



An Assessment of the Role of Police in Crime Prevention

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Abstract

This study assesses the role of police in crime prevention within Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This study utilizes a qualitative research design, an interview guide as a data collection tool, conducts detailed interpersonal interviews with officers of different ranks and highly experienced police officers to get comprehensive data about the pattern of crime, tactics and strategies used by police, challenges to police in crime prevention, and police-community dynamics. Thematic analysis of the data reveals that mostly property crime, interpersonal disputes, and drug-related crimes occur in Tehsil Timerghara, which are deeply connected with socio-economic conditions, interpersonal conflicts, weak governance, and a high rate of illiteracy and unemployment. Furthermore, this study reveals that police use a hybrid model of crime prevention, which consists of the traditional deterrence model and the community-oriented model of crime prevention. Results reveal that major challenges to crime prevention strategies are corruption, political influence, lack of resources, lack of community trust, unemployment, and illiteracy. The study concludes that the efficacy of police in crime prevention in Tehsil Timerghara is fundamentally limited by a complex interplay of socio-economic factors, a crisis of institutional legitimacy, and systemic constraints. It recommends a sequential reform agenda prioritizing the enhancement of police legitimacy through accountability, followed by strategic resource investment and multi-agency collaboration to address the root causes of crime.

Keywords: Police, Police role, Crime Prevention, Tehsil Timerghara Dir Lower, Crime Prevention Challenges, Political Intervention, Community Policing

Introduction

The word "crime" refers to an act or omission that violates a law and is punishable by the state. It is a legal concept used in criminal justice systems worldwide to identify behaviors that threaten public order, safety, or morality. Crime is a social phenomenon rooted in economic and class struggles, where laws protect the interests of the ruling class. (Marx & Engels, 1848). In one of the definitions, Sutherland has defined that Crime is a behavior that violates criminal law and is punishable by the state. (Sutherland, 1939). Sutherland's definition focuses on the fact that crime is not just any harmful act, but an act that is legally defined as a crime and subject to state-imposed punishment. Different types and patterns of crime vary from person to person and society to society. A crime may be a white-collar crime, organized crime, street crime, hate crime, professional crime, or juvenile delinquency. The police are an executive body of the state

that enforces laws, maintains peace, ensures public safety, and prevents crime and lawlessness in society. The police force is usually a public sector service that is the first responder to all civil disorders related to any violation of the law. Being a civilian law-enforcing agency, it is the responsibility of the police to maintain peace, stability, and solidarity in society by providing various social and public services (Bharti, 2006). The role of police in crime prevention is very crucial, and it is the main body of the state who are legally empowered to prevent crimes in society. Crime prevention involves a range of proactive measures that law enforcement agencies undertake to reduce criminal activity before it occurs. The various roles police officers play in crime prevention. The primary function of the police is to enforce laws and deter criminal activities through visible patrols, investigations, and arrests. The presence of uniformed officers in public areas discourages individuals from engaging in illegal activities. (Skogan & Frydl, 2004). Worldwide, police use different preventive tactics and procedures to prevent crimes in societies. A routine active patrolling strategy to deter criminals and reduce the opportunity of crime commission. Swift investigation and arrest strategy to reduce recidivism and ensure certainty that crime cannot be forgotten (Goldstein, 1990). Crime hotspot policing is a strategy in which law enforcement agencies identify the criminal hotspot areas and provide more resources and personnel to arrest criminals and discourage any opportunity for crime. This strategy prevents crimes from occurring (Braga, 2014). Another strategy used by police for crime prevention is the "Broken Windows strategy. Zero Tolerance Policing has been used in areas like London to reduce street crime, which suggests that addressing minor crimes can prevent more serious ones (Wilson & Kelling, 1982). Community policing is another essential approach that emphasizes building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This method has been successful in various countries, including Japan, where the "Koban" system integrates police into local neighborhoods, fostering cooperation and crime reduction (Bayley, 1991). Research has found that when citizens trust the police, they are more likely to cooperate and provide information that aids in crime prevention (Tyler, 2002). Intelligence-led policing leverages data analysis, surveillance, and predictive algorithms to prevent crime before it occurs. At an international level, organizations such as Europol and INTERPOL facilitate intelligence-sharing among nations to combat transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, cybercrime, and terrorism (UNODC, 2021). Other strategies, like Urban planning and environmentally based policies of law enforcement, help in the prevention of crimes. Juvenile crime prevention initiatives often target at-risk youth through school-based programs, mentorship, and family interventions. Studies show that early childhood interventions, such as parent training and academic support, significantly reduce the risk of delinquency. Programs like the Perry Preschool Project and the Chicago Child-Parent Center have demonstrated long-term benefits in reducing criminal behavior later in life (Heckman, 2006; Reynolds et al., 2001). In Asia, the role of police in crime prevention varies across the countries, depending on governance structures, technological advancements, legal frameworks, and community policing models. Most countries follow the traditional justice system and face a lack of resources and trained law enforcement personnel to implement crime prevention measures in society. In Japan, police follow highly community-oriented policies like the koban system, which is integrated into local communities. This model fosters trust and ensures that minor crimes are addressed before escalating (Bayley, 1991). In Singapore, the police use zero-tolerance policies and technology to deter criminals and prevent crimes (Quah, 2016). China has adopted a technology-driven approach, integrating AI-powered surveillance, big data analytics, and a nationwide monitoring system to track potential threats. The "Sharp Eyes" project, for instance, allows authorities to monitor public spaces in real time, significantly reducing crime rates in urban centers (Tanner, 2006). Developing countries like Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh follow the traditional criminal justice system and face severe challenges regarding terrorism, social unrest,

