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Juvenile Behavior, Pakistan**Corresponding Author:****Muhammad Zainul Abidin**Email: [muhammad.zain@uos.edu.pk](mailto:muhammad.zain@uos.edu.pk)**License:**

**Abstract:** Juvenile delinquency has become a social problem of serious concern that endangers the moral, psychological and social growth of children and adolescents in all parts of the world. In emerging economies like Pakistan, the issue has exacerbated owing to the accelerated social change, financial strain and deteriorating family structures. This paper will explore the parental impact on delinquency in children with a narrowed down to the main parental factors being parenting styles, parental supervision, discipline practices, parent child communication as well as laying stress on ethical considerations in parenting and research involving child participants. Quantitative cross-sectional research design was used, and the data were collected among adolescents (12-18 years) and their parents living in urban and semi-urban communities in Pakistan. It was done using a structured questionnaire that was based on a five-point Likert scale and analyses statistically with SPSS. The results indicate that there is a strong association between parental factors and child delinquency. Poor parental supervision, lack of discipline, poor communication, and authoritarian or negligent parenting styles were highly related to increased levels of delinquency behavior, and authoritative parenting and ethical parental involvement were loosely related to decrease cases of delinquency. The paper concludes that the importance of the prevention of juvenile delinquency that may occur can be crucial with the help of strengthening ethical parenting and family-based interventions.

**Introduction**

Juvenile delinquency is a major social issue that has emerged over the world with long-term repercussions on individuals, families and society in general. It is a term that describes antisocial, deviant, or criminal acts of people who have not yet attained the legally defined adulthood age (Shoemaker, 2018). These forms of behavior are truancy, aggression, theft, vandalism, substance abuse and acts of violence. In less developed economies such as Pakistan, urbanization, economic disparity, disintegration of family institutions, and inadequate social support networks have all played a role in juvenile crime increasing at an evident rate (Ahmed and Khan, 2021).

The family is universally seen as the main institution that socializes and morally develops the children. Parents have a significant role in influencing the attitudes and values of children, emotional stability as well as their behavioral patterns. Social learning theory assumes that children acquire behavior by

observing and imitating important role models, especially the parents (Bandura, 1977). When parents offer close supervision, emotional support and moral guidance, the children stand a greater chance of acquiring self-control and acceptable behavior in society. On the other hand, neglect by parents, physical ill treatment, no oversight and poor emotional connection are key factors that predispose a child to delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2012).

Parenting styles are an important factor of child behavior, and it has been extensively researched. According to Baumrind (1991), parenting was subdivided into authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and neglectful parenting (Steinberg, 2001). Poor parental monitoring also subjects the kids to poor peer influence and dangerous backgrounds that are excellent indicators of juvenile delinquency (Dishion and McMahon, 1998).

In addition to behavioral and social issues, child delinquency is an issue that provokes some significant ethical considerations (Gershoff, 2013). It is an ethical requirement of parents to guarantee protection, wellbeing and moral growth of their children. Ethical parenting is characterized by respect for the dignity of children, reasonable discipline, affection and counseling to responsible behavior in society. In addition, any studies involving children and adolescents should be carried out in accordance with the highest ethical standards, such as the informed consent, confidentiality, and avoidance of psychological damages (American Psychological Association [APA], 2020). The disregard of ethical considerations also compromises effective intervention strategies and does not only harm the integrity of research (Pardini et al., 2008). Most of the research performed is dedicated to individual or peer-related issues, paying little attention to family-related dynamics and ethical responsibility in the local cultural environment. This research paper attempts to fill this existing gap by exploring the importance of parenting styles, parental supervision, discipline practices, and parent-child communication in child delinquency with an express consideration of ethical issues.

The rest of this paper is structured in the following way. Section 2 introduces a literature review on the topic of child delinquency and parental influence. Section 3 presents the research methodology, research design, sampling, data collection and data analysis procedures. Section 4 gives the findings of the study and gives a comprehensive discussion. Section 5 gives conclusions of the paper and summarizes the main findings, ethical concerns, and recommendations to parents, policymakers, and further research.

