



**Effect of Present Law and Order Situation on Academic Performance at
Secondary Level of Education**

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Abstract

The major aim of the study is to explore the effect of present law and order situation of Karachi on academic performance. This study was designed to evaluate the impact of deteriorating situation on teaching-learning process and on academic achievement. The target population of the study comprised of all head teachers of government and private secondary schools in Karachi. However, sample of the study was comprised of head teachers (headmasters / headmistresses) of 40 head teachers of government and private secondary schools located in Karachi. The instruments of data collection (questionnaires) was developed and validated and data was collected through personal visits. The analysis was made by Chi-square using SPSS. The major findings of the study are irregular teaching-learning experience during present law and order situation, lack of government efforts for peace keeping, leadership at all levels (political / local) is not working in the city with harmony, law enforcement agencies are proactive to secure the people's daily life activities, media is communicating information to public with true text and context, community is addressing its public issues during 'fragile situation', parents and teachers are not satisfied with the academic performance of the students in the present law and order situation so the recommendation is that peaceful environment is necessary for continuous teaching-learning experience and better educational performance.

Keywords: Academic performance, peaceful environment, law and order situation, stakeholders, rule of law.

JEL Classification: I20, I21

Introduction

Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on 14th August 1947. It is a country of 180 million people, full of natural resources. Since its inception, it has been surrounded by so many issues like ill-formed / missing infrastructure, insufficient refined resources, barren or obsolete factories and technologies, imposed conflicts at Kashmir. Within 24 years of independence, its one wing (East Pakistan) gets separated (now Bangladesh).

Karachi - the city of lights, a place where many dwell their imaginations and dreams. The beauty of this city is due to its diversified cultural and ethnic colors. It is a mini Pakistan as we find individuals from all parts of the country belonging to different groups, sects, ethnics and religions. At the moment the city has almost one third population of immigrants (Muhajirs), about one third of combined Pushtun, Sindhi and Punjabi, and the remaining are mixed groups including Bengalis, Biharis, Christians, Hindus and other minorities (Ali A, 2000).

For the last few years, activities of habitual criminals, miscreants and militants are increasing which takes the shape of 'law and order situation' particularly in Karachi. Present law and order situation in Karachi has become a major and highly destructive phenomenon in recent years. Suicide bombing attacks, target killings, street crimes, kidnapping, petty crimes, strikes and rallies are routine practice every day in Karachi and dozens of innocent people are killed daily indicating no writ of the government in the provincial capital. These series of incidents of violence are considered as part of an organized conspiracy to disturb the peace of Karachi. The security situation deteriorates continuously and the people are afraid when they move outside their houses as they might imagine death on every step.

Main reasons of exploitation by the agents of foreign secret agencies working against our integrity are sectarian militants, gangsters and criminals, ruthless land mafia, drug mafia, and reaction of the targeted operations both internally as well as externally. These foreign

secret agencies are supplying them the arms and ammunition, money and other physical support to destabilize us and to spoil our image all over the world.

This daunting situation of Karachi is caused due to several factors. These factors include social injustice, unemployment, poverty, economic disparity between rich and poor, social taboos (bribery and usury), political instability, wrong men in position of power, and also external hands or international conspiracies.

As per Gay, L. R., & Peter, W. A. (2000) educational institutions are the major victim of such uncertain situations as influential political and religious elements, and different organizations, unions and pressure groups call for all businesses and educational institutions to remain closed until their motives are gained. Due to such activities, all types of educational institutions have to face closure and various educational activities and events are to be cancelled also.

Research Objectives

Objectives of the study are as under:

- a. To establish the variables responsible for bad situation of law and order in Karachi.
- b. To explore the effect of continuous teaching-learning experience on academic performance / achievement at secondary level.
- c. To determine the efforts of government to make the peaceful environment.
- d. To calculate the will power of leadership at all levels to make peace in Karachi.
- e. To find out the role of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order situation of the city.
- f. To explore the role of media to enhance the general public awareness.
- g. To find out the contribution of community (societal elements) for maintaining peaceful environment.

Research Hypotheses

Following are the hypotheses formulated for the study:-

HA1: Continuous teaching-learning experience (educational activities) enhances the academic performance in a better way.

HA2: Due to efforts of the government, a peaceful environment (politically stable environment) has occurred.

HA3: Will power of leadership plays an important role in making a peaceful environment.

HA4: Due to the efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), city's security apparatus become functional.

HA5: Due to the efforts of media, public awareness increases.