cybercrimes, organized crimes, and hate crimes. Pakistan adopted technology to fight crime. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) uses security cameras, automatic vehicle tracking, and facial recognition systems to monitor crime-prone areas. This has helped reduce criminal activities and improve police response times, especially in cities like Lahore and Islamabad (Haider, Akbar, Tehseen, Poulova, & Jaleel, 2022). The Pakistani government developed a special force against terrorism, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), which tracks and stops terrorist activities. Intelligence gathering and surveillance have helped prevent attacks and keep communities safe (Fair, Malhotra, & Shapiro, 2014).

Despite these efforts, the police in Pakistan still face significant challenges, including inadequate training, outdated forensic laboratories, and demanding working conditions. Many people do not trust the police due to reports of corruption and misuse of power. To enhance crime prevention, Pakistan requires better-trained officers, advanced technology, equitable law enforcement, and stronger relationships between the police and the public (Shah, Elahi, & Saeed, 2019). Especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which faces a severe security threat, terrorism, and many other extremist ideologies, the lack of trained police officers, the lack of community engagement, and resources causes mistrust of the community on police, leading to severe social unrest, lawlessness, and injustice. Recently, the police of KPK and Dir lower started new community-oriented policies to engage the community actively in crime prevention strategies to develop mutual trust, improve the image, and confidence.

Literature Review

The police department and its public services play a key role in policing related to the victim and the offender. Law enforcement agencies, especially police, require both skills and resources to prevent crime from occurring, maintain social order, and ensure peace. Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) emphasize the response to social, cultural, technological, and organizational changes. The citizens' expectation during an emergency increases when a suitable and positive response by the police builds trust and confidence in society. Crime prevention policies involve different strategies of crime prevention, which are crucial for policymakers, practitioners, and the general society. Crime prevention policies used to address crime effectively, and actively engaged the society in crime prevention and policy-making to effectively prevent crime, to improve safety, and reduce harm in communities (Hughes, 1998). Every crime prevention strategy may not be suitable in every society. Prevention of crime strategies brings both positive and negative impacts on society; crime prevention strategies may raise ethical concerns in society. It is necessary to assess the progress of every crime prevention measure daily (Hope & Murphy, 1983). Crime prevention policies involve a series of strategies and equipment to prevent different types of crimes in society. Analysis of crime patterns is a crucial part of effectively implementing crime prevention strategies (Maguire, 2004). The police are the body that is legally empowered to implement laws, protect victims, maintain law and order, and public peace. Literature review reveals that the role of police is more effective when they move beyond the traditional reactive model, the data-driven strategies and community engagement policies effectively reduce the crime rate in society. Research shows that crimes do not randomly occur in a society, but they follow a specific pattern based on location, gender, age, victim type, and time. Crimes are disproportionately committed by gender, e.g., the crime rate is higher among young people than older people, and males commit more crimes than females (Sidebottom, Tompson, L., Thornton, Bullock, Tilley, Bowers, & Johnson, 2018). Further research studies on crimes and justice show that the crime rate is higher among single, young, unemployed, and economically deprived areas (Hughes, McLaughlin, & Muncie, 2002). Understanding of crime

patterns provides valuable insight into how to allocate resources, implement what kind of strategy, and identify hot spots. This understanding has directly led to the development and adoption of focused strategies like hot spot policing. Police strategies are continuously evolving from traditional reactive strategies to preventive and community-oriented strategies. Nowadays, the use of technology surveillance cameras, GPS, and an intensive database about crime mapping and criminal profiles provides valuable insight to implement crime prevention measures effectively. The community collaboration with law enforcement agencies dramatically reduces the crime rate, e.g., the Koban system of Japan. Police follow highly community-oriented policies, which are integrated into local communities. This model fosters trust and ensures that minor crimes are addressed before escalating (Bayley, 1991). In Pakistan, the police follow the Criminal Procedure Act 1861, which is an act of the colonial era and cannot fulfill the demands of the new modern era. Literature reveals that Pakistani police still follow a reactive rather than a proactive approach to crimes. FIR is the primary source to statistically measure the crime rate and assess the performance of the police agency, leading to the non-registration of FIRs (a practice known as Thana culture) to depict efficiency and control crime rates on paper artificially. This makes any official assessment of crime prevention deeply flawed, as a significant portion of crime is never officially recorded (Zaheer, 2021). Lost community trust due to a high rate of corruption, abuse of power, police bribery, untrained police officers, and brutal accidents for the fever of political parties and personal gain. The police still employ the traditional reactive model, which focuses on short-term gains, such as increasing arrests over time, rather than addressing and solving the underlying causes of crime, including poverty, unemployment, and a lack of education (Abbas, Shuey, & Harris, 2022). This reactive model originates from the colonial period, when the British employed these tactics to control crowds and protect the state, rather than serving the citizens. On the other hand, police face a severe lack of resources, a lack of advanced investigation tools, and a lack of knowledge to react before crime occurs. The assessment, therefore, has historically been oriented towards satisfying political masters rather than evaluating actual community safety (Masudi & Mustafa, 2023). Analyzing these failures and the continuously increasing crime rate and mistrust of people of police, a shift from this reactive model can be seen in the police. Many new strategies and policies have been implemented over time to reduce the gap between society and the police and collectively reduce the crime rate. The Police Order 2002 was implemented to enhance the accountability system, reduce police brutality, and implement more community-oriented policies. Furthermore, the development of the National Police Management Board (NPMB) and the model police station enhances the relationship between police and community, but the political interference, bribery, and lack of sustained financial resources limited the success of these developments (Abbas, 2011). Moreover, the development of the National Police Bureau to assess the crime rate in Pakistan annually, and implement data-driven polices for crime prevention. However, the reliability of this data is still questioned by academics, as it aggregates figures from provinces that themselves suffer from underreporting (Bukhari, Chandio, & Ullah, 2025). However, these initiatives cannot resolve the problem of underreporting crimes and the root causes of crimes in the community.