### **Literature Review**

A considerable amount of research has been conducted on the nature of parental influences on juvenile delinquency. As an example, Liu and Miller (2020) demonstrated with a big, nationally representative U.S. sample that robust parental monitoring and attachment largely prevent youth delinquency in girls, in particular, aggressive behavior. They discovered gender variation: parental supervision was more protective of the aggression of the girls than boys. In the same vein, Di Claudio et al. (2022) performed a systematic review of the U.S. literature and emphasized that positive relationships with parents and family bonds are considered the most significant protective factors against delinquency, and family conflict, maltreatment, and harsh parenting are risk factors. In their analysis, they focus on the fact that families should be involved in the interventions to cultivate such strengths. Onsando et al. (2021) reported a Kenyan case study where parenting style had a critical impact on delinquency: authoritarian and permissive parenting significantly increased the likelihood of boys committing crimes, whereas authoritative parenting (warm and structured) showed no correlation with delinquency. This implies that in any culture, the parental level of disciplining and support may define the outcomes of the youth. Wallace (2023) examined adolescents and parents of U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated

that although the levels of parental stress and depressive symptoms were high in the context of lockdowns, parenting practices (e.g. monitoring) and the delinquent behavior of adolescents did not change significantly. This is to say that high parental depression did not have to result in worse supervision or increased youth crime and so this could be an indication of some resiliency in family processes in terms of crisis. Similarly, Olsen et al. (2025) followed up 165 youth who had a court involvement and received six months of the required treatment in the U.S. They discovered that reduced baseline parental monitoring was a significant predictor of more engagement and severity of delinquent acts at the follow-up. The younger offenders who indicated reduced parental supervision had higher chances of committing new crimes. Their longitudinal study highlights the value of ongoing parental involvement to decrease recidivism among youth involved in justice.

New empirical research has used machine learning in predicting delinquency. Bonfante et al. (2023) used data of cognitive tests of Colombian juvenile offenders and controls to train SVM, random forests, and KNN models. They stated that a KNN model (using Boruta-selected in their study 19 cognitive features) was the one that gave the best-balanced accuracy (around 88.5) in their classification of youth as offenders or non-offenders. Measures of executive functioning and impulse control were the best predictors meaning that cognitive impairment is associated with delinquency. Guo and Wang (2024) came up with an XGBoost decision-support system, based on a large international self-report dataset (ISRD2). Their multi-class model has accomplished the distinction of traditional offenders, cyber offenders, and non-offenders and the presence (absence) of parental supervision as one of the most impactful risk factors. These ML studies explain how family factors such as supervision become important predictors in youth crime computational models.

Van der Put and Assink (2025) utilized network analysis on large (N=13,613) and large (N=3,630) samples of U.S (court-assessment) and Dutch (court-assessment) courts. They discovered that the most central node standing out in relation to other factors of delinquency in the U.S. network were lack of parental supervision and inadequate parental punishment (i.e. harsh discipline) risks associated with parenting. In the Dutch case, a little bit different parenting variables (e.g. family not providing opportunities) were the core ones, but the overall outcome is the same: ineffective parenting (neglect or inconsistent discipline) is directly related to juvenile crime. Tezbasan Arslan et al. (2025) also interviewed Turkish juveniles (12-15) who were being investigated in a psychiatric facility due to committing a crime. They stated that the lack of parental supervision and the criminal background of a parent were significant contributors to the personal risk of youth offending. They also discovered that maternal education was a major factor and low maternal education based on their findings was a major factor that led to delinquency. This field research supports the conclusion that family background and the environment where the youth live has long-term consequences on youth behavior.