HA6: Due to the role of community (societal elements), a peaceful environment occurs.

Literature Review

An Overview of Academic Performance

In an educational institution, success is measured by academic achievement which is also called the outcome of education – the extent to which a student, a teacher or an institution has achieved their educational goals, or how well a student meets standards set out by the institution or by the government / department. The term 'academic performance' means that how well a student accomplishes his / her set educational goals or studies (Laghari, J. 1991). In the present working world, as the career competition grows more and more complex, the importance of well performing students has caught the attention of parents, teachers, educational institutions and government education departments as well.

Background of Present Law and Order Situation

The origin of the present challenges of lawlessness dates back to the time when Pakistan came into being and appeared on the world's map. Since its inception, Pakistan witnessed so many social, political, ethnic and economic problems of great magnitude

Geertz, (1972). But the intensity of lawlessness came to its peak during the regime of President Zia-ul-Haq. The imposition of third martial law took the country into another world which was witnessed active linkage between criminal / political propensities both on the domestic front as well as abroad especially Afghan-Soviet war.

Effect on Education

The government generally lies responsible for academic freedom to provide equal opportunities of getting education to all citizens without any discrimination Gay, L. R., & Peter, W. A., (2000). All arrangements of policymaking, curriculum making, regular functioning of educational institutions, educational staff, and provision of security to these institutions, teaching-learning process and educational activities are the responsibility of the state also (Krygier M. & Mason W., 2008).

Presently, every political party has made its youth wing given the task to penetrate into educational institutions and make student organizations / unions to show its existence / footing in educational institutions. These wings also fostered an atmosphere of intolerance and violence in these institutions that minimized the learning opportunities and academic freedom of fellow students.

Due to the violence in the institutions, educational activities are disturbed at a great extent. Resultantly, following impacts can be seen:

- a. Institutional staff, instructors and students remain absent from institutions.
- b. Educational activities (teaching-learning experience and examinations) are postponed.
- c. Curriculum will not be covered according to planned program.
- d. Educational goals cannot be achieved set by the institutions.
- e. All the stakeholders of educational process (parents, teachers and students) will be traumatized due to present law and order situation.

Stakeholders of Law and Order Situation

The intermission in existing wave of violence is important for doing efforts for peace making in the city. This needs reconciliation process involving all stakeholders - political parties, local leadership, civil society, ethnic communities, media, corporate bodies and law enforcement agencies (Ali, A. 2000). Without accord between these stakeholders, the remaining process would not be more than a table talk or a wishful exercise on a rough paper.

State / Government (Good Governance)

As per Cohen & Stephen P., (2011) stated that good governance, service delivery, and maintaining law and order are the responsibilities of the state. Governance of multi-ethnic and economically unstable city like Karachi is not an easy job, and it is impossible without strengthening different institutions of a state (Ali, A. 2000). Unless or until the state institutions like police, judiciary, and other state elements do not struggle to overcome their existing shortcomings, the internal and external security threats will continue to persist.

Role of Political Parties

Laghari, J. (1991) and Cohen & Stephen P., (2011) highlighted that it is evident from the facts that deterioration of the political system especially in developing countries is the result of some known issues such as centralization of authority, national integration, social mobilization, economic development, political participation and social development and well being, Which have arisen simultaneously in the political setup.

Instead of resorting to an unending blame – game, the political parties are required to join heads to hammer out a physically workable policy to effectively confront the present challenges of political instability and present law and order situation as well.

Political Will of Leadership

Today, Karachi continues to suffer from the worst insecurity crises in its history. Despite this, instead of putting their heads together, the leadership (political and local) is busy

in playing blame game without realizing the people's misery. The worst part of the episode is that, the political leaders use their influence to stop law enforcement agencies; police and rangers from taking any preventive measures against elements creating law and order situation in the city.

Law Enforcement Agencies

Karachi needs to be flooded both with the strong arm of the law, so there is need of traditional police mechanisms with a very heavy intelligence infrastructure and network. Police are the main law-enforcing agency in the city, which is supported by paramilitary troops (Rangers, Frontier Constabulary) to maintain law and order situation.

At times when violence is heightened, the federal / provincial government empowers the Rangers and Frontier Constabulary with special policing powers. They can conduct searches and make arrests without a warrant, cordon off areas, and seize any property that could be used to commit a criminal offense. It is effective policy in terms of restoring law and order in the city, but it is not a permanent solution of the security problems. The multiple and intersecting causes of violence in a city require regular policing supported by necessary information and how know of local communities (Colletta, N. J. and Cullen, M. L., 2000). Such law enforcement at grass-root level can only be insured by a well-trained, well-staffed, self-skilled, well-equipped, and a competent police force.