Community Policing and the Challenge of Public Trust

Most of the literature explores community policing and suggests it is the best way of achieving long-term peace in a community. Community policing framework emphasizes community engagement, mutual collaboration, and community-oriented policies to reduce the crime rate and achieve long-term peace by resolving the root causes of crimes. The theory is that by building trust and cooperation with communities, police can gather better intelligence, prevent crimes before they occur, and measure success through public confidence surveys. In practice, however,

studies find a substantial implementation gap. Literature reveals that many police departments develop Community Police Forums (CPEs), but these developments fail to build trust, protect people, and prevent crimes due to a long history of police brutality, corruption, political involvement, bribery, mistrust of people of police, and inefficiency that severely hampers genuine collaboration (Saeed, 2025). Additionally, a study was conducted in Punjab where most people stated that these policies are just a means of gathering information and resources rather than a genuine partnership for safety (Gondal & Hatta, 2023). This trust deficit is perhaps the single largest obstacle to developing a meaningful assessment of police effectiveness in crime prevention.

The Nascent Culture of Evidence-Based Assessment and Technology

The emergence of the potential technology transforms the police into assessing and preventing crime. The adoption of digital tools like the CCTV networks in major cities, geographic information systems (GIS), and the Police Record Management System (PRMS), for crime mapping, offers new avenues for data-driven prevention strategies. Literature highlights that the use of CCTV Cameras and GIS helps the police in crime mapping and highlighting the hotspots in big cities like Lahore and Karachi, which helps in effectively deploying resources to hotspot areas to prevent crimes. The tactics of regular patrolling and assessment of prevention strategies prevent crime to some extent, but it is noted that these prevention strategies are not equally distributed to all areas of the cities due to a severe lack of resources (Chhatari & Jumani, 2024). Furthermore, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) was established in 2020 to conduct evidence-based policing to assess the performance of preventive strategies and determine which preventive strategies actually work. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which faces severe problems of terrorism, weak political governance, and extremism, presents a unique role of the police in such a complex and conflict-affected environment. Recently, different initiatives developed by the provincial government have changed the traditional model to a community-based and preventive model. After the 9/11 attacks, Talibanization and insurgency in Swat and other districts, the KPK police were not only ill-equipped to handle terrorism but also became a primary target of militants. Research studies argued that those insurgencies moved the police from a law enforcement body to a frontline counterinsurgency situation (Yamin, 2015). The assessment of the police during those days mainly focused on counter terrorism outcomes. The enforcement of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police Act 2017 aims to institutionalize the crime prevention model. This Act enhances the accountability system, community engagement, and theoretically shifts the police assessment from a reactive model toward preventive outcomes. The Police Accountability and Advisory Committee created a new framework for assessment, incorporating input from community representatives and elected officials, moving beyond internal police statistics (Bahadar, Ullah, Nyborg, & Maqsood, 2019). In Dir Lower, the assessment of the police role is complicated by the existence of a parallel traditional jirga system. Research studies show that the jirga system is the primary way of resolving disputes in many local communities. The lower face severe challenges of underreporting crimes; most of the crimes, like land disputes, domestic disputes, and even severe honor killings, are resolved through the local jirga system (Suleri, Shahbaz, Commins, & Mosel, 2017). People of Dir lower perceive the role of police as collaborative or aligns with the traditional jirga system, rather than replacing them (Sultan 2023). Successful crime prevention is thus seen as a hybrid model where police authority and tribal customs intersect. Reforms have been made in the KPK police for the promotion of community policing through Citizen Police Liaison Committees (CPLCs) and the Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs). Research studies reveal that thousands of minor crimes are resolved through DRCs, preventing them from further escalation (Ullah & Daraz, 2024). A survey conducted by the Community Appraisal and Motivation Program shows a gradual but positive

shift in public trust in police. However, trust levels remain significantly lower in more remote and tribal-dominated areas like Dir Lower, where police are still often viewed as an external, corrupt, or ineffective force (CAMP 2021). In the KPK context, a critical aspect of "crime prevention" is the prevention of violent extremism. The work of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) is therefore integral to this assessment. Literature by Salman (2012) posits that the CTD's role has evolved from pure enforcement to include preventive de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs, such as the Sabafoon project.