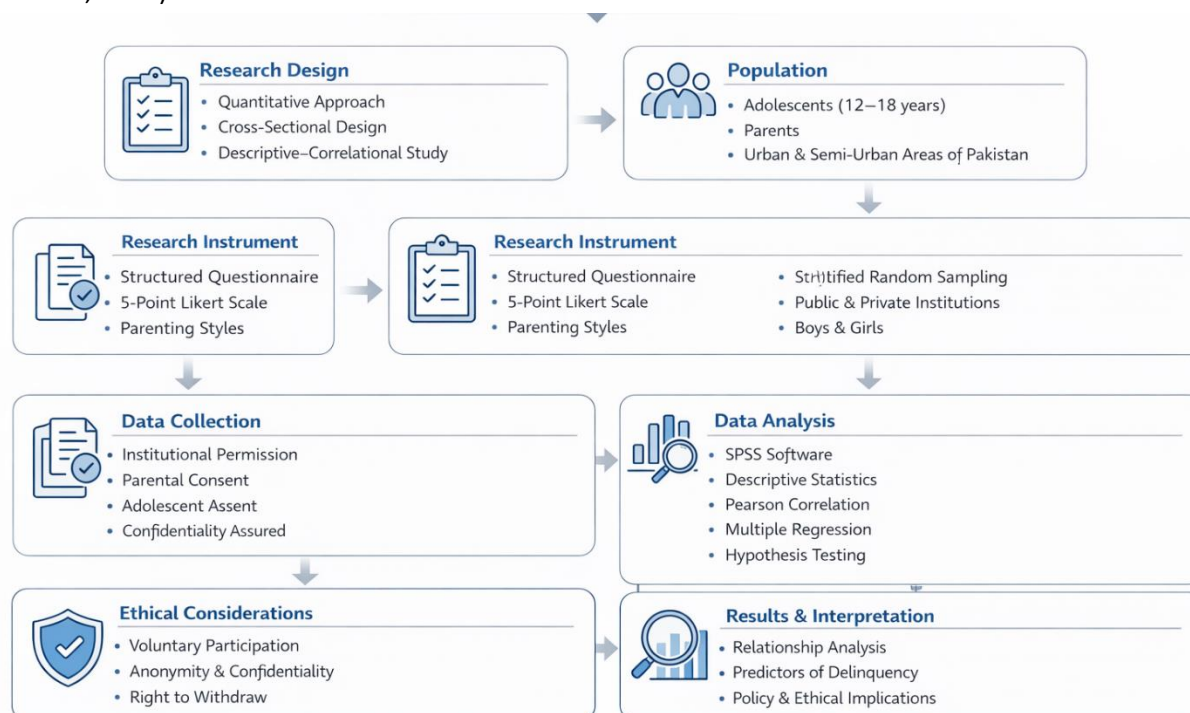
The effects of parents continue to be felt in late adolescence and youth adulthood. In Copp (2025) longitudinal U.S. study, attitudes and behaviors by parents influenced the beliefs among their children towards crime and thus influenced the rates of offense in adulthood. Her results, consistent with the social learning theory, note that even the indirect parent influences (norms and communication) continuously affect the risk pathways of youths. According to theory, weak parental attachment is also an essential delinquency risk as highlighted by Gottfredson and Hirschi social control model.

## **Methodology**

### **Introduction**

In this section, the methodological framework that was taken to study the role of parents in child delinquency in Pakistan is explained. It presents research design, population, sample size, sampling

method, research instruments, data collection process, data analysis process and ethical issues. To guarantee the reliability, validity, and credibility of the findings, a systematic and ethically based methodology was used, and the study objectives were appropriately addressed as figure 1 (Creswell and Creswell, 2018).



**Figure 1.** Research methodology framework illustrating the quantitative approach, sampling procedure, data collection, analysis techniques, and ethical considerations used to examine the role of parents in child delinquency in Pakistan

### Research Design

The quantitative research methodology used in the study was a cross-sectional descriptive research design which would be correlated with correlational research design. The given design is appropriate to investigate connections between parent-related variables parenting styles, parental supervision, and disciplining practices, as well as parent-child communication and child delinquency at one time (Bryman, 2016). Quantitative approach can be used to measure things objectively, test them statistically, and extrapolate the results within the specified population.

### Population of the Study

The study population included adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 years and schools and colleges within urban and semi-urban regions of Pakistan, and their parents. The adolescence period is a critical stage of development when a person is more vulnerable to atypical behavior and delinquency and, thus, parental influence is of primary importance (Shoemaker, 2018).

### Sample of the Study

The study has chosen a sample of 300 adolescents and their parents. This sample size would result in sufficient correlational and regression analyses and would yield adequate statistical power to identify significant relationships among variables (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2019). The sample was selected to have some reasonable extent of representativeness of the target population in the study scenario.

