



MOB VIOLENCE AGAINST POLICE

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Abstract This research delves into the alarming issue of mob lynching, examining the Criminal Injustice Act's peril to humanity on a global scale. The act threatens humanity, culture, nationality, and peaceful coexistence due to false rumors propagated through social media and the rapid dissemination of information. Perpetrators, often unaware of the severe consequences, commit a crime defined by law and humanity, adversely affecting victims' physical and mental well-being. Communal harmony surrounding mob lynchings is explored, shedding light on the intent and characteristics of this illegal activity tolerated in public, private, and government domains. The study draws attention to the trauma and phobias experienced by survivors or victims, hindering their public appearance. In the context of the Pakistani Constitution's Article 19(1)(a), guaranteeing freedom of speech, the research emphasizes that it does not endorse or permit illegal activities such as lynching. Despite this, media involvement poses a challenge, impacting justice administration and potentially leading to miscarriages of justice in future cases. The essay underscores the impact on individuals or groups, making them both victims and accused. Case studies provide insights into the perspectives on mob lynching as a crime against humanity. Additionally, the essay delves into relevant Sections and Rules, as well as positions taken by National and International Committees, shedding light on the multifaceted issue. Legal professionals express concern over judges altering rulings under community or political pressure, affecting India's criminal justice system. The reluctance to grant unfettered media access to legal proceedings further complicates the situation. The study acknowledges social media's influence on court trials and seeks to explore various examples of lynching in Pakistan, examining the judicial system's role in mitigating this threat. The research critically examines the multifaceted dimensions of mob lynching, emphasizing its impact on victims, justice administration, and societal harmony. The study aims to raise awareness and prompt a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

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Introduction

This study addresses the persistent issue of mob violence against police in Pakistan. Through an examination of existing scholarly work, the study aims to elucidate the causes, consequences, and potential solutions associated with this phenomenon (Hussain et al., 2023). Emphasizing the significance of understanding these aspects, the study recognizes the implications for law enforcement, public safety, and social cohesion in the country. The introduction succinctly establishes the focus and relevance of the review, guiding readers into subsequent sections that explore the multifaceted dimensions of mob violence against police in Pakistan (Tankebe and Asif, 2016). Mob violence against the police in Pakistan is influenced by various socio-economic, political, and trust-related factors. Socio-economic disparities,

including poverty and unemployment, foster resentment in marginalized communities, creating an environment conducive to violence against law enforcement perceived as representatives of an oppressive system (Singay, 2020). Additionally, political and ethnic tensions within Pakistan's diverse population can escalate into mob violence, particularly during periods of political unrest or intergroup conflicts, where the police may be targeted as symbols of opposing groups. Instances of police misconduct, such as abuse of power and corruption, diminish public trust and can lead to anger, contributing to mob violence when misconduct goes unpunished. The lack of trust in law enforcement, stemming from historical grievances or perceived bias, further exacerbates the likelihood of community-

driven violence against the police. Moreover, the influence of extremist ideologies, exploiting grievances against the state or manipulating religious differences, can mobilize mobs against law enforcement. Addressing these root causes is crucial for policymakers and law enforcement agencies to prevent such incidents and foster trust between communities and the police (Ahamd et al., 2014).

Mob violence against police has severe consequences, disrupting law and order and creating an atmosphere of chaos, challenging law enforcement's ability to maintain public safety. It impedes the delivery of justice by undermining the judicial process, hindering proper investigations, evidence gathering, and accountability for perpetrators (Nazir-Ali, 2023). The repeated occurrence of such violence takes a toll on the morale and effectiveness of the police force, inducing fear and demoralization among officers, thereby affecting their professional duties. Moreover, mob violence instills fear and insecurity among the public, leading to a decline in confidence in law enforcement's ability to protect them. This erosion of trust hampers cooperation between the community and the police. The long-term repercussions extend to the social and economic realms, disrupting the social fabric, undermining community cohesion, and damaging the economy. Concerns over security and stability arising from mob violence deter investments and businesses, contributing to a lasting impact on the overall well-being of society (Khoso, 2015).

