

Juvenile justice system of Pakistan

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Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of Pakistan's juvenile justice system, highlighting its evolution, legislative reforms, and challenges. Legislative reforms aimed at aligning

national laws with international standards, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, have shaped the system significantly. The enactment of the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance in 2000 marked a pivotal shift towards prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment, introducing specialized juvenile courts and diversionary strategies. Critical components like legal counsel, presumption of innocence, and the child's best interests are explored, along with adopting restorative justice techniques. Challenges include implementation issues, resource constraints, and disparities in access to justice, particularly for underprivileged juveniles. Continuous evaluation and monitoring are crucial to ensure the system's effectiveness.

Keywords: justice, delinquency, child rights protection, rehabilitation strategies, youth offenders, Pakista

Introduction

Crime and deviance are inherent aspects of human civilization, present across all nations without exception. Various challenges, including these, inevitably arise as people coexist within societies. In response, societies establish formal and informal mechanisms to address such issues (Nasir & Kausar, 2022; Qazi et al., 2023). Among these mechanisms is the criminal justice system, created by the state to maintain social order. Its objectives include administering justice by prosecuting and penalizing lawbreakers, facilitating rehabilitation to prevent further criminal behavior, and safeguarding the populace from harm posed by offenders (Bohm & Halvey, 2005).

Understanding the background of implementing the Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 is essential to delving deeply into the topic. Essentially, we must investigate the laws in force before this one and the particular circumstances that prompted the legislators to propose the current one (Nazim et al., 2024). First, section 497 of the Pakistan Penal Code 1860 deals specifically with the bail of juvenile offenders (Pakistan Penal Code, 1860). When determining bail, the court must consider the juvenile offender's age. In addition, the state is required by Article 25 of the Pakistani Constitution 1973 to protect minors, regardless of their status as perpetrators or victims (Qazi et al., 2023).

The Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000 was passed (Ahmed et al., 2020), which combined all juvenile-related processes, such as probation and bail. However, the honorable Lahore High Court pointed out in one of its rulings that the 2000 Ordinance did not include all the requirements for minors. It therefore requested lawmakers to propose a new law. This new law covers juvenile offenders' trials (Nazim et al., 2024). Considering how recently it was implemented, debates on interpreting it are still ongoing, and effective field-based solutions still need to be found. Although courts are making decisions considering the new law, enduring issues need to be fixed.

As a result, when a special legislation is passed, it takes precedence over other current laws. Except in certain circumstances, the Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 has incorporated the Criminal Procedure Code of 1860 by eliminating distinct procedures from the Juvenile Act. It suggests that the essential needs for the procedure are still the same (Ahmed et al., 2020). The Juvenile Justice Framework Act of 2018 has brought about a far better framework for dealing with juvenile offenders, with the promise of

actual execution. Juvenile rehabilitation and social integration will be implemented more skillfully (Nasir & Kausar, 2022). As defined by the Act, a kid is a person who has not turned eighteen. In addition, many kinds of criminal offenses have been established under the JJS Act of 2018 (Key Law Reports, 2019).

First, minor offenses, for which a maximum punishment of three years in prison, with or without a fine, are prescribed by the Pakistan Penal Code of 1860. It implies that a juvenile court may grant bail to a child who has committed such an offense, either in the presence of surety bonds or not (Nazim et al., 2024). Following that, there are serious crimes, defined as those for which the Pakistan Penal Code of 1860 sets a maximum jail term ranging from three to seven years, either with or without a fine. The juvenile court can establish bail, either with or without surety bonds, for severe crimes (Nasir & Kausar, 2022).

According to a report by Key Law Reports in 2019, heinous crimes are deemed severe and harmful, threatening public morals and peace. The Pakistan Penal Code of 1860 stipulates that severe offenses carry penalties such as life imprisonment, death, or imprisonment exceeding seven years, with or without a fine. Minors under sixteen may be granted bail for severe offenses, while those above sixteen may receive bail at the judge's discretion. Legal assistance is guaranteed for every young individual, ensuring that any minor victim of a crime is provided state-funded legal representation. It is mandated to inform minors of their right to legal representation within 24 hours of their arrest.