### Sampling Technique

The stratified random sampling method was applied to guarantee diversity and representation among important demographic groups. The strata were based on the following population:

- Type of institution (public and private schools/colleges)
- Gender (boys and girls)

A stratified random sampling technique was applied to every stratum to reduce the sampling bias and improve the generalizability of results (Creswell and Creswell, 2018).

### Research Instrument

The input of data was made with the help of a structured questionnaire, which was based on theoretical and empirical literature. The questionnaire was divided into five parts:

- **Parenting Styles:** Measured on parenting style scale as modified by Baumrind, It involves the measures of authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful parenting styles (Baumrind, 1991).
- **Parental Supervision:** Measures of parental vigilance regarding children in terms of their activities, peer affiliations and locations (Dishion and McMahon, 1998).
- **Parental Discipline:** Measures that measure the regularity and type of parental discipline, such as regular, irregular, and non-punitive discipline (Gershoff, 2013).
- **Parent-child communication:** The items assessing the quality, frequency, and openness of parents to children communication (Steinberg, 2001).
- **Child Delinquency:** self-reported delinquency behaviors (self-reported aggressive behavior, self-reported theft, self-reported truancy, and self-reported substance use) (Hoeve et al., 2012).

Everything was rated with reference to a five-point Likert scale of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

### Instrument validity and Reliability

Several steps were taken to achieve validity and reliability of the research instrument:

- **Content Validity:** The experts in the field of psychology and education have examined the questionnaire to make sure that it is exhaustive regarding the coverage of the study constructs (Bryman, 2016).
- **Pilot Study:** The pilot study was done with 30 respondents and formal clarity, wording, and practicability were evaluated. According to the feedback of the participants, necessary revisions were made.
- **Reliability:** Cronbach Alpha was used to evaluate internal consistency of the scales, where the values of 0.70 or above are deemed to be acceptable when doing social science research work (Nunnally and Bernstein, 1994).

### Data Collection Procedure

**Data collection-** Data collection was carried out in a structured and ethical manner:

- School and college authorities were asked to allow it.
- Informed consent was written among parents, and assent was among adolescents.
- The questionnaires would be given in the classrooms or in the homes of the participants under the guidance of the researcher.
- Anonymity and confidentiality were guaranteed by omitting the personal identifiers and safely storing the data gathered.

### Data Analysis Techniques

Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data. The following methods of analysis were used:

1. **Descriptive Statistics:** Demographic characteristics and study variables were summarized by use of frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations.

2. **Correlation Analysis:** Pearson correlation analysis was used to investigate the relations between parental factors and child delinquency.
3. **Regression Analysis:** The multiple regression analysis was conducted to determine strong parental predictors of delinquency (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2019).
4. **Group Comparisons:** The differences were analyzed using independent samples t-tests and one-way ANOVA, when suitable, to identify the differences in gender and the type of institution.

### Ethical Considerations

There were ethical codes that were followed during the research. The participation was by choice, and the participants knew that they could drop out at any point without being penalized. They were anonymous and confidential, and all data had academic purposes only. This was done with special attention to the use of minors, and ethical requirements, including informed consent, protection against harm, and dignity of the participants are followed (American Psychological Association, 2020).

### Results and Discussion

#### Introduction

This section outlines the results of the data gathered on 300 teenagers and their parents and provides the analysis and discussion of the results. The main aim of the analysis was to identify the importance of parental variables such as parenting styles, parental supervision, parental discipline and parent child communication in bringing about child delinquency. Statistical analysis was done on SPSS and entailed descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation analysis, multiple regression analysis and hypothesis testing.

**Table 1:** Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	160	53.3
	Female	140	46.7
Age	12–14 years	110	36.7
	15–16 years	120	40
	17–18 years	70	23.3
School Type	Public	140	46.7
	Private	160	53.3
Family Type	Nuclear	190	63.3
	Joint	110	36.7

#### Respondent Characteristics Demographics

The demographic picture reveals that the sample was heterogeneous and representative of the adolescents in urban and semi urban settings in Pakistan. The proportion of slightly more male respondents (53.3) versus female (46.7) is in line with the previous studies that show that male respondents are more often represented in delinquency-related research. Most (40 percent) of the respondents were aged 15 to 16 years, then 1214 years (36.7 percent), and 1718 years (23.3 percent). This age cohort portrays the sensitive developmental stage where teenagers are highly susceptible to behavioral and social problems.