Methodology

Research design

This study adopted the qualitative phenomenological research design to assess the role of police in crime prevention in the Tehsil Timerghara, district Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A phenomenological approach has been selected because it enables an in-depth exploration of police strategies, policies, roles, performance, and the lived experience of police toward crimes and crime prevention strategies (Daraz, Khan, Alsawalqa, et al., 2025).

Study Setting

The research was conducted in the Tehsil Timerghara in the District Dir Lower of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Tehsil Timerghara is a semi-urban area of District Dir Lower, which hosts several police stations, including Timerghara police station, police line Dir Lower, Levies police office, police assistance line, and DPO office. Tehsil Timerghara is the main city of Dir Lower, and hosts many police institutions, so it is the most suitable location to assess the role of police in crime prevention.

Participants and sampling strategy

The population of this study includes the senior officials of police departments who have served for a long time in the police department. The selection of senior police officers provides rich information about strategic oversight, operational experience, and policy-level insights, offering a comprehensive understanding of institutional practices and challenges. Senior officers are directly involved in policy implementation, policy assessment, resource allocation, and inter-agency coordination. Their perspective is crucial for understanding and evaluating the effectiveness of current policies, identifying gaps in the preventive models, and understanding the effect of administrative decisions on the ground level. Purposive sampling was employed to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives across various institutional roles. The sample of this study consists of 5 senior-most police officers who are on duty in the Tehsil Timerghara police department. The sample size was guided by the principle of data saturation (Guest et al., 2006), whereby interviews continued until no new information or themes emerged, ensuring both depth and completeness in capturing the phenomenon under study.

Data Collection Method

The primary tool of data collection used for this study is an interview guide. The data is collected through in-depth face-to-face interviews. The interview guide consists of open-ended questions organized into thematic sections covering the type of preventive strategy, role of police in crime prevention, community and police relation status, crime trends, and challenges faced in the implementation of preventive strategies and controlling the crime rate. Data was administered in person, and all the interviews were conducted in the local language (Pushto or Urdu) to get in-depth information and promote comfort and authenticity of responses. During the process, we face many challenges due to the status and responsibilities of respondents and the sensitive nature

of information about crime and political influence. This situation was handled through ensuring anonymity, confidentiality, and a non-judgmental environment. The problem of getting time from senior police officers due to the busy schedule of the police was handled through getting the official DPO of the District Dir Lower permission to interview with police officers.

Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was employed to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The transcripts of data were read several times to gain intimacy, followed by coding into initial categories. Coding was then grouped to broader themes corresponding to the landscape and etiology of crimes, Perceived Root Causes of Crimes, Crime Prevention Strategies and Tactics, The Police Community Inter Dynamics, and Vision for Improvement and Future Directions. NVivo 12 software was used to manage and organize qualitative data systematically.

Theme	code	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Landscape and Etiology of Crimes in Dir Lower	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5,	Directly mentioned crimes by police officers	Vague references to crime without specification.
Perceived Root Causes of Crimes	R2, R3, R3, R4, R5	Statement explaining the Drivers of Crime, whether social, personal, economic, or institutional.	Statements that describe the effect of crime rather than its cause.
Crime Prevention Strategies and Tactics	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	The methods, strategies, plans, and techniques currently employed by the police.	General statement on what should be done
Specialized Operation	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	Description of the protocol of specialized operations	General patrolling, community engagement, not related to special operations
Special Operation Related to Juvenile Crimes	R1, R2, R4,	Description of the protocol of specialized operations for Juveniles	General protocols not related to Juveniles
The Police Community Inter Dynamics	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	Data directly related to the Nature of Interaction, Cooperation, and Public Police Trust.	Challenges faced by the police are not directly related to community relationships.
Systematic and Operational Challenges	R1, R2, R3, R4, R5	Data identifying barriers, constraints, limitations, or external pressures that impede crime prevention efforts.	Descriptions of successful actions or strategies. General statements about crime rates without linking them to a specific challenge.

Results

This chapter presents a detailed analysis of interviews conducted with five police officers, exploring their perspectives on crime patterns, causes of crime, crime prevention strategies, and challenges faced by police in crime prevention. The data reveal four central themes: (1) the Landscape of crime, (2) Pillars of prevention, (3) the central and complex role of the community,

and (4) systematic hurdles. Each theme is explored below, with integrated data to illustrate the key arguments.

Theme 1: The Landscape of and Etiology of Crime

Respondents frequently state that crime in the lower Dir is predominantly characterized by interpersonal conflicts, opportunistic crimes, and drug abuse, which are deeply connected with socio-economic problems. The data indicate that sophisticated, organized crimes do not define the landscape of crimes in Dir Lower, but rather frequent community-level disputes, land disputes, and drug abuse. The police officer consistently argued that theft, land disputes, drug abuse, interpersonal disputes, physical violence, and honor killing are the most common issues in Lowe Dir. Respondent 4 listed that “land disputes, underage road accidents, murders, domestic violence, and property theft crimes commonly occurred in Dir Lower.” Additionally, R5 states that “The most common crime is dispute, murders, domestic violence, property theft, physical fights, and threats.” Moreover, R1, R2, and R3 highlight that drug-related crimes significantly occur in the Tehsil Timergara Dir lower.