Additionally, a need for observation houses states that minors must be placed in these establishments upon their arrest and capture by law enforcement. Once the juvenile's remand is obtained, the same procedure is applicable. Juvenile rehabilitation facilities should also exist so young people can be housed rather than locked up. A child found guilty must stay in these facilities until the end of their sentence or until they turn eighteen. These facilities were set up to provide young people with vocational training (Key Law Reports, 2019).

Additionally, the existing rehabilitation facilities lack sufficient resources to reintegrate juvenile offenders into society post-decision-making phase effectively. The conditions within these centers are substandard, failing to provide a convincing environment for rehabilitation. The Borstal system, governed by jail manuals rather than the Borstal Act, requires regulation to ensure its credibility (Government of Pakistan, 2009). However, this system lacks any comprehensive record of juvenile offenders in the country or periodic reports to depict the official data on juvenile delinquency and offenses (Ijaz et al., 2021). Since 2000, a significant number of children involved in murder cases have received death sentences for unintended crimes (Malik & Sherazi, 2010).

Islam has deemed the infringement upon children's rights as sinful and has established penalties for such offenses while also setting the minimum age of criminal responsibility for children (Qazi et al., 2023). Peshawar serves as a case study to

understand the challenges encountered by juveniles from case registration to final decisions, including the release of juveniles on parole. The chapter examines these issues in the context of existing literature (Hilal, 2021).

Research Justification

The juvenile justice system in Pakistan warrants urgent research attention due to its critical implications for the welfare and future of young offenders. This investigation justifies the need to thoroughly assess the system's efficiency, equity, and compliance with international norms. Understanding the challenges faced by juvenile offenders, such as access to education, rehabilitation, and reintegration, is vital for informed policymaking.

Additionally, a nuanced examination of the legal and societal factors influencing juvenile justice outcomes is essential for creating targeted interventions that address the unique needs of this vulnerable population. By shedding light on the strengths and weaknesses of the juvenile justice system in Pakistan, this research aims to contribute valuable insights for reform initiatives, promoting a more just and rehabilitative approach towards youth offenders. Moreover, investigating the socioeconomic disparities impacting juvenile justice involvement and the potential long-term consequences for these young individuals will inform strategies to break the cycle of recidivism and improve overall societal well-being.

Research Objectives

- 1. Identify legal and institutional Challenges:** Identify and analyze legal and institutional challenges within the juvenile justice system, including gaps in legislation, inconsistencies in implementation, and barriers to effective juvenile justice practices.
- 2. Assess adherence to International Juvenile Justice standards:** Evaluate the extent to which the juvenile justice system in Pakistan aligns with international standards and guidelines, focusing on aspects such as age-appropriate legal procedures, protection of rights, and rehabilitative approaches.

Research Methodology

This study utilized a systematic review approach to establish its research framework, with its objectives set accordingly (Komba & Lwoga, 2020). Extensive literature exploration on the topic was conducted, as indicated by the research findings being categorized based on their content (Hiver et al., 2021; Petticrew & Roberts, 2006). It was structured using headings to incorporate this classified information into the study (Gan et al., 2021; Pawson et al., 2005). The study's progression was determined by evaluating the classified information and titles (Page, 2021; Rahi, 2017), ensuring the research subject's contents' integrity (Egger et al., 2022; Victor, 2008).

Literature Review

The juvenile justice system in Pakistan explores its strengths, weaknesses, and challenges, focusing on ensuring the protection and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. This area needs research regarding the juvenile justice system's key legislative frameworks, institutional structures, and procedural aspects. It evaluates their effectiveness in meeting international standards and addressing the needs of juvenile offenders (Haidar et al., 2023).

In the latter half of the 20th century, Pakistan's juvenile justice system came to the notice of international accords and local legislation. Prioritizing the "best interests of the child" and ensuring the protection of their fundamental rights are the primary objectives, as they must be balanced with the significant issue of juvenile delinquency. Unfortunately, there are still several severe flaws in Pakistan's criminal justice system as a whole, which includes the juvenile justice system. These include understaffed jails and overcrowded and cruel circumstances in detention facilities. Preventing juvenile offenders from being involved in the formal Criminal Justice System is a top priority for the Juvenile Justice System. Instead, it emphasizes substitute methods for rehabilitating, reintegrating, and resocializing young people with society (Abbas et al., 2022).