Role of Civil Community

Colletta, N. J. and Cullen, M. L., (2000) in their study narrated that civil community is an essential part of the state that helps in proper functioning of the state by initiating, promoting, and strengthening comprehensive and meaningful dialogue between governments and their people. In this way, a community can play an important role in conflict resolution, advances human rights, and promotes better democratization processes (Poulligny, B., 2005). It acts as an alternative of political parties in the form of civil society, or community-based

organizations that can provide access to local resources (land and utilities connections) as well as legal protection.

Role of Media

In present days, media; both electronic and print, is considered a powerful tool to educate citizens of a society. It is an effective source to motivate people about their obligations and social responsibilities (Strobel, & Waren P., 1997). It would not be wrong to say that today's media can make or break the nation(s). Further, (Strobel, & Waren P., 1997) stated that mature media role deems most crucial for a dedicated nation building, when chaos and uncertainty are the orders of the day.

In the situation of law and order, media's role becomes more critical and complicated. It can educate people by providing factual information (analysis and opinion) about conflict resolution processes and options by arranging debate on the issues, and inviting experts of different fields to present their views about an issue and even offer alternative possible solutions of a problem. Meaningful analysis can help educate the public, conflicting parties and the state (Colletta, N. J. & Cullen, M. L., 2000).

Rule of Law

(Krygier M. & Mason W., (2008) defines the term 'rule of law' as a state of affairs, with complex, multi- layered elements of various provenances, rather than any particular set of institutions...., most aspects of a society – its balance of power, economic structure, family patterns, education, media, as well as legal institutions – are relevant to the degree the rule of law prevails with it".

Late Professor AV Dicey (1914) described essential characteristics of the rule of law in its modern sense as below:

- a. The supremacy of law means that all persons are subject to law.

- b. A concept of justice which emphasizes interpersonal adjudication, law based on standards and the importance of procedures.
- c. Restrictions on the exercise of discretionary power.
- d. The doctrine of judicial precedent.
- e. The common law methodology.
- f. Ensuring legislation as prospective and not retrospective.
- g. An independent judiciary.
- h. An underlying moral basis for all law.

Research Methodology

This research is exploratory and quantitative in nature. All the head teachers of government and private secondary schools located in Karachi were taken as population of the study. 40 head teachers of government and private secondary schools formed the sample of the study. The hypotheses were tested through the Chi-square method.

Results

The data obtained through the questionnaires were put into tables and analyzed to interpret results. The scoring was done by using Likert scaling technique assigning a scale value to each of the five responses.

Table 1:

Statement: Teaching-learning experience is carried out regularly in a better way during present law and order situation.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
-	16	2	15	7	2.43	1.394
-	40 %	5 %	37.5 %	17.5 %		

N=40

The above table describes that the mean score value is not acceptable being smaller than 2.50 and falling in rejection range. 40% respondents have supported and 60% have not supported the statement. Therefore, the above statement is rejected by majority of

respondents and concluded as “Teaching-learning experience is not being carried out regularly in a better way during present law and order situation”.

Table 2:

Statement: Government is doing its efforts for good governance.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
-	22	-	36	14	2.40	0.900
-	30 %	-	50 %	20 %		

N= 40

The above table shows that the mean score value is not acceptable being smaller than 2.50. 30% respondents have supported and 70% respondents have not supported the statement. Therefore, the above statement is not accepted by majority of respondents and concluded as “Government is not doing its efforts in a systematic way for good governance”.

Table 3:

Statement: Leadership at all levels (political/local) is working in the city with harmony and makes integrated efforts to maintain peace in city.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
-	12	-	18	10	2.35	0.955
-	30 %	-	45 %	25 %		

N=40

The above table depicts that the mean score value is not acceptable being smaller than 2.50. 30% respondents have supported and 70% have not supported the statement. Therefore, the above statement is accepted and concluded as “Leadership at all levels (political / local) is not working in the city with harmony and make integrated efforts to maintain peace in city”.