R1 “In my Career, I observed the most common crimes that occur at the tehsil Timergara Dir Lower are drug dealing, Theft, and land disputes”.

R3 argued that “Mostly people report crimes like personal disputes, land disputes, theft, drug, and smuggling”.

R2 states that: “despite other crimes, most of the crimes that people report are drug dealing, Theft, and land disputes.”

These patterns of crime suggest that Dir lower face deep-rooted socio-environmental causes, male dominance, lack of formal governance, and economic pressure that leads to domestic violence, property crimes, and interpersonal crimes. Furthermore, these patterns of crimes in Tehsil Timergara, Dir Lower, suggest that most of the crimes that occur are interpersonal crimes, and a very low ratio of organized crimes is present.

Theme 2: Perceived root causes of crimes in Tehsil Timergara, Dir Lower

Officers provide clear and valuable information about the causes of crimes in the tehsil Timergara, Dir Lower. Most of the crimes mentioned in theme 1 are interpersonal and property crimes. The root causes are deeply connected to the socio-economic condition, weak governance, and unemployment in the tehsil Timergara, Dir Lower. Most of the important and clear statements of R1 and R4 about the causes of crimes are,

R2 “Because in Tehsil Timergara is a semi-urban area, there is unemployment, high drug use, low literacy rate, weak law enforcement, and lack of resources, leading to a high crime rate in Timergara.”

R3 “This type of crime occurs due to personal reasons and sometimes financial issues.”

R4 “crime rate is high due to personal stubbornness, unemployment, lack of education, drug abuse, and limited economic resources.

These findings suggest that a high rate of unemployment in Tehsil Timergara is associated with a high incidence of property crimes, including theft and robbery. Additionally, the high drug use also exerts pressure on society and increases aggression, which leads to physical assaults, domestic violence, theft, and robberies. Furthermore, R2 mentioned that low literacy rate and weak law enforcement are also significant causes of crimes in Tehsil Timergara. Weak law enforcement in such areas leads to drug dealing, theft, and physical assaults. Mostly in such a traditional society, weak law enforcement leads to domestic violence, which is a common crime mentioned in theme 1. Respondent 3 added a nuance, attributing some crimes to “personal reasons,” suggesting officers also acknowledge individual-level factors.

Theme 3: Crime Prevention Strategies and Tactics

The analysis uncovered multiple approaches and strategies used by police for crime prevention, mostly relying on traditional tactics and methods of crime prevention, but a major shift showed from the traditional model toward community-oriented policies and crime prevention models.

R1 “Currently, our policy regarding it is preventive policing and community policing to prevent the crime and criminals involved in the crime.”

R2 “We carry out regular patrolling and take strict action against drug dealers and habitual criminals.”

R3 “We increase patrolling in the area and work closely with the community.”

R4 “To reduce crime, regular patrolling day and night, checkpoints, jirga members to resolve civil society disputes, use of CCTV cameras in some areas, target operations, and seize illegal arms and narcotics.”

R5 “Community policing, use of CCTV camera in high crime area, target crime hotspot, public awareness about frauds, take rapid response to high-risk situation.”

The data reveal that the backbone of crime prevention strategies in the tehsil Timerghara is regular patrolling, as mentioned by R1, R2, and R3. This shows that regular patrolling is the main strategy to prevent crimes in Tehsil Adenzai. Furthermore, R1 and R5 mentioned that our current policies are community-oriented police and crime preventive policies. This indicates that police officers implement the community-oriented model implemented by KP police Order 2017. Community-oriented policies are an important pillar of a crime prevention model. Additionally, R1 mentions community collaboration, R4 mentions the active engagement with the local jirga system to resolve civil disputes, and R5 mentions a public awareness campaign. All these community-oriented policies are crucial for the prevention of crimes. Meanwhile, targeted operations and search operation tactics are used by police departments to prevent drug dealings and other crimes in Tehsil Timerghara. R4 mentioned that community engagement and close work with jirga members help to resolve civil disputes. Furthermore, the use of CCTV cameras and targeted operations further enhances crime prevention strategies in Tehsil Timerghara. The R3, R4, and R5 reveal that the police department uses crime mapping strategies to find out crime hotspots to effectively distribute resources to prevent crimes in Tehsil Timerghara. R5 mentioned that different sections and seminars were held with the community for awareness about fraud and other crimes, which is a very positive step in crime prevention strategies.

Theme 4: Specialized Operations

Specialized operations, intelligence-based operations are very crucial tactics to prevent serious crimes, drug-related crimes, and organized crime. Specialized operations, particularly in Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower, which are affected by militancy and terrorism, are very important for public safety and the prevention of losses. This theme analysis provides insight into the tactics used by police to conduct specialized operations.

Respondents described multiple-layer protocols to conduct specialized operations, indicating a high level of pre-planning and coordination between agencies and the community.

R1 “During conducting specialized operation, all the department collectively supervised by District Security Branch and the specialized branch, involving personnel and technology like metal detectors and tracking system.”