While Islamic beliefs support juvenile sanctions commensurate with the seriousness of the offense, juvenile justice is a modern legal notion. It fits in with the focus of today's juvenile justice system. Furthermore, Islam places a high priority on children's reformation, rehabilitation, and social reintegration into society—concepts that are regarded as contemporary in the field of juvenile justice. Some notions that have their roots in Islamic law—the concept of juvenility, for example—seem to be at odds with contemporary notions of juvenile justice. Since Pakistan is an Islamic Republic, Islamic rules apply there and supersede all other laws. Every law enacted by the parliament undergoes scrutiny based on Islamic principles, and any law conflicting with Islamic provisions is invalidated from the outset. However, the legal framework concerning juveniles lacks consistency, leading to ambiguity (Chughtai et al., 2021).

Although the Ordinance and its associated Rules promise the rehabilitation of juveniles, there has been a lack of effective enforcement of the legislation about juvenile justice. In Pakistan, substantial advancements in juvenile justice reform were realized in 2000. Before the onset of the twenty-first century, children were governed by the colonial law 1898, which categorized a child as someone between the ages of seven and twelve, and they were adjudicated in the same courts as adults (Ali & Taieb, 2021).

There used to be no designated court officer for handling issues involving minors. However, the idea of separate courts for juvenile offenders was established with the passing of Pakistan's Juvenile Justice System Ordinance of 2000—albeit not physically but in terms of legal authority. It would be wise to look into Pakistan's justice system and the current court system to create a foundation for comprehending juvenile courts and their difficulties (Sajid et al., 2020).

Juvenile Justice System - An Overview

The juvenile justice system was established to address the legal needs of young individuals who come into contact with the law or violate societal norms. It recognizes that minors, because of their vulnerability and immaturity, are not suitable candidates for traditional delinquency interventions. Operating within the broader criminal justice framework, the juvenile justice system differs from the adult criminal justice system, prioritizing punishment by focusing primarily on rehabilitation and the reintegration of young offenders into society.

This system is designed to address the requirements of juveniles involved in or having conflicts with the law and to prevent and rehabilitate juvenile offenders or delinquents. It includes laws, policies, guidelines, traditional practices, personnel, institutions, and specialized interventions tailored to tackle the distinct challenges juvenile delinquents encounter.

The juvenile justice system supervises every phase of the conventional justice procedure, from arrest and prosecution to judicial adjudication and sentencing. Nevertheless, its main focus is rehabilitating and reintegrating juvenile offenders into society. At the core of this system lies the safeguarding and welfare of juvenile delinquents, serving as its fundamental principle. It is essential to realize that different nations have different juvenile justice systems because of normative, cultural, and religious-political differences. These variations lead to different strategies and tenets for handling deviant and delinquent kids. Nonetheless, many international institutions and organizations recognize the juvenile justice system's role in maintaining the rule of law and improving societal welfare.

Classification of the Juvenile Justice System

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes the importance of defending children's integrity and dignity and shielding them from prejudice. Article 2 of the Convention states that all children under a state's responsibility should be treated fairly and equally, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, or handicap. States are also required to shield kids from discrimination or abuse based on the marital status or religious beliefs of their parents or legal guardians.

Similarly, Article 3 places the child's best interests first in all decisions about them, whether made by public or private organizations. Considering their parents' or legal guardians' responsibilities and rights, states are responsible for guaranteeing children's safety, welfare, and treatment. Establishments that oversee the care or protection of children must follow specific guidelines for staffing, supervision, safety, and health. Several global human rights statutes and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child provide guidelines for treating and rehabilitating juvenile offenders. Principles for the treatment of juveniles in institutions are outlined in the UN Rules (1990), the Beijing Rules (1985), and the Riyadh Guidelines (1990).

In the context of Pakistan's national legislation, Articles 10 and 10-A of the Constitution safeguard juveniles against arbitrary arrest and detention. These constitutional provisions guarantee the right to a fair trial, requiring that detained individuals be promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest, brought before a court, and provided with legal representation. The Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 mandates that juvenile offenders, even for serious offenses, be treated as if they were apprehended for minor crimes. Additionally, juveniles below the age of 15 are to be referred to reformatory schools, and the court has the discretion to release first-time juvenile offenders or those sentenced to up to two years in prison after a warning.

