

## **Factors of Homicide in the Punjab: Evidence from Convicted Prisoners**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The main purpose of the present research was to analyze socio-economic and politico-legal factors of execution of murder in Punjab, Pakistan. In the recent era, multiple factors are contributing and motivating individuals to commit murder and face court proceedings. For the current study, a survey method was conducted to collect information from the convicted prisoners. A proportionate random sampling technique was employed to draw a sample for eight jails of the Punjab province. A sample size of 367 prisoners was drawn from the target population. Pretesting was done and the value of Cronbach's Alpha was ranging from .70 to .90. Furthermore, Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was employed to test the hypotheses. The study findings showed that there is a significant impact of socio-economic and politico-legal factors on the execution of the murder. Moreover, the results supported the argument that family, property and land disputes, revenge and enmity, involvement in the robbery, and social interaction with criminals had a significant impact on the execution of the murder. Furthermore, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Amos, and Statistica were used to analyze data and to draw conclusions.*

**Keywords:** *Socio-economic, Family factors, Politico-legal factors, Revenge, Robbery, Convicted prisoners.*

### **Introduction**

Homicide is the killing of a human being by another human being (Bhanbhro, 2021). Human beings have been killing one another for one pretext or another since the time of recorded history besides being the most rational creation of the lord (Chopin & Beauregard, 2020; Ousey, 1999). But they are no more different from other animals (Khan, 2020; Nsoesie et al., 2020). A murderer in simple words is a person who takes the life of another individual for vengeance or profit or territorial gains or some religious gains, to take advantage (Kaushal, 2020; Mazorodze, 2020). It is considered that a murder is committed when a man lacks his social disposition to love being in general. Every homicide is a combination of the exclusive and the usual (Litwin, 2004). One of the typical structures of this case is the underprivileged contextual of the people involved (Stankus, 2020). In all contemporary societies that we know about, violence, particularly powerful violence like homicide is mainly restrained to individuals of low socioeconomic status (Ali, Latif, & Zafar, 2020). Several factors are contributing towards the execution of murder in many developed,

developing, and underdeveloped countries of the world (Litwin, 2004). These factors are motivating individuals to commit murder (Hesselink & Bougard, 2020; Joiner, Lieberman, Stanley, & Reger, 2020; Nawaz, 2020). The people are motivated by their family factors including lack of resources, family revenge, and enmity, and violation of family member respect (Handoyo & Rosyidin, 2020; Sadiq & Ahmad, 2020). Moreover, several cases are reported that show that social interaction with criminals and involvement in the robbery are also cause of murders (James & Beauregard, 2020; Kaushal, 2020). This research is focused to analyze socio-economic and politico-legal factors contributing to criminality.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main aim of the study was to evaluate the socio-economic and politico-legal factors of homicide in Punjab, Pakistan.

#### *The hypothesis of the Study*

*Hypotheses 1:* There is a direct impact of socio-economic factors on the execution of the murder

*Hypotheses 2:* There is a direct impact of politico-legal factors on the execution of the murder

*Hypotheses 3:* There is a covariation between socio-economic factors and politico-legal factors of execution of the murder

### **Literature Review**

Several studies reported that homicide has historical roots (Ousey, 1999). The homicide occurred in several developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries (Fullerton & Patterson, 2021; James & Beauregard, 2020; Kaushal, 2020; Litwin, 2004). In these world regions, the trends of homicide were different and varying from geographic region to region (Baird, Bishop, & Kerrigan, 2020; Bhanbhro, 2021; Chopin & Beauregard, 2020; Ne'Eman-Haviv, 2021). Moreover, the factors of homicide are also different and have similar variations (Fullerton & Patterson, 2021; James & Beauregard, 2020; Sadiq & Ahmad, 2020). As pointed by Nsoesie et al. (2020) homicide trends in Brazil and also identified the factors of homicide. Several studies also reported family as a factor of homicide (Lim, Bond, & Bond, 2005; Litwin, 2004; Matias, Gonçalves, Soeiro, & Matos, 2020; Ousey, 1999). Family issues have also motivated individuals to commit murder (Attaran, 2020; Kennedy, Caplan, Piza, & Thomas, 2020). These issues include social relations, marriage disputes, violation of respect, eloping, and broken family issues (Carabellese et al., 2020; Spencer & Stith, 2020). Similarly, family matters at the time of mate selection also result in hate and people take revenge by committing murder (Lim et al., 2005; Matias et al., 2020; Puckett & Lundman, 2003). Souza, Souza, and Pinto (2020) have also asserted the demographic factors of murder in their study. There were also similar results to Attaran (2020).