R3 “We implement checkpoints on entry and exit points and conduct search operations to arrest a wanted person.”

R4 “to conduct specialized operation, we activate all the resources that are necessary, sufficient police officers, elite force, plainclothes officers to detect suspects, and meanwhile, agencies and public cooperation.”

R5" uses of CCTV camera to control crowds and detect threats," integrating technology into security operations."

The above responses show that police use different tactics and strategies to conduct specialized operations. R1 states that all law enforcement agencies collectively work under the District Security Branch and specialized branches. R4 mentions that all personnel, including elite forces and plainclothes officers, work together to conduct specialized operations against militants, drug-related crimes, and organized crimes. These statements show that specialized operations occur under the supervision of the District Police Officer, collective collaboration, and involvement of all law enforcement agencies reveal an active and effective collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement agencies. R4 mentioned the plainclothes officers, which means that specialized operations occur on strong and accurate information. This statement also reveals that police use personnel for collecting information and evidence about crimes. These tactics reveal that police are actively engaged in crime prevention rather than a reactive nature. Furthermore, the R3 mentioned that checkpoints are established at the entry and exit points of specific areas to prevent the entry and exit of weapons, drugs, and other armed persons. Additionally, R1 and R5 mentioned that the use of technology, CCTV cameras, metal detectors, drug detectors, and tracking systems is used to prevent crime from occurring in Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower.

Theme 5: Special Operations Related to Juvenile Crime Handling

This theme provides insight into the protocols followed during juvenile delinquency. A significant finding emphasizes the non-punitive protocols for juvenile offenders and adherence to international Human rights standards and rehabilitative philosophy.

R1 "Juvenile crimes and youth crime are dealt with under the Juvenile law, and engaging youth in healthy activity to prevent crime."

R2 "We do not deal with them like ordinary criminals; we present them to juvenile courts and keep them in juvenile prison for rehabilitation."

R4 "We deal with juvenile criminals in the presence of a probation officer, keep them separate from other criminals, avoid physical punishment, and raise awareness in schools and colleges."

The statement of R1 shows that juveniles are treated under the Juvenile Justice System 2018. These are based on rehabilitative measures rather than punitive measures. R1 and R2 responses ensure that juveniles are treated under special protocols provided under the juvenile justice system, juveniles are kept under the supervision of probation officers, and provided with a healthy environment to rehabilitate the juveniles. This specialized approach includes partnerships with probation officers, targeted interventions in educational institutions, and ensuring the separation of juveniles from the adult criminal justice system.

Theme 6: The Police Community Inter Dynamics

This theme provides a detailed analysis of the relationship between the police and the community at Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower, which is characterized by a fundamental paradox. The participation of the community in crime prevention strategies is vital, but the relationship between police and community is greatly affected by mistrust, weak cooperation, the police's traditional model, and police corruption (Qureshi 2019).

The data reveal that effective crime prevention policies significantly depend upon the active engagement of the community in crime prevention strategies. Officers perceive the community not as a passive entity but as a critical force multiplier that enhances their reach and effectiveness.

R2 "Yes, the community engagement in crime prevention is very crucial because there is no technology or any safety project that works effectively without public involvement."

R3 "Yes, of course, we follow the tips of the public because we ensure to secure the environment."

R4 “ Yes, we follow tips from the public, like information about drug dealers, use of illegal weapons and information about theft.”

A primary benefit cited by all officers is the provision of tips and intelligence by the public. The R2 mentions the importance of community involvement in crime prevention strategies. Without the active engagement of the public, all the policies and technology cannot effectively prevent crime in a society. Police officer R2 mentioned that community engagement is the backbone of the crime prevention model. Furthermore, the R3 and R4 mentioned that the information and tips provided by the public are very important to prevent crimes. R4 mentioned that the information received by the public about drug dealing, illegal weapons, and theft is significantly helpful in the prevention of drug-related crimes, theft, and other crimes.

Furthermore, the respondents share many success stories of police and local jirga collaboration R1 and R2 highlight that “many civil land disputes and criminal disputes are successfully resolved through the active collaboration of police and local jirga system.”

Moreover, the respondents state that:

R2 “Major challenges face some time non-cooperation of the public, no one is ready to testify & lack of resources and political intervention.”

R5 “No cooperation of the public, less manpower and equipment in police stations, lack of trust in police due to corruption, political intervention in drug cases.”

The R1 highlights that police face significant challenges of non-cooperation of the public, people hesitate from testifying in court, which is a significant hurdle in judicial proceedings and proving someone guilty. This finding may reveal that there is a lack of trust in the police and may be a serious concern about the safety of the public; people hesitate from testifying in court due to the threat of being hurt in revenge. Additionally, R5 clearly mentions no cooperation from the public due to the lack of trust, corruption, and political intervention to prevent drug dealers from facing penalties.

Theme 7: Systematic and Operational Challenges

This theme analysis provides insight into the systematic, logistical, institutional, and structural challenges faced by police in crime prevention.

R1 “The political intervention and immediate transfer posting and lack of resources in the police department.”

R2 “Major challenges face some time non-cooperation of the public, no one is ready to testify & lack of resources and political intervention.”