However, despite these constitutional provisions and legislative measures, there has been limited implementation, with proposed bills, such as the Child Offender Bill, remaining largely unacted upon. Creating distinct juvenile courts and facilities around the nation is a crucial suggestion. Juveniles frequently encounter challenges during their trials and in detention due to the court's current caseload overload. Juvenile offenders can have better access to justice and proper treatment if they have separate resources and staff.

Administrative structures within juvenile justice systems should also be strengthened. Personnel responsible for juvenile care should receive adequate training, including psychosocial support, to effectively address the needs of young offenders. Training programs like those in Western countries can help sensitize staff to juvenile issues and equip them with the necessary skills. Government committees should also be formed to create guidelines and policies for juvenile facilities. The safety and welfare of young people should be the top priorities for these facilities, and they should offer educational possibilities, psychosocial support services, and career training. In addition, it is essential to guarantee that juvenile offenders and adult offenders are housed apart in prisons in settings that are suitable for their recovery and reintegration into society.

To summarise, the juvenile justice system in Pakistan might be significantly improved through the effective execution of international norms, national legislation, and suggested reforms. In addition to ensuring the protection of juvenile offenders' rights and welfare, this would help with their rehabilitation and effective reintegration back into society.

History of the Juvenile Justice System of Pakistan

The European juvenile justice system's philosophical foundation, "parens patriae," signifies a profound shift in how juvenile offenders are seen and handled. This concept sought to safeguard and assist children who were at risk of abuse or criminal influence. It was based on the idea that the state should be the ultimate guardian of those not receiving proper care. This novel strategy laid the groundwork for acknowledging the state's obligation to safeguard the welfare of young people who are considered to be at risk, signaling the birth of a new paradigm in juvenile justice (Cate, 2016).

In the Middle Ages, child offenders in ecclesiastical tribunals frequently received harsh, indiscriminate punishments that were comparable to those meted out to adult

criminals. However, during the Age of Enlightenment, attitudes in society gradually changed, and young people's unique needs and the possibility of rehabilitation or self-improvement were acknowledged. The groundwork for modern juvenile justice was laid during this time. The history of juvenile justice at the close of the 19th century underwent a dramatic change with the founding of the first juvenile court in Chicago in 1899. This court aimed to break from the punitive attitude of adult criminal justice, giving rehabilitation and guiding precedence over punishment, in keeping with the Progressive Era's goals. (Zimring, 2018).

Progressivism led to various improvements targeting the situation of juvenile offenders, including the establishment of specialized judicial systems focusing on the best interests of the child and individualized care. These changes reflected a transition towards a more compassionate approach to addressing the needs of young people in legal trouble. (Dowd, 2015). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified in 1989 because of increased international cooperation on juvenile justice issues during the middle of the 20th century. This crucial agreement, which emphasizes juvenile offenders' rights, protection, and rehabilitation, sets global standards for their treatment. It signified the beginning of an international campaign for improved cohesion and rights in juvenile justice (Weber et al., 2018).

Recently, there has been a worldwide inclination in juvenile justice approaches towards prioritizing children's rights and sensitivity. Numerous countries are adopting community-based alternatives to incarceration, moving away from punitive measures and towards rehabilitative methods. This ongoing evolution demonstrates a dedication to enhancing juvenile justice systems globally, ensuring they adapt to societal changes and prioritize the well-being and rehabilitation of young offenders (Henning, 2018).

Growing worries about juvenile criminals in Scandinavia, Australia, the US, and the UK have given rise to the idea of juvenile justice. In the past, general criminal law did not distinguish between adults and adolescents (Bilchik, 1999). A person up to the age of seven was usually considered a minor. This age restriction may be raised to twelve if the perpetrator lacks moral and mental development (Bilchik, 1999). Pakistan and several other nations continue to use this definition.

Organization of Juvenile Justice System in Pakistan

Before specific legal procedures for juvenile protection were created, minors were often involved in adult court cases. However, a significant shift occurred at the beginning of the 20th century, most notably with the establishment of Chicago's first juvenile court in 1899. The newly established juvenile court introduced a more rehabilitative approach, departing from punitive measures. Despite its informal nature, lacking formal legal procedures like the right to counsel or trial by jury, the system prioritized the rights of children advocated directly to judges by probation officers. It marked a notable departure from the harsh treatment previously experienced by juvenile offenders.