The occurrence of mob violence against police in Pakistan is rooted in a historical context, with incidents of public unrest and aggression towards law enforcement agencies spanning various periods. These instances can be linked to political upheavals, ethnic tensions, and persistent social grievances that have shaped the country's history. Examining patterns associated with mob violence reveals recurring triggers, often sparked by controversial police actions, perceived injustices, or incidents involving law enforcement and civilians (Macey, 1999). The violence tends to manifest in areas characterized by low trust in the police, prevalent socioeconomic disparities, and the influence of extremist ideologies. Conducting a comparative analysis across different regions in Pakistan highlights variations in the frequency, intensity, and underlying causes of mob violence against police. The distinct dynamics of each region, encompassing local politics, cultural factors, and socioeconomic conditions, contribute to divergent patterns observed in these incidents. Understanding these historical perspectives and patterns is essential for devising targeted strategies to address and prevent mob violence against the police in diverse contexts within Pakistan (Bowling, 1999).

Media plays a pivotal role in shaping public perception of mob violence against police, with news outlets and social media influencing opinions and attitudes toward law enforcement. Biased reporting can deepen mistrust and polarize public opinion,

while social media's rapid dissemination of information may contribute to the escalation of violence (Sacco, 1995). To address this, strategies and interventions should focus on strengthening police-community relations through community-oriented policing and dialogue, enhancing police training and professionalism, addressing socioeconomic disparities, promoting community engagement, and implementing legal reforms. Additionally, gaining insights from comparative international perspectives can inform tailored approaches and interventions in Pakistan by identifying successful strategies from other countries and understanding the global nature of mob violence against police (Van Dijck and Poell, 2013). Research gaps in the study of mob violence against police in Pakistan include a limited understanding of specific socio-economic factors contributing to such incidents in different regions, insufficient research on the long-term impacts of interventions, and a lack of comprehensive studies on the role of media in shaping public perception (Verma, 2012). Future directions involve conducting qualitative studies on the motivations of individuals participating in mob violence, exploring gender dynamics in these incidents, and investigating the potential effectiveness of alternative conflict resolution mechanisms. Additionally, examining the role of technology and social media in escalating or mitigating mob violence is crucial. Addressing these gaps and pursuing future directions will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding, informing evidence-based policies and interventions (Verma, 2012). The key findings on mob violence against police in Pakistan emphasize causes, consequences, and potential solutions. It stresses the importance of a comprehensive, multidimensional approach addressing underlying factors and strengthening police-community relations, enhancing professionalism, addressing disparities, promoting community engagement, and implementing legal reforms. Learning from international experiences is crucial, emphasizing the adaptation of successful strategies. The conclusion underscores the need for collaboration among policymakers, law enforcement, communities, and stakeholders, highlighting the significance of further research and action in tackling mob violence against police in Pakistan.

Methodology

The Model of Qualitative Research and Epistemological Position

Qualitative research involves distinct phases with logical and theoretical foundations, notably shaped by two opposing schools of thought: Positivism and Interpretivism. This study adopts the interpretivist perspective, considering social reality as a product of human minds and interactions, devoid of inherent meaning. Instead, meaning is ascribed by individuals, constituting collective wisdom. The interpretive approach is subjective, emphasizing in-depth interviews to understand the meanings attached to the

studied phenomenon. Qualitative research, gaining popularity, is inherently bound by time and location, acknowledging that the perception and meaning of collective wisdom evolve with shifting contexts.

Research Design

Due to the subjective nature of the study, a qualitative research design was employed, emphasizing a rigorous approach similar to both qualitative and quantitative methods, albeit with different approaches and measurement styles. Qualitative research measures design data during the collection process, focusing on respondents' verbal and visual expressions, events, and extensive field notes encompassing daily routines, written or spoken words, body language, actions, and visuals. Qualitative researchers refine their ideas during data collection, evaluating facts and concepts in real-time. This study, aiming for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon's richness and complexity, utilizes a qualitative research design. Qualitative research seldom addresses hypotheses, as its primary objective is not generalization but an in-depth exploration at a micro level. Data for this study is gathered through in-depth interviews with individuals involved in violence against police.

