 and the majority of assaults have occurred in the so-called MENA countries (Middle East & North Africa), a more thorough study on broader extremist views and behaviors has also garnered a lot of attention. The number surpassed 100 nations globally in 2017. For example, according to the German Domestic Intelligence Agency, politics or religion were the driving forces behind over 4,000 crimes in the country in 2017 (BMI, 2018). Additionally, recent systematic surveys have found that between 5 and 10% of Germans have a far-right worldview (Best et al., 2016; Zick, Küpper & Krause 2016).

According to some experts, the process of becoming enmeshed in an extremist mindset promotes the notion of a phase that culminates in the acceptance of terrorist actions. The four stages of radicalization—cognitive openness, religious searching, frame alignment, and socialization—are used by Wiktorowicz (2005) (King & Taylor, 2011). Starting with the cognitive opening, which could be a life crisis such as losing one's job, experiencing discrimination or victimization, or impressions from speaking with an Islamic extremist member or members, these steps are set off in sequential order. The first stage sets the foundation for the inculcation of worldviews pushed by the extreme organization through debate and discussions, while the second step is the religious searching that is triggered by the first stage. Comparing one's own beliefs with those promoted by extreme organizations is the aim at this point. This step differs from and is consistent with the group's current framework of expertise. The last stage is when the target has re-expressed his or her personal identity as a result of internalizing the group ideology. This individual formally became a member of the extreme group at this point (King & Taylor, 2011).

Researchers have been attempting to determine the traits of terrorists and the elements that raise the likelihood that someone will commit acts of terrorism for decades. Researchers and policymakers have concentrated on aspects including profiles, underlying causes, routes, and pathways over the years (Horgan 2008). However, radicalization—generally understood to be the process of developing attitudes and beliefs that may result in extreme actions, including terrorism—has received more attention in recent years. However, the majority of people with radical views will never take radical action and will remain passive forever, even if nearly everyone who engages in radical activities also holds radical beliefs (McCauley & Moskalenko, 2017; Neumann, 2013). We started our study with the premise that certain risk and protective factors explain why some radicalized persons go on to perform radical acts while the majority do not, drawing on viewpoints from criminology and psychology (Stern, 2016).

Despite being a very new and developing body of literature, radicalization research has become one of the most important subfields of terrorism studies (Neumann & Kleinmann, 2013). Even while researchers and policymakers have increasingly adopted a radicalization and counter-radicalization strategy, a number of fundamental issues still hinder the production of a coherent body of evidence. First, there are differing views on how to measure radicalization. Second, despite the fact that many risk factors have been systematically investigated, the varied and sometimes contradictory corpus of data has not been fully assessed (Bondokji et al., 2017). Third, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the relative significance or classification of risk and protective factors (Haggerty & Bucerius, 2018).

Objectives

The aim of present study is to know:

- i. The effect of radicalization on delinquent behavior in youth.
- ii. The effect of parenting on delinquent behavior in youth.

Hypotheses

H1 Parenting has significant effect on delinquent behavior.

H2 Radicalization has significant effect on delinquent behavior.

Literature Review

Many studies of online radicalization ignore the special role that the Internet can play in the lives of young people, and favour focusing on adult Internet use. Young people are perceived as the most capable on the Internet, which may also make them more vulnerable. Because they are the most frequent and experienced Internet users, it is difficult for others, such as parents, to monitor their online behavior (Livingstone & Bober 2004). Furthermore, young people behave differently on the Internet than adults, and this has a major impact on the results. In addition to visiting more non-political websites, young people are more likely to meet civic and political concerns online, which is consistent with Kahne et al. (2011).

It is crucial to remember that the development of a solid adult identity is one of the main objectives of the development of adolescents, a particularly young population. An individual gains

this identity within his social environment. Exploration of potential commitments and real commitments are two key steps in identity formation. These procedures give rise to an authentic identity (Meeus, 2011). In order to achieve an identity that has been achieved in adulthood, many people experience a state of moratorium in childhood, during which they are eager to experiment with ideas and identities in various contexts. Most people agree that the Internet can help adolescents through this process by providing them with social opportunities to try different identities (Valkenburg and Peter, 2008). Prior to the advent of the Internet, the development of identity was most common among classmates, family members, and students (Valkenburg & Peter, 2008). It is believed that teenagers are experimenting with potential identity commitments using the Internet. However, it is necessary to create a safe environment for adolescents to explore their identity (Schmidt, Jofé & Davar, 2010).