In terms of an educational background, both publicly and privately based institutions were used, which included 46.7 and 53.3% of participants, respectively, thus representing various socioeconomic



backgrounds. Concerning family structure, most of the respondents were nuclear (63.3%) and a significant number of them were joint family members (36.7%). This population difference offers a suitable background to the study of the role of family life and adult involvement in the behavior of adolescents.

#### Parental Factor and Child Delinquency Descriptive Analysis

The descriptive data revealed moderate to relatively high means of parental factors meaning that, in general, parents showed a decent degree of involvement in the lives of their children. Parenting styles registered a mean of 3.65 (SD = 0.72) which showed that the parents tend to adopt balanced and structured parenting practices. Parents to children also recorded a relatively high mean (M = 3.57, SD = 0.69) implying that many adolescents felt that their parents were very approachable and communicative.

Parental supervision (M = 3.48, SD = 0.81) and parental discipline (M = 3.32, SD = 0.77) were moderate, which implies that there are differences in the ways parents monitor and impose discipline on their children. Child delinquency, on the other hand, had a relatively low mean score (M = 2.68, SD = 0.85), indicating that most of the respondents had reported mild or occasional delinquent behavior, rather than the regular involvement in antisocial behavior that is persistent and severe. These results suggest that though there are delinquency cases among adolescents, positive parental engagement can be used as a protective measure, which limits the extent and occurrence of delinquent behaviors.

**Table 2:** Parental Factors and Child Delinquency

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation
Parenting Styles	3.65	0.72
Parental Supervision	3.48	0.81
Parental Discipline	3.32	0.77
Parent–Child Communication	3.57	0.69
Child Delinquency	2.68	0.85

#### Correlation study that seeks to examine the connection between parental factors and child delinquency

Analysis of Pearson correlation showed that all parental factors had statistically significant negative relationships with child delinquency ( $p < .01$ ). Delinquent behavior was negatively related to parenting styles ( $r = -0.48$ ), parental supervision ( $r = -0.52$ ), parental discipline ( $r = -0.45$ ) and parent child communication ( $r = -0.50$ ).

Parental supervision proved to have the most negative relationship with delinquency, which explains the necessity to monitor the activities, peer associations, and routines of teenagers. The relationship between parent and child communication was also strongly negative and the importance of emotional connection and free communication was stressed in the prevention of antisocial behavior.

**Table 3:** Pearson correlation was used to examine the relationship between parental factors and child delinquency

Variables	1	2	3	4	5
1. Parenting Styles	1				
2. Parental Supervision	.65**	1			

Variables	1	2	3	4	5
3. Parental Discipline	.58**	.54**	1		
4. Parent–Child Communication	.62**	.59**	.55**	1	
5. Child Delinquency	-.48**	-.52**	-.45**	-.50**	1

These findings are a clear sign that teenagers exposed to positive parenting, effective monitoring, just and adequate punishment, and open communication are at a significant risk of delinquent behaviors.

#### Parental Factor Prognostic ability

The combined and individual predictive factors of parental factors on child delinquency were analyzed using multiple regression analysis. The general model has been found to be statistically different ( $F = 48.95$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and explained 37% of the variation in child delinquency, which shows a significant effect of parental variables.

**Table 4: Regression A**

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Std. Error
1	.61	.37	.36	0.68

**Table 5: ANOVA**

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	90.45	4	22.61	48.95	.000
Residual	154.89	295	0.53		
Total	245.34	299			

**Table 6: Coefficients**

Predictor	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
Parenting Styles	-0.28	0.06	-0.25	-4.67	.000
Parental Supervision	-0.34	0.07	-0.31	-4.86	.000
Parental Discipline	-0.22	0.05	-0.20	-4.40	.000
Parent–Child Communication	-0.30	0.06	-0.28	-5.00	.000

Parental supervision was found to have the highest predictive value of delinquency (0.31), followed by parent-child communication (0.28), parenting styles (0.25), and parental discipline (0.20). The negative values of beta coefficients show the positive parental involvement has negative relationships with delinquent behavior.