Selection of Research Site

Selecting a research site is a critical aspect of field research, involving the identification and acquisition of access to a socially defined territory where various activities take place. Before investigating specific cases within it, researchers must carefully choose a site based on factors like data completeness, uniqueness, and compatibility with their methodology. The preference is for sites rich in information related to the research issue. Practical considerations, such as the researcher's time constraints, abilities, potential conflicts at the site, personal qualities, and emotions, influence the selection process. For the current study, data were collected from participants in the Zaman Park Lahore protest on Mall Road, prioritizing a location with relevance to the research focus.

Sampling Strategy

Sampling is a systematic process of selecting individuals from the entire population for investigation in social research. It serves to gather sufficient data from a smaller group to provide insights into the broader population. In qualitative research, non-probability sampling is commonly employed, as seen in this study, where participants engaged in mob violence were initially identified and then interviewed. The decision for data analysis was guided by evidence of data saturation, focusing on understanding the incidents and their underlying psychological and social factors. Continuous comparison of collected data across different participants facilitated a comprehensive exploration of the phenomenon.

Sample Size and Technique

For the purpose of participant selection, the study adopted the snowball sampling method, which is commonly used to reach hidden or hard-to-access populations. Through referrals from initial participants, additional respondents were identified. The final sample consisted of 15 individuals who had been involved in incidents of mob violence targeting police officers in different parts of Lahore. Their experiences provided valuable insights for the study.

Strategy for Conducting Field Work

The researcher must travel to the research site to obtain specific data relevant to the incident. The quality of field research results is determined by the research site, the field worker's participation, and the amount of time spent with the respondents. In the current study, all interviews are performed in Lahore, mainly with those who are arrested by the police.

Rapport Building and Disclosure

Building rapport is a crucial aspect of obtaining rich and detailed data in qualitative research. To establish trust and confidentiality, the investigator engages in comprehensive dialogues with respondents experiencing the understudied phenomenon. The goal is to create a confidential relationship, ensuring accurate information recording. Preserving the dignity of participants enhances trust, with assurances that their identities won't be misused. The researcher maintains professionalism, promising assistance if respondents face difficulties due to their study participation.

Gatekeeping

Accessing potential respondents is tough, but with the help of gatekeepers, it may be achievable. Those who grant or reject access to potential participants are known as gatekeepers. Gatekeeping is a method of gaining access to potential respondents that is dependent on the culture and the researcher's relationship with the people in the community. It is easier to gain access to potential participants if the researcher is familiar with the community. Different people served as the study's gatekeepers, allowing the researcher access to the area's potential respondents.

In-depth Interviews

In qualitative research, in-depth interviews are widely used to obtain detailed insights from participants. For this purpose, an interview guide was prepared to assist in the data collection process. The guide included open-ended questions arranged under different thematic areas related to the objectives and research questions of the study. Unlike structured surveys that focus on standardized responses from large samples, in-depth interviews aim to collect rich and detailed information from a smaller number of participants. This method is grounded in the interpretive research tradition, where emphasis is placed on understanding participants' perspectives and experiences. Although the interviewer follows predetermined themes and questions, participants are encouraged to freely share their views, feelings, and interpretations of the events. At the same time, the interviewer maintains an

appropriate balance between guidance and flexibility to ensure that the discussion remains aligned with the research objectives.

Tool for Data Collection

To examine the research phenomenon, the study utilized a semi-structured interview guide. Interviews were carried out in Urdu, as it is the participants' first language and allowed them to communicate their experiences more easily. Following the data collection, the interview recordings were transcribed verbatim and later translated into English for the purpose of analysis.

Data Collection

An interview guide with questions was created to retrieve the relevant data. The aim was to conduct the interviews of 10 to 15 people who are involved in violence against the police. In-depth Interviews are helpful for a better understanding of mob attitudes and behavior toward police.

Official Sources

We collected data from official records of police stations and other law enforcement agencies. We can get a social and psychological understanding of the people and performance of the organization. We collected the incidents published in newspapers as an official source.