Normal and healthy growth of any person begins in the family. This family is the foundation of everyone, it is the house. By positive or negative reinforcement, the family shapes the fundamental ecology of child behavior in childhood (Dishion & Patterson, 2006). There is strong evidence that families contribute significantly to the development of adolescent criminality through inadequate strengthening techniques. Many studies have highlighted how important parent-child ties are to reducing the risk of crime (Gold 1963, Hirschi 1969, Bandura & Walters 1959, Glueck & Glueck 1962, Bachman 1970).

Few studies have examined the relationship between parental behaviour and crime, but most of these studies have found a link between parental behaviour and crime (Hove et al., 2009). In addition, the influence of the father is not taken into account in most studies, which focus exclusively on the involvement of the mother in the development of children (Simons & Conger, 2007). In order to understand the behaviour of adolescents, it is necessary to take into account the role played by mothers and fathers in raising children. It is worth investigating whether there is a connection between the gender of the parents and the potential relationship to crime (Simons & Conger, 2007).

When it comes to behavior, emotions, and the development of their children's cognitive, social, moral, and academic abilities, parents play a critical role in ensuring that their psychology is well-developed. Children who are not educated by their parents will suffer in the future and are more likely to engage in behavioral problems (Jose et al., 2017). This is because ineffective parenting skills and knowledge can lead to bad behavior in kids and disrupt the family system's normal functioning. Negative behaviors can also result from autocratic parenting, a rigid work schedule that prevents parents and kids from communicating, and a lack of consideration for the needs of kids. As a result, good parenting techniques are essential to preserving the integrity of family institutions and keeping kids out of trouble (Nurul Aini Binti Omar & Siti Marziah Zakaria, 2018).

A variety of abilities must work together in the complicated profession of parenting in order to affect children's behavior. One may argue that parents start forming their parenting philosophies even prior to the birth of their first child. Parents started to focus on the best parenting practices throughout the first year or two. Many academics point out that the most important factor in predicting child welfare is not specific methods of discipline but instead, the general parenting style (Darling & Steinberg, 1993). The parenting theory developed by Diana Baumrind is mostly used by researchers to try to explain these patterns. According to her, parenting strategies are used to record the common adjustments parents make in an effort to control and socialize their children. Two things are necessary in order to understand her concept of parenting methods. First of all, the types of parenting approaches do not cover deviant parenting styles such as abusive and/or negligent households. Second, presume that parents' main duty is to govern, teach, and guide their children (Baumrind, 1991a).

Parents are often considered responsible for the delinquent behavior of their children. Parents may even face punishment in certain courts for their children's antisocial behavior. Despite the assumption made by both academic and secular viewpoints, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions on the extent of the relationship between parenting and criminality. One of the main causes of this

difficulty is the variety of studies conducted in this field and their findings. The research is influenced by the types of crimes studied, the characteristics of parenting, the techniques for measuring these structures, and the demographics from which samples are drawn. In a series of meta-analyses, we gathered and synthesized previous studies on the connection between parenting and criminal activity. After determining whether parenting traits are associated with criminality, the second objective is to identify the moderating factors that affect the association between parenting and delinquency (Bessant & Hil 1998; Drakeford, 1996; Dundes, 1994).

Research on the relationship between criminality and family antecedents directly advances both theory and practice. Early models of social breakdown (Gove & Crutchfield 1982; Van Voorhis et al., 1988) and Hirschi's (1969) social bond model both place a strong emphasis on the family. Additional hypotheses, such as Moffitt's (1993, 2006) and Patterson's (Patterson & Yoerger 2002), to look into the age-related changes in delinquency rates as well as to explain the variance in crime rates. Children who exhibit difficult behaviors may receive harsher and more inconsistent punishments, and parental involvement in the socialization process may be reduced (Patterson 1982). The likelihood that these negative parent-child interactions may result in future delinquent behavior is increased (Moffitt 1993; Patterson & Yoerger, 2002).