Further, property and land disputes also contribute and motivate people to commit murder (Jaramillo & Felix, 2021; Spencer & Stith, 2020; Stankus, 2020). People in rural and urban areas murder due to land disputes (James & Beauregard, 2020; Matias et al., 2020). As they were facing land cases in courts for several years (Handoyo & Rosyidin, 2020; Joiner et al., 2020; Litwin, 2004). Similarly, revenge and enmity is also a big factor of execution of murder (Khan, 2020; Matias et al.,

## Factors of Homicide in the Punjab: Evidence from Convicted Prisoners

2020; Nawaz, 2020). As mentioned by Kaushal (2020) honor killing is a factor of homicide in India and Bhanbhro (2021) mentioned the killing of sisters. Likewise, income inequality is also reported as the main factor of homicide (Ali et al., 2020; Nawaz, 2020). People having low socio-economic characteristics have lust to become rich within a minimum time (D’Lima, Solotaroff, & Pande, 2020; Masitoh & Pramesti, 2020). They have fear of getting caught in the robbery. Thus, during the robbery, there are chances of committing murder and being caught red-handed. Sometimes, people use illegal means to gain extra money. Moreover, income differences also motivate individuals to take part in illegal activities that result in murder (Ali et al., 2020). As highlighted by De Nadai, Xu, Letouzé, González, and Lepri (2020) socio-economic aspects of crime and murder. Furthermore, sexual harassment and social interaction with criminals also contribute to the execution of murder (Bhanbhro, 2021; D’Lima et al., 2020; Huda & Kamal, 2020). Thus, based on a review of literature, the main aim of the study was to analyze socio-economic and politico-legal factors of execution of murder in the Punjab, Pakistan. Furthermore, the variables were used to test the model shown in Figure 1, the proposed model.

### Materials and Methods

For the present research, a survey method was used to conduct a quantitative study on jail convicted prisoners of homicide. A sample of 367 convicted prisoners was taken through a proportionate random sampling technique from eight jails of the Punjab province. An interview schedule was administered and pretested to collect information from the sampling unit. This measurement tool consisted of different parts including demographic characteristics, socio-economic factors, politico-legal factors, and execution of the murder. An attitudinal scale (Likert) was used to measure response rate and indexing of variables. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Amos were used to analyze data employing Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). Moreover, Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was applied to confirm the factors.

### Results and Discussion

The results and discussion section is divided into three sections including a) descriptive statistics, b) correlation statistical test, and c) multivariate analysis.

#### a) *Descriptive Statistics*

Table 1

#### *Descriptive Statistics*

Variables	Mini.	Maxi.	Mean	Std. Devi.	Variance
Family Factors (FAF)	6.00	30.00	22.3569	6.07473	36.902
Property and Land Disputes (PLD)	5.00	25.00	19.1907	4.22219	17.827
Revenge and Enmity (RAE)	6.00	30.00	21.7439	6.15553	37.891
Involvement in Robbery (IIR)	4.00	20.00	14.4741	3.93232	15.463
Income Inequality (INI)	4.00	20.00	15.1907	4.08337	16.674

Social interaction with criminals (SIC)	5.00	25.00	19.0027	5.07296	25.735
Political motivation (POM)	4.00	20.00	13.9673	3.58107	12.824
Courts and justice system complications (CJS)	5.00	25.00	18.2262	4.62005	21.345
Illegal Possession of Property (IPP)	4.00	20.00	15.1880	3.69833	13.678
Execution of murder (EOM)	31.00	120.0	77.6567	16.21245	262.844
0					
Total number of observations = 367					

Table 1 depicts the descriptive statistics of different exogenous and endogenous variables used in the structural equation modeling (SEM). The data in the table indicate that the minimum and maximum values of the variable that vary from variable to variable started from family factor to execution of the murder. Furthermore, the mean, standard deviation, and variances of the variables are also provided in the said table.

**b) Correlation Statistical Test**

Table 2 describes the results of the correlation statistical test. Here, it is important to mention that all the variables had a weak and moderate positive relationship among each other. It is noteworthy to mention here that the tables are also indicating the codes of variables as mentioned in table 1 and table 2 used further in the section of multivariate analysis.