Unofficial Sources

We collected primary data by conducting direct face-to-face in-depth interviews with criminals. Primary Data are usually collected from the source where the data originally originates from and are regarded as the best kind of data in research.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations play a vital role in any research study and involve following principles that promote responsible behavior during the research process. Researchers must remain conscious of their duties and limitations while safeguarding the rights of participants, particularly their privacy and informed consent. By adhering to ethical guidelines, researchers can address potential challenges and ensure the collection of reliable and unbiased information. Key ethical principles include obtaining voluntary consent, protecting the identity of participants through anonymity, and maintaining strict confidentiality of the data. In addition, the broader social context of the study and the researcher's personal attributes, such as age, gender, and religious beliefs, may influence the research process. To maintain objectivity and credibility, the researcher ensured that the study was conducted in a neutral and unbiased manner.

Informed Consent

Obtaining informed consent is a fundamental ethical practice in research. It requires informing participants about the objectives of the study and ensuring that their participation is voluntary. Participants were made aware that they could discontinue the interview at any point if they felt uneasy. Before beginning the interviews, the researcher sought permission from the

respondents and explained the purpose and nature of the research. In addition, respondents were asked to carefully consider each question and were given the opportunity to ask the researcher for clarification whenever needed.

Reflexivity

Qualitative research primarily relies on textual data generated from participants' responses, which are recorded and transcribed by the researcher. This process may introduce a level of subjectivity, as the researcher's perspectives can influence how the information is interpreted. Subjectivity can stem from various factors, including the researcher's educational background, social environment, personal beliefs, and emotions. In this study, efforts were made to limit such influence in order to produce more reliable results. The concept of reflexivity was used as a key approach to control subjectivity. Reflexivity refers to the researcher's continuous self-evaluation and critical reflection on whether personal experiences or assumptions may affect different stages of the research, such as data collection, interpretation, transcription, and analysis. Practicing reflexivity helps minimize bias and contributes to more trustworthy and transparent research outcomes.

Field Work Experience

In social research, fieldwork plays a crucial role in the process of data collection because it enables the researcher to observe and understand the issue from the viewpoints of the respondents. Through this experience, the researcher learns important skills, particularly in communicating with people from varied backgrounds and perspectives.

The data for this research were gathered during the week through interviews conducted by the researcher. Initially, the researcher experienced some uncertainty, as interacting and interviewing different participants was a new experience. During the interview sessions, some respondents showed signs of hesitation through their body language and facial expressions, indicating discomfort when responding to certain probing questions.

Transcribing and Analyzing Data

The primary aim of qualitative research is to explore the complexity of social phenomena and to understand the meanings individuals attach to their experiences. During the process of transcription and interpretation, the researcher's perspective may also influence how the data are represented, as personal, social, and economic backgrounds can shape the understanding of participants' responses. At the stage of data analysis, theoretical sensitivity plays an important role in interpreting and organizing the collected information (Strauss, 1990). In this study, the collected data were systematically organized and condensed through several analytical steps. The information was broken down into smaller segments such as summaries, codes, categories, themes, and sub-themes to facilitate a clearer understanding of the findings. Analysis forms the core component of

qualitative research, and the researcher's analytical ability is essential for achieving the study's objectives. Effective analysis requires identifying relevant questions, carefully recording participants' responses, and interpreting the data in a way that preserves the original meanings expressed by respondents while remaining consistent with the study's epistemological framework.

For the present research, a thematic analysis approach was applied to interpret the data. The researcher carefully reviewed the transcripts to identify recurring ideas, patterns, and themes. Through this process, key topics and meaningful patterns within the responses were identified, allowing the researcher to develop a deeper understanding of the issue under investigation.

Results

Data analysis is the process of cleaning, transforming, and modeling data in order to find useful information. It is the systematic application of statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense, recapitulate, and evaluate data. Given the prevalence of mob violence against police, our interview was based on the questions that associate criminal activities with demographic variables and psychological factors. It is not surprising that most of the research on this issue has mainly focused on the affiliation of the participants with religious organizations. During data analysis, the following themes emerged.