R3 “Most of the cases are under trial in court, court delay in cases, mostly political interference in drug cases, limited resources, manpower shortage in police stations, lack of education, and cultural barriers.

R5 “No cooperation of the public, less manpower and equipment in police stations, lack of trust in police due to corruption, political intervention in drug cases.”

Respondents highlight that the political intervention in the justice process and investigation process is a critical issue that disrupts law enforcement due to the override of the justice system, the transfer of police officers, and those officers who follow the role of law with honesty. Most of the respondents highlight the political intervention in the law enforcement process. R1, R3, and R5 highlight that political bodies protect drug dealers' influence over the whole police departments. Political intervention in the police process is one of the most important challenges. Furthermore, R2 and R5 mention that due to corruption, political intervention, and mistrust of the community, it leads to a low level of community cooperation, individuals hesitate from testifying in courts, and giving information about suspects. Additionally, R5 mentions that less manpower and lack of resources with the police are also significant hurdles to preventing crimes in Tehsil Timerghara Dir Lower.

Furthermore, the respondents mentioned that:

R1: "Challenges like lack of funding, resources, lack of technology, and lack of professional officers in the department impact it."

R2: "Resources needed to raise public support at every police station and to train about Information technology and provide the latest technology."

R3: "We need technology, better training, an increase in funds, and appointments for more police officers."

R4: "Need more police in police stations which report faster, GPS tracking for patrolling units, special training, forensic and cybercrime handling, more funding for vehicles and other equipment."

R5: "Need to train police officers with digital technology, needs vehicles and communication tools, CCTV camera, digital equipment, and more funds."

A pervasive theme was the critical shortage of resources. Respondents R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5 highlighted a critical shortage of resources, modern technology, and a lack of funding, which makes the situation difficult for the police to prevent crimes in Tehsil Timerghara. Furthermore, the lack of resources is a significant hurdle in the prevention of crimes, which causes mistrust of the police in the community. Additionally, there is a lack of manpower in police stations. There was a unanimous call for addressing the lack of modern equipment & technology, with requests for "GPS tracking," "forensic and cybercrime handling" (R4), and "digital equipment" (R5). Respondents 2, 4, and 5 emphasized a need for specialized training in areas such as IT and digital technology.

Discussion

Theme 1: The Landscape of and Etiology of Crime

The study revealed that most of the crimes in Tehsil Timerghara are deeply connected to the socio-economic conditions, interpersonal conflicts, weak governance, unemployment, drug abuse, and low literacy rate, which resonate strongly with sociological theories of crime. Crime rate increases when there is a disjunction between culturally prescribed goals and legitimate ways of achieving them (Robert Merton, 1938). Individuals turn to illicit activities due to economic pressure and unemployment (Agnew 1992). Furthermore, the low literacy rate and weak governance support the social disorganization theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942). This suggests that weak governance, high rate of unemployment, and poverty lead to an increasing crime rate.

Discussion

Theme 1: The Landscape of and Etiology of Crime

The study revealed that most of the crimes in Tehsil Timerghara are theft, drugs, interpersonal disputes, domestic violence, physical violence, and land disputes. The types of offenses highlighted in this study are supported by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or the Home & Tribal Affairs Department. These findings aligned with existing research studies, mostly interpersonal and community-based violence offences occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Ahmad & Ali, 2015). Furthermore, Alam & Ahamed (2020) highlights that land disputes and violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa occurred.

Theme 2: Perceived root causes of crimes in Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower

The research findings highlight that causes of crimes are deeply connected to the socio-economic conditions, interpersonal conflicts, weak governance, unemployment, drug abuse, and low literacy

rate in Tehsil Timerghara, which resonate strongly with sociological theories of crime. Crime rate increases when there is a disjunction between culturally prescribed goals and legitimate ways of achieving them (Robert Merton, 1938). Individuals turn to illicit activities due to economic pressure and unemployment (Agnew 1992). Furthermore, the low literacy rate and weak governance support the social disorganization theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942). This suggests that weak governance, high rates of unemployment, and poverty lead to an increasing crime rate.

Theme 3: Crime Prevention Strategies and Tactics

This theme illustrates the multi-prolonged approach used by police in Tehsil Timerghara. These findings highlight that mostly police use regular patrolling, intelligence-based operations, community-oriented policies, and implement checkpoints at in and out points of targeted areas to reduce firearms and drug use in the Tehsil Timerghara, which reflects a hybrid model of crime prevention. The reliance on regular patrolling, raids, and the implementation of checkpoints highlights the traditional deterrence model. This is used to deter criminals by increasing apprehension (Nagin, 2013). Furthermore, the implementation of community-oriented policies, the local jirga system, and the DRC system highlights the global shift in police strategies. These policies focus on building community trust and a mutual partnership to address the root causes of crimes (Skogan & Hartnett, 1997). The mutual use of formal and informal justice systems is a very effective strategy for crime prevention (Baker & McPhedran, 2015). However, the lack of resources, modern technology, and trust significantly affects the crime prevention policies.