Table 4:

Statement: Law enforcement agencies are proactive and take initiatives for making maximum security arrangements to secure the people’s daily life activities.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
12	-	12	15	1	3.18	1.436
30 %	-	30 %	37.5 %	2.5 %		

N=40

The above table shows that the mean score value is acceptable being greater than 2.50 as falling in acceptance range. 30% respondents have supported and 40% respondents have

not supported the statement. Therefore, the above statement is accepted by majority of respondents and concluded as “Law enforcement agencies are proactive and take initiatives for making maximum security arrangements to secure the people’s daily life activities”.

Table 5:

Statement: Media is communicating information to public with accuracy, impartiality and responsibility in the public interest with true text and context.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
-	10	23	7	-	3.075	0.620
-	25 %	57.5 %	17.5 %	-		

N=40

The above table describes that the mean score value is acceptable being greater than 2.50. 57.5% respondents have shown uncertain response and 25% have supported and only 17.5% respondents have not supported the statement but the mean score value is acceptable. Therefore, the above statement and concluded as “Media is communicating information to public with accuracy, impartiality and responsibility in the public interest with true text and context”.

Table 6:

Statement: Community is addressing its public issues during ‘fragile situation’.

Response					Mean	SD
SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA		
3	21	6	10	-	3.18	1.357
7.5%	52.5 %	15 %	25 %	-		

N=40

The above table explains that the mean score value is acceptable being greater than 2.50 as falling in acceptance range. 60% respondents have supported and 40% have not supported the statement. Therefore, the above statement is accepted by majority of respondents and concluded as “Community is addressing its public issues during ‘fragile situation’.

Table 7: Hypothesis No. 1 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between continuous teaching- learning experience and academic performance.

Description	Academic Performance		Total
Teaching-learning experience	Disagreed	Agreed	

Disagreed	21 (18)	3 (6)	24
Agreed	9 (12)	7 (4)	16
Total	30	10	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 5$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841. Therefore, we conclude that there is a relationship between continuous teaching-learning experience and academic performance.

Table 8: Hypothesis No. 2 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between the efforts of the government and peaceful environment.

Description	Peaceful environment		Total
	Disagreed	Agreed	
Efforts of the government			
Disagreed	23 (21)	5 (7)	28
Agreed	7 (9)	5 (3)	12
Total	30	10	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 2.539$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841. So, it is concluded that there is no relationship between the efforts of the government and peaceful environment.

Table 9: Hypothesis No. 3 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between will power of leadership and peaceful environment.

Description	Peaceful environment		Total
	Disagreed	Agreed	
Will power of leadership			
Disagreed	23 (21)	5 (7)	28
Agreed	7 (9)	5 (3)	12
Total	30	10	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 2.538$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841. Hence, it shows that there is no relationship between will power of leadership and peaceful environment.

Table 10: Hypothesis No. 4 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between the efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and city's security apparatus.

Description	City's security apparatus		Total
	Disagreed	Agreed	
Efforts of law enforcement agencies			
Disagreed	23 (21)	5 (7)	28
Agreed	7 (9)	5 (3)	12
Total	30	10	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 2.539$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841 which shows that there is no relationship between the efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and city's security apparatus.

Table 11: Hypothesis No. 5 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between the efforts of the media and public awareness.

Description	Public awareness		Total
	Disagreed	Agreed	
Role of the media			
Disagreed	23 (21)	7 (9)	30
Agreed	5 (7)	5 (3)	10
Total	28	12	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 2.539$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841 depicting no relationship between the efforts of the media and public awareness.

Table 12: Hypothesis No. 6 (Test)

Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between the role of community and peaceful environment.

Description	Peaceful environment		Total
	Disagreed	Agreed	
Role of the Community			
Disagreed	11 (12)	5 (4)	16
Agreed	19 (18)	5 (6)	24
Total	30	10	40

Calculated value of $\chi^2 = 0.555$ and tabulated value of χ^2 with 1 degree of significance at 0.05 = 3.841 illustrating no relationship between the role of community and peaceful environment.

Regression Analysis

In the regression analysis (table 4.13), the value of 'R' is 0.963 which indicates that there is a positive correlation (linear relationship) between law and order situation and all its variables. Value of R^2 is 0.928 which means that 92.8% of independent variables have explained dependent variable.

Table 13: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.963 ^a	.928	.907	292

Predictors: Teaching-learning activities, efforts of government, will power of leadership, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), role of media, role of community, academic performance, peaceful environment, security apparatus, general public awareness.

Analysis of Variance

ANOVA test results show the value of F is 43.149 which mean that the research model is overall significant and clearly acceptable.