Demographic factors and violence, how are they related?

In this theme, the Researcher tried to understand the relationship between demographic factors and violence. The researcher tried to understand whether there is any relationship between localities, age, education, and religion. Researchers understood that most of the people who are involved in mob violence against police are associated with religious organizations. Sometimes deeply held beliefs can indeed lead to clashes, and there have been many wars that were caused by disputes over religion and beliefs. The result showed their great association with the specific religious organization. One of the participants explained,

My name is Hassan Ali. I'm Balochi, and I'm from Lahore. I'm unmarried. I've done matric, and after matriculation, I got strongly associated with the religious organization of my personal interest. It's been 4 years, and I'll promote my association and its views. Anyone who tries to stop me and my actions, I'll protest and fightback.

When observing the demographic characteristics of participants, most of the participants are not well-qualified. They are either done with matriculation or below. Which means illiteracy is somehow related to the mindset of the individual. Education, nourishes the mind, broadens the thoughts and views. Modern society is modern. Problems and education enhance problem-solving

Skills help people to understand the situation and make compromises with it. Hence, most of our participants were below matriculation, which must have affected their conflict-resolving capacity, and they acted violently. One of the participants, named Murtaza, stated,

My name is Murtaza Ali. My religion is Islam, and I left my studies before matriculation. It was my personal interest to support the organization, and my family also supported me. I'm a proud Muslim. I'll always fight for my religion no matter what comes forward. The police were taking away our right to protest for our religion, that's why I became aggressive and attacked them.

On questioning the well-qualified participant about the relationship between his thoughts of aggression towards police and his education. Isn't education helping him to make up for his moral deficiencies? One of the participants explained.

My name is Shahbaz Sikander. My qualification is a masters. My study taught me to fight for my rights, either religious or social. I will not be at peace until my conflicts are resolved.

Psychological Perspective

The situations and incidents of violence against police have affected the peace and harmony of Pakistan. Pakistan faced difficult, intense situations in this regard. People show aggressive behaviors toward those who protect them, so this theme was prepared to understand the psychological perspective of participants who are involved and the reasons and causes of their aggressive behaviors toward the police. We tried to overlook that these activities are done by what kind of motivation. Is there any previous record? What do they think about the legislation, and what agents supported them in such criminal acts? One of the participants named Naveed Ahmed, explained the reason for aggression.

We were doing a peaceful protest against the state, and peaceful protest was our right, but the police attacked and beat the crowd of participants, and I reacted as a result of police violence and attacked them.

Human behavior is sometimes the reaction to another's behavior. Participants were doing peaceful protests; according to them, it was based on religious purposes. They didn't come to react against the police, but the behavior of the police provoked them to react. The interviewers were also asked about the role of any political/ religious party in their act, and they denied any kind of assistance or role. One of the participants named Zeeshan Raziullah, explained,

Islam, as a faith, welcomes protests. We peacefully protested in the name of religion. Our aim in protesting was to react against the blasphemy, and it was our right to protest for the implementation of Islamic laws and protection of namoos - e-rasalat. Sometimes the protestors want the government to listen to their grievances and demands, and when they protest, the police try to stop them. This situation

creates conflicts between both parties.

One of the participants of the interview, Shan Awais Mustafa, who threw stones at the police, explained,

We have a specific demand from the government, and we protest to fulfill this demand, but when the government representatives stop the protest and reject our demand, as a result, we display aggression toward that representative because our issues are not being addressed the way they need to be addressed.

The interviewer also focused on certain valid reasons to determine whether the crowd behavior motivated the participants to indulge in violence or not? Almost 90% of the participants responded that they committed violence without any motivation from the crowd. They did it personally by their own set of rules. This means that the interviewees don't follow the contagion theory of crowd psychology. According to this interview, participants usually followed convergence theory, which states that crowd behavior reflects the beliefs and intentions that individuals share before joining a specific crowd.

The laws of any country can have a positive or negative impact on the psychological and mental health of the people living there. People who are involved in mob violence against police are sometimes not satisfied with the legislation and laws of Pakistan. Because in their view, the laws of Pakistan are not equal for all people, so they protest against it. When they protest, they try to vent their anger by attacking the police because the police are an important government agency.