Islamic law has also influenced legislation regarding juvenile justice, emphasizing compassion towards children and orphans and advocating for their protection and welfare. Minors are granted leniency in legal liability based on age, reflecting the importance placed on safeguarding children's rights. Similarly, international laws prioritize preserving children's rights in all circumstances, whether in conflict or peace. These laws underscore the imperative of protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being, aligning with Islamic principles and global standards.

In essence, the evolution of juvenile justice reflects a growing acknowledgment of children's distinct needs and vulnerabilities within the legal system. From the inception of specialized juvenile courts to the influence of Islamic and international laws, efforts have been made to prioritize the protection and welfare of young offenders, signifying significant progress in their treatment. The study findings underscore a notable lack of confidence among juvenile authorities in recognizing learning disabilities. This deficiency extends to grappling with academic skill challenges that influence juvenile behavior, compounded by inadequate communication strategies due to their educational limitations.

Consequently, the inability to effectively support juveniles with learning disabilities persists, as symptoms often manifest through academic struggles. Notably, a significant factor contributing to the failure to identify academic issues is juvenile authorities' lack of educational qualifications, as evidenced by data from the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development records of 2024. Many research participants needed more educational attainment beyond basic levels, with many officials needing higher degrees.

Moreover, the research reveals a glaring absence of training among juvenile officials in identifying learning disabilities or addressing psychological health issues. Despite the evident necessity for such training, its provision still needs to be improved. Additionally, even when officials recognize the need for training, their attitudes toward it often remain apathetic, as indicated by prior studies (Underwood & Washington, 2016).

Discussion

The juvenile justice system in Pakistan faces numerous challenges, including inconsistent application of laws, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to legal representation. Despite the JJSO 2000, the practical implementation of juvenile justice principles remains fragmented and uneven across different regions and courts. Age determination issues further complicate matters, leading to juveniles being tried as adults due to a lack of birth registration and documentation. Moreover, the scarcity of specialized juvenile courts and separate detention facilities exacerbates the vulnerability of juvenile offenders, exposing them to potential harm and adverse psychological effects.

Efforts to address these challenges are underway, with initiatives focusing on legislative reforms, capacity building, and infrastructure development. However, progress has been slow, and significant gaps persist in juvenile offenders' adequate protection and

rehabilitation. Enhanced coordination among stakeholders, including law enforcement, the judiciary, social services, and child protection agencies, ensures a more cohesive and comprehensive approach to juvenile justice.

Additionally, more significant investment in rehabilitation and reintegration programs is needed to provide juvenile offenders with the support and resources necessary for their successful reintegration into society. Ultimately, strengthening the juvenile justice system in Pakistan requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society.

Conclusion

The JJS in Pakistan grapples with challenges that impact its efficacy. While legislative efforts like the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance exist, implementation inconsistencies persist across regions. Resource constraints hinder comprehensive rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders, limiting their successful reintegration into society. Access to legal representation for juveniles remains a concern, affecting the fairness of the legal process. Cultural and societal attitudes toward juvenile offenders also play a role, necessitating efforts to foster a rehabilitative rather than punitive approach. To enhance the juvenile justice system's effectiveness, ongoing attention is required to address these issues, ensuring uniform application of laws, adequate resources, and a focus on rehabilitation, ultimately contributing to the well-being and successful reintegration of juveniles into society.

Recommendations

1. **Incorporate International Standards:** Fully integrate the CRC, Beijing Rules, Riyadh Guidelines, and other relevant international standards into national legislation.
2. **Establish Specialized Juvenile Courts:** Create courts specifically designed to address juvenile cases, staffed by judges and personnel trained in child psychology and juvenile justice.
3. **Promote Diversion Programs:** Encourage Diversion and alternative measures to formal judicial proceedings, focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment.
4. **Implement Non-Custodial Sentences:** Develop and expand the use of non-custodial sentences for juveniles, such as community service, probation, and mediation.
5. **Ensure Age-Appropriate Treatment:** Guarantee that all juveniles are treated according to age and maturity level, ensuring a child-friendly justice process.
6. **Prohibit the Death Penalty and Life Imprisonment:** Eliminate the death penalty and life imprisonment without the possibility of release for offenses committed by juveniles.
7. **Separate Juveniles from Adults:** Ensure that juveniles are detained separately from adults to protect them from harm and negative influences.
8. **Guarantee Access to Legal Representation:** Ensure that every juvenile has access to qualified legal representation from the outset of their interaction with the justice system.