Table 14: ANOVA

Model	Sum of square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	32.210	9	3.690	43.149	.000 ^a
Residual	2.565	30	.086		
Total	35.775	39			

Teaching-learning activities, efforts of government, will power of leadership, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), role of media, role of community, academic performance, peaceful environment, security apparatus, general public awareness.

Conclusion

The following paragraphs review the results of hypotheses:

1. The first conclusion drawn from the study is that continuous teaching-learning experience (educational activities) enhances the academic performance in a better way.
2. The second conclusion drawn from the study is that there is no relationship between effort of the government and a peaceful environment (politically stable environment).
3. The third conclusion drawn from the study is that there is no relationship between will power of leadership and a peaceful environment (politically stable environment).
4. The third conclusion drawn from the study is that there is no relationship between the efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and city's security apparatus.
5. Another conclusion drawn from the study is that there is no relationship between the efforts of the media and public awareness.
6. Lastly, the conclusion drawn from the study is that there is no relationship between the role of community and peaceful environment.

Recommendations

Actions by the Government

The state must take all measures to safeguard people's precious lives from bloodshed. Government must review thoroughly the strategy for restoring law and order situation in the

city. The government must now make reforms to increase the confidence of public in the ability and sincerity of government to overcome crimes rate and bloodshed in the city. Furthermore, robust measures should also be adopted to prosecute the unspeakable acts of the law breakers.

Actions by Political Parties

The present situation of Karachi needs a political reconciliation among all political parties and nearly all political parties agree that it is necessary for all to accept and respect each other's position. The political parties should not give preference to their own political and financial interests on the interest of the people. Moreover, ruling political parties should not provide patronage for criminals / militants and mafias to show their identity and supremacy to other political group. In short, violence and criminal activities should not be tolerated in the name of political agreements.

Actions by Law Enforcement Agencies

Law enforcement agencies should not be politicized and adequate support and resources should be allocated to secure the lives and properties of citizen. The police department should be depoliticized to act effectively against criminals as effective investigation and prosecution will build the confidence of public on law enforcement agencies.

Actions by Leadership

Leadership at all levels (political / local) should require to work in the city with harmony and to make integrated efforts to maintain peace in city. All coalition parties and stakeholders should develop further effective coordination among them. Leadership must be willing to conduct major reforms in governance and enforce prompt accountability. Lastly, leadership shall also demand to de-weaponries the city and all weapons should be confiscated.

Actions by Administration

Arrangements should be made by the administration to declare Karachi as neutral zone. Provision of different secure facilities to which people are lawfully entitled should be provided without any discrimination. City's urban growth and expansion should be tackled properly. The facilities of housing, education, healthcare, employment, transportation, and supply of utilities like water, electricity and gas should be provided without any discrimination and perceptions of favoritism. Prioritization and resource allocation should be done on merit. Restricted and no-go-areas established by different mafias and gangs should be cleared for the sake of independent, secure and fearless movement of public.

Actions by Community

Civil society organizations must not sit on the sidelines any more. They must play their role in the maintenance of peace in the city by campaigning for de-weaponization, engaging the people in constructive activities and organizing discussions for peace dialogue. They must take serious steps at multiple levels to respond to solve the emerging challenges of our society. The involvement of non-political community leaders in policing responsibilities should be encouraged. Committed citizens should step forward to establish peace in their areas.

Actions by Media

In order to address the law and order situation, media can play a key role. Media shall be free because the public has a basic right to be informed. Media should provide accurate information, provide alternative view, advocate importance of peace, communicate daily political or technical information in common and understandable language, act as a watchdog, contribute to build a culture of peace, and serve as a communication mechanism. Wolfsfeld (2001) describes that it is to be hoped that a growing awareness is the central role

of the media to be played in other political processes that will lead to an increased focus on the role played by media in attempts to bring peace.

Actions by Schools Management, Teachers and Parents

Educational institutions should arrange parents - teachers meetings regularly and in these meetings, situation of present law and order of the city and its impact on students as well as on their studies also be discussed. Teachers should also talk about the current situation in classes. Proper security arrangements should be ensured by the school administration to secure teaching staff and students as well, which is necessary for regular conduct of educational activities.

Future Research

It is recommended that a further study should be arranged to develop a deeper comparative perspective between indicators of present law and order situation and academic achievement of student from different types of educational institutions like private elite schools, government schools, schools located in different areas and schools run by different foundations as well. A wider sample with a more heterogeneous and varied sample shall be taken to establish and confirm whether the findings of this study are applicable to a wider population or otherwise.

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