Juvenile violence, criminality, and antagonism have increased throughout the last quarter of the 20th century, and the homicide rate among teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17 has nearly doubled (Loeber & Hay, 1997). In 2000, sixteen percent of those incarcerated for violent acts were young people under the age of eighteen. In the same year, they also made up around 32% of those jailed for property crimes (Snyder, 2002). Increased criminal behavior and externalization disorders in adolescence were linked to behavioral problems and grumpiness in early childhood. Disruptive kindergarten behavior predicts criminal behavior at years 11, 12, and 13 (Tremblay, Masse, Vitaro, & Dobkin, 1995), according to a study done on more than 1,000 French-Canadian boys.

In the Middle East, delinquency can take many different forms, including drug and firearm usage, sexual abuse, and stealing. Middle Eastern nations have experienced either internal conflicts or external territorial battles with their neighbors, according to Goldschmidt (2018). Juvenile crimes in the area are a result of the wars exposing young people to firearms (Connolly et al., 2017). The radicalization of young people by Middle Eastern-based terrorist organizations is another issue facing the area. Shoemaker (2018) asserts that young people's propensity to explore the unfamiliar makes them susceptible. Self-actualization and self-understanding are challenges for young people in the Middle East, delinquency can take many different forms, including drug and firearm usage, sexual abuse, and stealing. Middle Eastern nations have experienced either internal conflicts or external territorial battles with their neighbors, according to Goldschmidt (2018). Juvenile crimes in the area are a result of the wars exposing young people to firearms (Connolly et al., 2017). The radicalization of young people by Middle Eastern-based terrorist organizations is another issue facing the area. Shoemaker (2018) asserts that young people's propensity to explore the unfamiliar makes them susceptible. Self-actualization and self-understanding are challenges for the young people. A person's personality is composed of three triad traits—psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism—which often overlap. Patterson, DeBaryshe, and Ramsey (2017) claim that these three components are "dark" because they have negative characteristics.

Stacy et al. (1994) analyzed longitudinal data on smoking, marijuana use, alcohol use, eating habits, and drunk driving from five studies. They concluded that although there are strong cross-sectional relationships between attitudes and behavior, attitudes did not consistently or significantly influence behavioral changes in any of the cases. The relationship between delinquent behavior and attitudes has been the subject of numerous prospective studies in the field of criminology (Stacy et al., 1994).

Menard and Huizinga (1994), in their research of adolescents aged 11 to 17, found that for most teenagers, a decline in the belief that criminal action is wrong occurs before actual illegal behavior. For a number of age groups and both sexes, this link is strong. In a study involving 1,517

boys from North America, Zhang, Loeber, and Stouthamer-Loeber (1997) discovered that attitudes affected future delinquent conduct in boys between the ages of 10 and 12. In a sample of 141 Canadian federally incarcerated criminals, Simourd and Van de Ven (1999) demonstrated that views were strongly associated with delinquent behavior and had some predictive value for recidivism. These findings imply that attitudes influence future delinquent behavior in a subtle but consistent way (Van de Ven, 1999).

According to the cognitive dissonance theory, people usually strive to change their beliefs or conduct in order to reduce the discrepancy between their attitudes and behaviors (Festinger, 1957). According to Bem's (1972) theory, behavior impacts and reinforces attitudes rather than attitudes influencing behavior when the conduct is stable and rarely flexible. When it comes to habitual behavior, attitudes may not have much of an impact. Attitudes have little chance of forecasting conduct if people's patterns of behavior are rigid. Accordingly, the direction of attitude-behavior correlations depends on the respondent's experience with the conduct (Eagly & Chaiken, 1993).

Methodology

Sample

Through purposive sampling technique a total of N=100 participants were recruited. The sample contained only proportion of male participants.

Inclusion Criteria

- All of the participants were young.
- Their age ranges were from 18 to 34 years with similar cultural background.
- They all experienced with delinquent behavior.
- They were approached from (District Swat) KP.

Exclusion Criteria

- Those individuals who had a current mental or physical condition which causes problem were excluded from the sample.
- Participants that lack the ability to understand English were not a part of this study. Participants under 18 or more than 34 years were excluded from sample.

Instruments

1. Extremism Scale (ES)

2- Self-Reported Delinquency Scale (SRD)

3- Scale of parenting style

Procedure

Initially, permission were taken from different prisons from (District swat) KP. Then informed consent included that maintaining confidentiality of the participants, and discussing their result after the study. The demographic form was filled completely and followed by the instruction to fill out the questionnaires.