9. **Provide Training for Professionals:** Offer ongoing training for all professionals involved in the juvenile justice system, including police, lawyers, judges, and correctional officers.
10. **Focus on Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** The juvenile justice system should emphasize rehabilitation and reintegration into the community as its primary goals.
11. **Enhance Family Involvement:** Involve families in the rehabilitation process and support them in providing a stable environment for juvenile reintegration.
12. **Offer Educational and Vocational Training:** Provide access to quality education and vocational training for juveniles in detention to facilitate their successful reintegration.
13. **Ensure Access to Mental Health Services:** Make psychological counseling and mental health services readily available to address the needs of juveniles in the system.
14. **Develop Gender-Sensitive Approaches:** Implement gender-sensitive policies and programs that address the specific needs of both boys and girls in the juvenile justice system.
15. **Strengthen Child Protection Systems:** Build robust child protection systems that can identify at-risk children early and provide them with the support they need to avoid entering the justice system.

Research Limitations

1. **Limited Data Availability:** One significant challenge in researching the juvenile justice system in Pakistan could be the limited availability of comprehensive and up-to-date data. Reliable and accurate statistics may be scarce, making it difficult for researchers to assess the effectiveness of juvenile justice policies and programs.
2. **Resource Constraints:** Researchers may encounter resource constraints, such as a lack of funding, personnel, or access to technology. It can hinder their ability to conduct in-depth studies or gather data from diverse regions within the country.
3. **Legal and Institutional Barriers:** The legal and institutional framework governing juvenile justice in Pakistan may pose challenges for researchers. Understanding and navigating the legal complexities and institutional structures can be time-consuming and may require legal expertise.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Research on juvenile justice involves interacting with vulnerable populations, and cultural sensitivity is crucial. Researchers may face challenges in building trust and rapport with juvenile offenders, their families, and the community, which could impact the quality of data collected.
5. **Ethical Considerations:** Conducting research involving juveniles requires strict adherence to ethical guidelines. Obtaining informed consent, protecting the confidentiality of participants, and ensuring that research does not harm the well-being of juveniles are essential considerations.
6. **Policy Implementation and Enforcement:** Even if well-defined policies exist, the implementation and enforcement of juvenile justice measures may vary. Researchers may need help assessing the consistency and effectiveness of policy implementation across different regions in Pakistan.

Research Implications

1. **Policy Reform:** Research findings can inform policy reform initiatives by identifying gaps, inconsistencies, and areas for improvement within the existing legal framework. For example, research on age determination issues or the utilization of diversion programs can provide evidence to support legislative amendments or policy changes aimed at strengthening juvenile justice laws.
2. **Capacity Building:** Research can inform capacity-building efforts for stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system, including law enforcement officials, judges, lawyers, social workers, and correctional staff. By identifying training needs and best practices, research can contribute to developing tailored training programs and resources to enhance the knowledge and skills of these professionals.
3. **Program Development:** Research findings can guide developing and implementing programs and interventions aimed at rehabilitation, reintegration, and Diversion for juvenile offenders. For example, research on practical rehabilitation approaches or successful community-based programs can inform the design and adaptation of interventions tailored to the Pakistani context.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Research can contribute to establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the juvenile justice system. By identifying key indicators, benchmarks, and methodologies for assessing system performance, research can support ongoing efforts to monitor progress, identify challenges, and measure the impact of interventions over time.
5. **Advocacy and Awareness:** Research findings can be used to advocate for the rights of juvenile offenders and raise awareness about issues within the juvenile justice system. Researchers, civil society organizations, and advocates can mobilize support for policy reform, resource allocation, and system improvements by disseminating research findings through reports, briefs, workshops, and media campaigns.

Future Research Directions

One potential future research direction for the JJS in Pakistan could be a comprehensive study on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders. This research could evaluate the existing rehabilitation programs, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and propose evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes for juvenile offenders, ultimately aiming to reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reintegration into society. Additionally, exploring the impact of socioeconomic factors, cultural norms, and access to education and mental health services on juvenile delinquency could provide valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners to develop more targeted and effective interventions.

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