Police brutality itself plays a negative role for the public. The police's own violence also plays an important role in creating hatred for them in the hearts of the people and disturbing their mental and physical health. When people have been tortured by the police, they suffer due to police brutality, and they do not refrain from torturing the police on such occasions.

On this, an interviewer named Amir Mubeen explained that,

Police tortured him badly when he was young. He was a participant in a protest. The police captured him and tortured him badly in unknown places. After a few years, when I joined this protest, the police again intruded, so I got a chance to channel my aggression into violence through this crowd or protest.

The media also plays an important role in today's situation in displaying violent news and the bad side of institutions and organizations. The interviewer also examined the role of the media in today's situation of anarchy. By giving negative news about the police, the media harms the public, which can turn the public's mind against the police, so the media also plays a very important role in all of this. The public has lost faith in the police due to media coverage. The public has lost faith in the police due to media coverage, which leads them to disobey and attack them. Violence in media is a major issue in today's society, and an examination of media violence reveals

that the violence does result in a more aggressive world. Violence can be found in everything from what we see to what we hear.

One of the interviewers, Atta Ullah Khan, age 24 years, said,

The media contribute to the increasing of crime and violence rates among youth by showing false and negative images and perspectives of law enforcement, by not encouraging the agencies that are helpful to the government. The media affects the psychological and mental health of society and creates panic in the public. It impacts the thinking of the public toward law enforcement, and people become violent toward them.

One of the participants described the causes of involvement in violent activities,

Experiencing abuse or neglect. Witnessing violence in the home, community, or media. Access to weapons and a special association with the intense organization are the major causes of involvement in mob violence.

It is increasing rapidly in Pakistani society; in a very few years, there have been many incidents in which the police have been subjected to violence. In many cases, families and societies don't support such behavior but few cases are studied in which families support such behavior.

One of the participants, Shoaib Akhtar, aged 28, shared that,

My family completely supported me, I'm highly motivated by my family and friends. I did it for the first time for my religion, and I'm proud of it. My family is proud of me. I'll fight whenever they torture us during our protest. I'll stay with my organization till my last breath.

The relationship between societal factors and mob violence against police

Violence is a social process and phenomenon. The interpersonal nature of violence requires interpersonal explanation. Social perspectives look at the social situation that explains the frequency and intensity of violence. It doesn't focus on "Why does violence occur?" but it focuses on "Why does this socially undesirable activity happen more in some circumstances than in others?" Attention to the social aspects of violence can seem to excuse individual actions and, as a result, to encourage more violence. So, this is intended to help prevent violence by contributing to the social understanding of factors contributing to violence.

One of the participants stated,

Inequality of law is one of the main causes of our aggressive behaviors toward law enforcement, as these institutions are the seats of government. Hitting these organizations means hitting the government and targeting them. In this way, we convey our message to the government. We convey our demand in a better way.

To understand the societal factors causing mob violence against police, we need to understand the

social problems. Some social problems, including Interpersonal, family, and community dynamics, housing quality, social support, employment opportunities, economic strength, work and school place conditions, Poverty, unemployment, unequal opportunity, racism, and malnutrition, influence mental health, and a person living in such conditions could show belligerent and antagonistic behavior toward government representatives, i.e., police.

One of the participants stated,

Public behavior towards police depends on the behavior of police towards citizens. It depends on the social terms of the police. Police have the authority, but sometimes police use this authority unnecessarily and harm the public. In such conditions, the public will react violently. So our behavior is the result of their brutality.

Police officers face attacks from civilians relatively often (Ellrich and Baier, 2016). This can be verbal or physical violence, (sexual) intimidation, or discrimination. According to a previous survey, 88% of police officers experience psychological attacks (verbal, intimidation, discrimination) and 61% of physical violence each year (Gabriel et al., 2007). This topic helps examine the relationship between aggression towards police officers and their own behavior towards citizens.