**Table 7: Hypothesis Testing**

Hypothesis	Result	Interpretation
H1: Parenting styles significantly influence child delinquency.	Supported	Higher authoritative parenting is linked to lower delinquency.



Hypothesis	Result	Interpretation
H2: Parental supervision negatively affects juvenile delinquency.	Supported	Greater supervision significantly reduces delinquency.
H3: Poor parent–child communication increases child delinquency.	Supported	Open communication reduces delinquent behaviors.
H4: Parental discipline significantly influences delinquent behavior.	Supported	Consistent and fair discipline lowers delinquency risk.
H5: Parenting factors collectively predict child delinquency.	Supported	Parenting styles, supervision, discipline, and communication explain 37% of variance in delinquency.

These data indicate that all parental factors are crucial, though both supervision and communication have a very important role in the development of adolescent behavior. The unexplained variance is the evidence that other influences like peer impact, media exposure, neighborhood, and socioeconomic conditions also cause delinquency.

### Discussion of Findings

#### Parenting Styles and Child Delinquency

Parenting styles and child delinquency are two connected issues that cannot be explained without each other (Cole and Wachtel, 2003).

The results prove that parenting styles are influential in child delinquency. Teenagers brought up in authoritative parenting systems had lower rates of delinquency and those who were exposed to authoritarian parents or neglectful parents had a high probability of participating in antisocial behavior. Authoritative parents are warm, consistent, reasonably controlling; these styles achieve emotional security and support moral development, which can decrease the chances of committing a crime.

#### Parental Supervision as a Preventive Factor

The most significant predictor of child delinquency became parental supervision. Teenagers whose parents were highly aware of their actions, socialization and performance at school were much less prone to delinquency. This observation lends credence to Social Control Theory which focuses on attachment and supervision as some of the essential means of prevention.

Parental supervision is one of the protective measures in the fast-evolving social world of Pakistan where teenagers are more prone to external influences. Absence of supervision can give chances of bad peer association and dangerous behavior, which puts them at risk of committing delinquency.

#### Role of Parental Discipline

The authors have concluded that regular and just discipline correlates with reduced cases of delinquency, and rough or infrequent discipline is risky towards developing antisocial behavior. Positive effective disciplinary measures and ethics assist teenagers to learn about boundaries and consequences, self-regulate, and become accountable.

These results are in line with the previous studies that have suggested that punitive or aggressive approaches to discipline can lead to resentment and defiance instead of compliance. Thus, fair and respectful discipline is more effective in delinquent behavior prevention.

**Parent child communication and delinquency**

Parent child communication was strongly found to have a negative relationship with child delinquency. Teenagers who had good, open, and frequent communication with their parents were not likely to commit delinquencies. Good communication enhances emotional attachment, helps to guide and provides the parents to control the behavior problems before they get out of hand.

This observation can be matched to the Social Learning Theory which postulates that children acquire proper behavior in the process of interaction, modeling and reinforcement by parents. Communication is therefore a preventive as well as an ethical practice of parenting.

**The interaction between the two factors is that the parental factors increase the divorce rates among children.**

The total effect of parenting styles, supervision, discipline and communications accounted for a significant percentage of variance of child delinquency. This brings out the core aspect of family as a socializing institution in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Although parental factors do not solely cause delinquent behavior, it is an essential area of intervention.

Such findings reveal the relevance of family based and ethically wise approaches in dealing with child delinquency in Pakistan.

**Conclusion of Findings and Discussion**

In general, the results of the study are a good empirical support that parental factors are important determinants of adolescent behavior. Delinquency is linked to positive parenting styles, effective supervision, fair discipline and open communication. Supervision of parents proved to be the most powerful, then there is communication, parenting styles and discipline. The findings align with the current theoretical base and add to the small body of empirical research on child delinquency in Pakistan, highlighting the moral imperative of parents in delinquency prevention in juveniles.

**Conclusion**

This paper has discussed the contribution of parents to child delinquency in Pakistan with special reference to parenting styles, parental supervision, parental discipline, and parent child communication taking into consideration ethical implications regarding parenting and studies involving minors. With quantitative research design and a cross-sectional study design, the research design based on data collected among 300 adolescents and parents' presents strong empirical evidence that parental factors are very imperative in influencing the behaviors of adolescents.