Table 2

Correlation Statistical Test

Var.	FAF	PLD	RAE	IIR	INI	SEH	SIC	POM	CJS	IPP	EOM
FAF	1	.452**	.296**	.360**	.350**	.233**	.312**	.160**	.381**	.301**	.364**
PLD		1	.408**	.495**	.478**	.355**	.435**	.209**	.411**	.404**	.464**
RAE			1	.241**	.315**	.255**	.285**	.207**	.313**	.201**	.421**
IIR				1	.453**	.245**	.369**	.188**	.409**	.332**	.395**
INI					1	.254**	.386**	.161**	.421**	.453**	.405**
SHE						1	.132*	.264**	.217**	.266**	.220**
SIC							1	.131*	.384**	.284**	.377**
POM								1	.083	.083	.260**
CJS									1	.297**	.363**
IPP										1	.300**
EOM											1

**c) Multivariate Analysis**

This section of the research paper deals with the structural equation modeling used to measure the direct effect of the model. In this model, socio-economic and

## Factors of Homicide in the Punjab: Evidence from Convicted Prisoners

politico-legal factors were used as independent variables and execution of murder as a dependent variable.

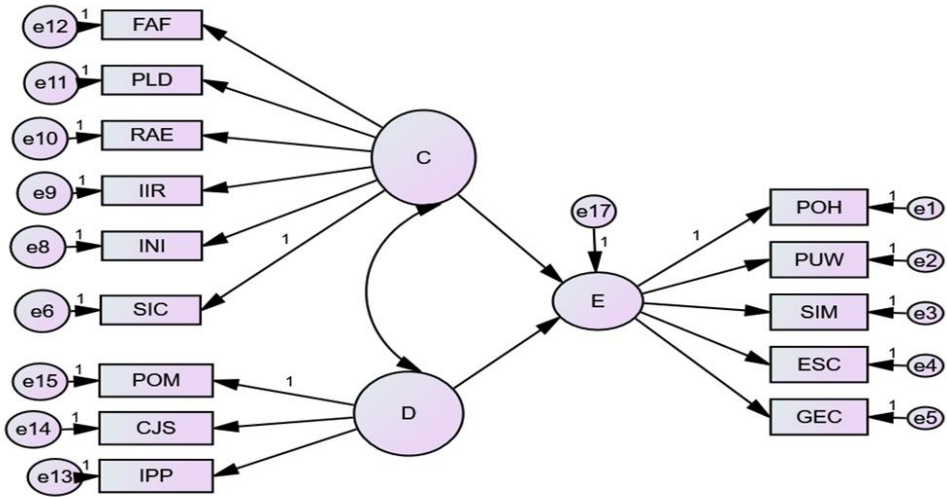


Figure 1: Proposed model

Figure 1 depicts the proposed model showing path relations and independent and dependent model diagrams. In this model, C is representing socio-economic factors, D is showing politico-legal factors and E is describing the execution of the murder.

Table 3

### *Model fit summary of the model*

Model	Chi-Square	D.F.	Prob. Level	GF I	AGF I	CFI	IF1	TLI	RMSEA
Recommended model				0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.08
Proposed model				.951	.931	.949	.950	.938	.045

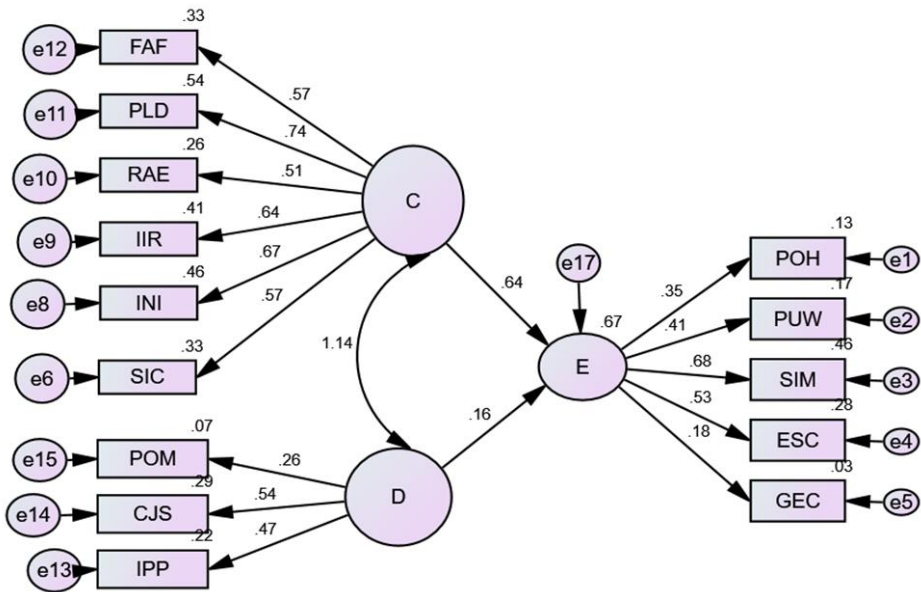


Figure 2: Model 1 standardized weights

Table presents model fit summary of the proposed model. In this model, the calculated values (GFI=.951, AGFI=.931, CFI=.949, & RMSEA=.045) proved model goodness and recommended fit.