Discussion

The purpose of the discussion is to interpret and explain the meaning of the findings in the light of what was previously known about the research problem under study, and to explain new knowledge and insights that arose from the study of the problem. Discussions are intended to provide answers to questions. In other words, most of the discussion and conclusion should be about figuring out what the results mean. The majority of the research concentrated on the facts and figures of mob violence and aggression toward police. Police serve as a protective shield for any community. What are the reasons for mob violence toward police? The researcher interviewed those participants who are directly involved in these types of activities. The participants were captured as a result of their violence against police (Baumeister et al., 1996).

Mob violence is primarily expressive or helps in the need for immediate satisfaction, while social movements are a systematic effort to change the social situation (a revitalizing factor in the background of mob violence). However, we argue that mass action and mob violence can also be a means of social movement (Tyler and Smith, 1995). Victim costs (both assault and death) are also manifested in absenteeism, reduced morale, serious injury effects, negative attitudes, and increased stress (Stranks, 2005). Another reason for the difference is their experience. Older officers can better assess the level of danger in a particular situation or type of citizen (such as drunks) and take necessary steps to prevent possible escalation. Young officers in particular may

be under pressure to prove themselves. They react less calmly to provocations and are much quicker to threaten, thereby potentially fostering conflict (Richardson et al., 1994).

Social science research in the 1970s and 1980s educated us that the people who joined the protest were not well-unified and included dissenting individuals. Rather, they are concerned about those who express legitimate concerns about various social/political issues such as environment, housing, abortion, ethnic concerns, and political rights (Patterson et al., 2019). Crowds aren't mobs, but they can be mobs! Any crowd poses a policing problem, and even the most casual person has the potential for widespread civil disobedience. Individuals respond less and less to stimuli occurring outside the group and only to influences within the group. A form of mass hypnosis controlling and responds only to the instructions of the masses as a whole. Individuals lose their critical confidence and the ability to act in a sense of sober and rational consideration, as the mob's anonymity relieves them of personal responsibility. Expressive crowds are often mistaken for danger and treated as aggressive. It is important to avoid this confusion. It is wise to continue such activities and allow groups to express themselves in this way in the absence of serious security disruption. Indeed, interrupting the release of energy in an expressive way can divert the potential energy of such a crowd to an aggressive and destructive channel (Schweingruber, 2000).

The situations and incidents of violence against police have affected the peace and harmony of Pakistan. Pakistan faced difficult, intense situations in this regard. People show aggressive behaviors toward those who protect them, so this theme was prepared to understand the psychological demographic and social perspective of participants who are involved, and the reasons and causes of their aggressive behaviors toward the police. Human behavior is sometimes a reaction to another's behavior. Participants were doing peaceful protests; according to them, it was based on religious purposes. They didn't come to react against the police, but the behavior of the police provoked them to react. Sometimes the protestors want the government to listen to their grievances and demands, and when they protest, the police try to stop them. This situation creates conflicts between both parties (Della Porta and Fillieule, 2004).

Most of the participants responded that they committed violence without any motivation from the crowd. They did it personally by their own set of rules. This means that the interviewees don't follow the contagion theory of crowd psychology. According to this interview, participants usually followed convergence theory, which states that crowd behavior reflects the beliefs and intentions that individuals share before joining a specific crowd (Granovetter, 1978). The Supreme Court of Pakistan also made a Distinction between the common Intention and the

common object. It Observed: "Where aggressive action of a police Officer produced an instant reaction to himself personally but only in a small group persons who were in the front of the assembly, and the case can be made one of unlawful assembly only if it be held that although these persons were not gathered for an unlawful assembly purpose, as defined in the section, yet in their reaction to the police officer's behavior, they develop a common object, namely to commit an offense, A joint action by several persons is not necessarily an action performed with a common object. It may be performed on The spur of the moment as a reaction to some incident and such a case would fall more correctly within the rule of constructive liability laid down in section 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code which is based on "common intention", a condition of mind which is more directly and approximately connected with the action than is with the formation of "common object". This may appear more clearly where it is recalled that the law makes specific provisions for dispersing an unlawful assembly. Such an incident does not apply to the jointness of action envisaged in section 34 PPC. This consists of a translation of intention, commonly held into effect. The persons who have been held to have joined in a common assault on the police officer, in the present case, can be more precisely held to have acted with common intention than in furtherance of a common object ([Munir, 2007](#)). People facing social problems, including Interpersonal, family, and community dynamics, housing quality, social support, employment opportunities, economic strength, work and school place conditions, Poverty, unemployment, unequal opportunity, racism, and malnutrition, influence mental health and sometimes also show belligerent and antagonistic behavior toward government representatives, i.e., police ([Mechanic and Tanner, 2007](#)).