Theme 4: Specialized Operations

Theme 4 highlights different tactics used by police to conduct specialized operations. Tactics used against firearms and drug-related crimes are search operations, targeted operations, raids, and the establishment of checkpoints to prevent firearms and drug dealing. This is a traditional deterrence approach to prevent such crimes and apprehend criminals. However, these strategies are less effective due to a lack of resources, lack of police force, lack of active participation of the community, and lack of modern technology. Research studies argued that the success of policing depends upon the organizational capacity, manpower, technology, and specialized training (Bayley 1994). Additionally, studies highlight the widespread use of small firearms in KPK, and it is a transnational route of drugs for Afghanistan, which makes it difficult to fight against such crimes with inadequate resources (UNODC).

Theme 5: Special Operations Related to Juvenile Crime Handling

The results show that police emphasize the rehabilitative approach under the international norms of the juvenile justice system. Provide separate juvenile court, counselling, education, and training rather than punishment, which ensures that juveniles are treated differently from ordinary criminals. These approaches are aligned with the international norms, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules). However, existing studies on juveniles reveal that, due to low economic conditions, lack of resources, lack of a proper accountability system, and an institutional weakness approach toward juveniles, they remain largely punitive (Javed, Shafiq, & Ahmad, 2025).

Theme 6: The Police Community Inter Dynamics

This theme reveals the central paradox of policing in Tehsil Timerghara. Community plays a crucial role in providing information and in the success of strategies, but police-community relationships are still contradicted due to lack of trust, corruption, and political influence. These findings align with procedural justice theory, which argues that public cooperation depends upon the police's legitimacy, respectful treatment, fairness, and transparency in the justice process

(Tyler, 2006). When the public perceives police corruption, political influence, structural and institutional injustice, they are less likely to collaborate with legal bodies (Sunshine & Tyler, 2003). Research studies argued that when politicization majorly influences the law enforcement agencies and justice system, it leads to eroding trust and a legitimacy crisis (Mohammad & Conway, 2005). These external pressures create a criminal justice system that is perceived as both inefficient and unjust, severely hampering its crime control and deterrence functions.

Theme 7: Systematic and Operational Challenges

This theme highlights different types of challenges faced by the police in Tehsil Timerghara in crime prevention. These challenges are institutional challenges, political influence, community distrust, corruption, lack of resources, and lack of trained police personnel deeply connected to systematic and institutional failures. These systematic challenges affect the police performance and operational strategies against crime prevention. The most frequent challenge to police is political influence as mentioned in existing research studies, that political bodies often use their influence to protect criminals from being punished, and manipulate police processes for personal and political gain (Sidel 2004).

Using political power to show dominance over legal bodies is a culture in Pakistani society. Especially in KPK political bodies, Criminal and corrupt officials make such a body that influences the overall justice system. Furthermore, Research studies highlight that lack of resources, lack of trained people affect the overall performance of an organization (Bayley 1994). The lack of resources, trained officers, and modern equipment is a common issue in South Asia (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, 2019). According to the research studies, many police officers are untrained and many police stations are ill-equipped to combat modern crimes (Masudi & Mustafa, 2023). Furthermore, this study illustrates that inadequate funding and lack of resources further complicate the prevention of crimes (Khan et al, 2017). According to Bibi, Maryam, & Mustafa (2023), the Pakistan police use excessive force against the public due to political pressure, lack of training, and lack of an accountability system. The culture of corruption and misconduct is eroding the public trust, decreasing cooperation and assistance from the public (Herman, 1993).

Conclusion

This study investigates the complex role of police in crime prevention in Tehsil Timerghara, Dir Lower. This study provides a deep insight into the types of crimes, their causes, strategies, and tactics used by police to prevent crimes. Furthermore, this study illustrates the community and police relationship and the challenges faced by police in crime prevention. The findings show that mostly interpersonal crimes, property crimes, land disputes, physical violence, domestic violence, and drug use occur in the tehsil Timerghara, which are deeply connected to the socio-economic causes, weak governance, land disputes, and patriarchal norms. Furthermore, this study highlights that police use a traditional deterrence model and community-oriented strategies of crime prevention, where local jirga and DRC play a crucial role in crime prevention. However, lack of resources, manpower, modern technology, and lack of trained officers, and political interference are major hurdles in crime prevention in Tehsil Timerghara.

Recommendations

In light of the identified themes, a multi-pronged policy reform is essential to improve the role of police in crime prevention in Tehsil Timerghara. To resolve the main issue of socio-economic issues, a broader policy approach is necessary, such as industrialization and free education, to provide employment to people and enhance the economic status of the overall society. Furthermore,

In light of the identified themes, a multi-pronged policy reform is essential to improve the role of police in crime prevention in Tehsil Timerghara. To resolve the main issue of socio-economic issues, a broader policy approach is necessary, such as industrialization and free education, to provide employment to people and enhance the economic status of the overall society. Furthermore, implementation of modern training centers is necessary to enhance the capability of the police force to address modern crimes and technology. Implementation of a proper accountability system and development of special committees are crucial to prevent corruption and political interference in the justice system. Additionally, the government needs to provide resources, funds, and modern technology to the police to combat modern crimes and effectively implement the crime prevention model. The police department needs to develop a healthy and respectful relationship with the community, empower them, and provide safety and opportunities to take part in crime prevention without any fear of revenge.

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