Hypotheses 1: There is a direct impact of socio-economic factors on the execution of the murder

Hypothesis 1 is describing the direct effect of socio-economic factors on the execution of the murder. The standardized regression weights (.636) confirmed the acceptance of hypothesis 1 with a p-value of .020 (less than 0.05). Therefore, it proved that there is a direct impact of socio-economic factors on the execution of murder as per model 1. It is important to mention here that the study findings are aligned with the study findings of Souza et al. (2020), Kavakli (2020), and De Nadai et al. (2020).

Hypotheses 2: There is a direct impact of politico-legal factors on the execution of the murder

Hypothesis 2 is describing the direct effect of politico-legal factors on the execution of the murder. The standardized regression weight (.163) does not confirm the acceptance of hypothesis 2 with a p-value of .480 (higher than 0.05). Therefore, it is not proved that there is a direct impact of politico-legal factors on the execution of murder as per the model. Similar nature of results is also reported by the studies of Stankus (2020), Zulyadi (2020), Ali et al. (2020), and Handoyo and Rosyidin (2020).

Factors of Homicide in the Punjab: Evidence from Convicted Prisoners

Table 4

*Regression weights of a model*

			Standardized Regression Weights	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
E	<---	C	.636	.378	.162	2.334	.020
E	<---	D	.163	.303	.429	.706	.480
POH	<---	E	.354	1.000			
PUW	<---	E	.413	1.301	.271	4.801	***
SIM	<---	E	.679	2.339	.456	5.134	***
ESC	<---	E	.532	1.811	.366	4.950	***
GEC	<---	E	.180	.632	.236	2.678	.007
SIC	<---	C	.571	1.000			
INI	<---	C	.675	.952	.099	9.635	***
IIR	<---	C	.639	.868	.093	9.315	***
RAE	<---	C	.505	1.074	.137	7.836	***
PLD	<---	C	.738	1.076	.105	10.207	***
FAF	<---	C	.573	1.202	.140	8.610	***
IPP	<---	D	.473	1.888	.409	4.619	***
CJS	<---	D	.543	2.705	.564	4.798	***
POM	<---	D	.259	1.000			
Covariances of model 2							
C	<-->	D		3.047	.667	4.569	***

Table 5

*Variances of model*

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
C	8.359	1.503	5.560	***
D	.856	.338	2.531	.011
e17	.989	.379	2.612	.009
e1	20.678	1.622	12.747	***
e2	24.357	1.952	12.476	***
e3	18.941	2.275	8.325	***
e4	24.681	2.175	11.349	***
e5	35.300	2.641	13.365	***
e6	17.306	1.391	12.445	***
e8	9.056	.779	11.626	***
e9	9.127	.763	11.961	***
e10	28.145	2.210	12.737	***
e11	8.098	.760	10.655	***
e12	24.719	1.988	12.433	***
e13	10.586	.892	11.864	***
e14	15.019	1.388	10.818	***
e15	11.933	.881	13.538	***

Hypotheses 3: There is a covariation between socio-economic factors and politico-legal factors of homicide

Hypothesis 3 is describing the covariation between socio-economic factors and politico-legal factors of homicide. The calculated values in the table regression weights of the model confirmed the acceptance of hypothesis3 with a p-value of .000 (less than 0.05). Hence, it is proved that there is covariation between socio-economic factors and politico-legal factors as per the model. These study findings are aligned with the findings of Sadiq and Ahmad (2020), Litwin (2004), Nawaz (2020), and Khan (2020).

### **Conclusion**

We concluded based on the study findings that socio-economic and politico-legal factors are contributing directly towards the execution of the murder in Punjab, Pakistan. Although, multiple factors are contributing and motivating individuals to commit murder and face court proceedings. Similarly, homicide is the killing of one human being by another human being. Human beings have been killing one another for one pretext or another since the time of recorded history besides being the most rational creation of the lord. A murderer in simple words is a person who takes the life of another individual for vengeance or profit or territorial gains or for some religious gains to gain an advantage.

In all contemporary societies that we know about, violence, particularly powerful violence like homicide is mainly restrained to individuals of low socioeconomic status. Thus, socio-economic and politico-legal factors are the main factors of homicide in Punjab. These factors are motivating individuals to commit murder. Further, the study recommended that there is a need to create awareness in society about the punishment of murder. So that people should think before committing murder and the rate of homicide could be minimized.



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Factors of Homicide in the Punjab: Evidence from Convicted Prisoners

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