The results show that every parental aspect investigated in this paper has a significant negative relationship with child delinquency. Adolescents with authoritative parents, good supervision, reasonable and consistent consequences and free communication with their parents are less prone to delinquent behaviors. Parental supervision was found to be the best predictor of delinquency among these factors, which shows that the monitoring of children in terms of their activities, peer associations, and everyday routine is important. Parent-child communication and parenting styles also showed great protective values with a relatively small role by disciplinary practices.

In general, the findings support the hypothesis that the family is still one of the key institutions in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Despite the role that other causes like peer influence, socio economic conditions and media exposure in the delinquent behavior, parental influence explains a significant percentage of the variance in child delinquency. The paper highlights the moral duty of parents in offering guidance, emotional support, and moral direction to their children. Through enhancing positive parenting, families will be able to play a determinative role in minimizing delinquent behavior in adolescents in Pakistan.

### Policy Implications

The results of this research are significant to policy makers, teachers, and the social welfare organizations. One, policies concerning child delinquency prevention need to transcend the punitive models and focus more on the family-oriented and preventive models. Parents are stakeholders and stakeholders who should be considered by government agencies and child protection authorities to prevent delinquencies and assist them in such programs through structured parenting programs.

Second, schools ought to cooperate with the parents to spread awareness on effective parenting practices. Colleges and schools can arrange workshops, seminars and counseling sessions to emphasize parental supervision, ethical discipline and good communication. This can be done through such efforts that enable the parents to be more cognizant of the aspects of development of adolescence and provide them with knowledge in dealing with behavioral issues.

### Recommendations

The recommendations based on the results of the current study are as follows:

#### 1. For Parents:

Authoritative parenting styles that are warm, supportive, and reasonably controlling should be adopted by the parents. It must be focused more on overseeing the activities of children, observing their interactions with other peers, and ensuring free and approving communication. Correction should be just, regular, and non-punitive, which does not interfere with the dignity and emotional condition of children.

#### 2. In the case of Educational Institutions:

Parents must be actively involved in the development of students through a combination of parent-teacher meetings in schools and colleges, counseling services, and awareness programs. Schools can play the role of offering moral parenting and early detection of behavioral issues.

#### 3. To the Policymakers and Government Agencies:

Family-centered delinquency prevention programs should be created and executed by policymakers. National child welfare and youth development policies should include parenting education. Laws must focus on rehabilitation and prevention rather than punishment of juvenile offenders.

#### 4. To the Social Workers and Community Organizations:

Theories Community-based interventions ought to be established to assist endangered families. The social workers may be important in educating parents, counseling them and linking them with appropriate assistance services.

#### 5. For Future Research:

Longitudinal studies need to be incorporated in future to study how parental influence and delinquent behavior varies over time. Other factors that may be investigated by researchers include peer influence, media exposure, neighboring environment and socioeconomic status. Qualitative research might give a better understanding of the process in families and ethical parenting in various cultural contexts.

### Final Remarks

To sum up, the present paper has emphasized that child delinquency is not a personal problem but a family and social one that is firmly embedded in parenting behavior. Ethical parenting, supportive parenting, and responsible parenting come out as a potent parenting instrument in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Through reinforcing family systems and facilitating positive parental engagement, Pakistan will be making significant strides in curbing youth delinquency, as well as creating healthier and more socially responsible future generations.

### Restrictions and Future Studies

Although this study offers some valuable insights, some limitations must be mentioned. To begin with, a cross-sectional research design makes it impossible to determine causal relationships among parental factors and child delinquency. Second, the self-reported nature of the data used as well as the use of adolescents and parents could lead to response bias where adolescents could either underreport or over report delinquency behaviors; or overstate positive parenting behaviors. Third, the sample was only confined to urban and semi-urban Pakistan, and this could limit the generalization of the findings to rural populations and other cultural settings. Moreover, the research concentrated more on parental issues and did not fully investigate other issues that may influence it like peer influence, media exposure, neighborhood environment and socioeconomic conditions. The research in the future must take the longitudinal or mixed method line to capture the transitions in parental influence over time and have more qualitative insights on the familial processes.

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