Ethical Consideration

- There was no deception or fabrication in the aim and objectives of the study.
- Real information were given in the informed consent.
- Participants and researcher were not relatives and there was no relationship between researcher and participants.
- Participants were treated with respect and their privacies and confidentialities were secured.
- Participants were protected from any type of harm.
- There was no conflict of interest of the researcher.

Results

Table 1
 Frequency and Percentage of Participants (N=100)

Demographic variables	F	%
Gender		
Male	100	100

Table 1 shows frequency and percentage of Youth Male participants (f=100, 100%)

Table 2
 Psychometric Properties of Study Variables

Variables		M	SD	A	Skewness	Kurtosis
1.Radicalization	100	69.7	18.7	.89	-.60	.02
2.DelinquentBehavior	100	69.4	8.6	.91	-.69	.52
3.Parenting	100	286.1	63.5	.97	-1.12	1.55

Table 2 shows psychometric properties of study variables. The reliability analysis indicate that the reliability coefficient of Radicalization, Delinquent Behavior and parenting scale is .89, .91 and .97 respectively which indicate satisfactory internal consistency. The value of kurtosis for parenting scale are more than 1 which indicates that data is skewed.

Table 3
 Pearson Correlation of Study Variables (N=100)

Variables	Items	A	1	2	3
1.Radicalization	14	.89	-	.077	.254*
2.DelinquentBehavior	40	.91		-	.276**
3.Parenting	76	.97			-

Table 2 shows highly satisfactory alpha reliability coefficient values of Radicalization, Delinquent behavior, and parenting i.e., 0.89, 0.91 and 0.97, respectively. Pearson correlation among study variables indicate that Parenting has significant positive correlation with delinquent behavior $r(98) = .276^{**}$, $p < .01$ and has significant positive correlations with radicalization $r(98) = .254^*$, Findings also indicates no relationship between radicalization with delinquent behavior $r(98) = .077$, $p < .01$.

Discussion

The current study set out to determine how parenting and radicalization affected juvenile delinquent conduct. This study's initial hypothesis was that delinquent behavior is significantly influenced by parenting. The findings of this study support the strong beneficial association between delinquent behavior and parenting. It supported earlier research showing a connection between delinquent behavior and parenting. A healthy family and a smooth transition to adulthood are strongly correlated, according to research (Thomas & Molony, 2001). Family circumstances also influence a young person's decision to engage in criminal behavior, according to research. Because they don't foster a healthy family environment, there is evidence that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles may be risk factors (Bush & Horn, 1997).

According to this study, radicalization has a big impact on delinquent behavior. The findings show no connection between delinquent behavior and radicalization. This result goes against what has been found in previous research. This disparity may result from regional and cultural variances. Since the earlier research was carried out in many cultures and geographical locations, the results of this study were restricted to a single location, such as Swat KP. According to research, societal

norms—including the use of violence—have a significant influence on how people behave. While standards can help prevent violence, they can also promote its use. For instance, the cultural acceptance of violence as a common means of resolving disputes and as a typical aspect of raising children increases the likelihood of all forms of interpersonal violence. WHO (2002) Through the application of corporal punishment (2), familial violence (3,4), media (5), or other socially permissive settings, violence is likely to be learned (Lansford & Dodge, 2008).

Conclusion

Parenting and delinquent conduct have been shown to be positively correlated in both literature and recent research. The results of the current investigation show no link between radicalization and delinquent behavior. Our comprehension of the three variables has been expanded by the current study's analysis of them within the Pakistani setting.

Limitations

The limitations of this investigation are minimal. Since the study is based on a correlational research methodology, it is not possible to assume a causal relationship between the variables under investigation. The data was gathered from a small area, and our respondents were young people living in Swat KP. Generalizability is thus constrained. To produce more compelling correlations between the constructs explored in this study, future research can duplicate this study with different populations.

Future Recommendations

In future research, a quasi-experimental research design should be adopted to examine causal correlations between these factors. Counselors and psychologists who work with people in a variety of life situations can benefit from these findings. To improve supportive parenting, they can create a variety of interventions or tactics.

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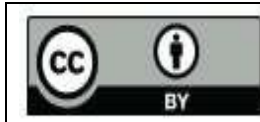
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