The media also plays an important role in today's situation in displaying violent news and the bad side of institutions and organizations. The interviewer also examined the role of the media in today's situation of anarchy. By giving negative news about the police, the media harms the public, which can turn the public's mind against the police, so the media also plays a very important role in all of this. The public has lost faith in the police due to unreliable media coverage, which leads them to refuse their orders and attack them. Violence in media is a major issue in today's society, and examination of media violence reveals that violence does result in a more aggressive world. Violence can be found in everything from what we see to what we hear. Inequality of law is one of the main causes of our aggressive behaviors toward law enforcement, as these institutions are the seats of government. Hitting these organizations means hitting the government and targeting it. In this way, we convey our message to the government. We convey our demand in a better way([Anderson et al., 2003](#)).

Conclusion

As per the perspective of Pakistan, violence cases are on the rise concerning politically based cases and scenarios (recently in Zaman Park, Lahore). Immense political and religious attachment is the weakest point of the public in Pakistan, and people are ready to sacrifice each and everything for the sake of religion and politics. Pakistan is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual state, and cases of blasphemy are increasing here; it's a sensitive issue. Grievances of the public are not addressed/ listened to properly, which causes violence against law enforcement agencies as a reaction to it. People are being exploited by the extremists using religion as a tool, same are used afterward for violence against law enforcement agencies in different protests/gatherings. It has been observed/analyzed in Zaman Park, Lahore, that the Police tortured the MOB and people in reaction to it. Family support is also an important factor, which exacerbates extremism in terms of religion and forces them to convert to violence. Non-equity of the law in the state is one of the major factors that encourages the public to be volatile and reactive. Nonprofessionalism of the police turns the situation towards violence/aggression. External agencies and opposite forces took advantage of the public and motivated them towards violence.

Recommendations

- Police and LEA's should be professional while dealing with Mob/protestors, and rules and regulations should be followed in true spirit.
- Foreign funding's and influence of external agencies and sources should be minimized to avert such cases and to avoid the worst situations.
- Seminars/Conferences should be arranged for the religious conceptual clarity about the wrong concept of the public, which has been developed by external sources.
- The real meaning of JIHAD & Martyrdom needs to be communicated to the general public to set aside the bad intentions and the mindsets that are imposed on the version of Sharia.
- The rights of the general public should be secured, and innocent people should not be tortured in any scenario.
- Law should be equal for everyone in the state; there should be no discrimination/ favoritism.
- Psychological assessments should be carried out for the LEA's before deploying on Mob handling, and refresher training should also be conducted for better results.
- Right of protest and freedom of speech are the public's right, and they should be given in the true spirit.
- Prevention of hate speeches and aggravation by Religious/Political leaders should be implemented with all force.
- Governments and LEA's should be taking the protestors' demands seriously, and remedies should be provided as early as possible to avoid violence.

Religious extremism and related fields should be addressed in society by taking necessary measures.

Interview Guide

1. What motivates you to become a part of a mob?
2. What is the objective of your mob?
3. How do you interpret violence?
4. Does Pakistani law allow you to engage the mob?
5. What was the reaction of the police toward the mob?
6. What was the reaction of your family toward your involvement in the mob?
7. Was it your first time, or have you been involved in a mob before, too?
8. In the future, will you join the mob?

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Statements and Declarations

Data Availability statement

All relevant data are within the manuscript file.

Author’s Contribution Statement

SA, BA, MMQ and ZA collected data and wrote manuscript equally. All authors have read the final manuscript and approve its submission.

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Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest.



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