

**RESEARCH PAPER****An analysis of the role of Police in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan****<sup>1</sup>Ali Raza Laghari, <sup>2</sup>ShabanaKausarand <sup>3</sup>Muhammad NoumanJatoi**

1. Ph. D Scholar, Department of Law, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law Karachi and Assistant Professor at Institute of Law, University of Sindh Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan
2. Lecturer at Institute of Law, University of Sindh Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan
3. Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate MTMC III Tando Allahyar, Sindh, Pakistan

**Corresponding Author:** aliraza.laghari@usindh.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the role of police in the criminal justice system of Pakistan and provide a comprehensive understanding about this agency, determine the flaws and challenges faced by this institution influencing the effectiveness. Police is one of the most important pillar of the criminal justice system; assigned with maintaining law and order, prevent and detect crime, bring the criminal in the court of law so as citizens can live their life peacefully. In this regard qualitative research methodology has been applied. Based on the interviews, case studies, research articles, judgments of the superior courts; functions and perceptions in the context of law enforcement and relationship with general public have been discussed. In conclusion it appeared that political interference, lack of resources including forensic and other scientific technology, lack highly skilled persons and mixed duties are hurdles in the advancement of this institution. It has been suggested in the recommendations that by providing resources as per requirement of the nature of job institution of Police can be strengthened.

**KEYWORDS** Criminal Justice System of Pakistan, Role of Police**Introduction**

In Pakistan in order to deter crime, address the grievances of complainant and convict accused if proved guilty there is a set of agencies; combined working process of these agencies is called as criminal justice system. In order to do justice with the victim and accused as well, components of this system has to keep coordination with each other. In any country good and reliable criminal justice system is that which provides the speedy remedy for the victims of offence. In such a system though the prosecution aims to get convicted offender, his legitimate rights are protected. Fairness, equality and justice are the basics of the system by dealing with crime and criminals. In Pakistan, Criminal Justice System has been inherited from the Britain.

The Police which are one of the most important pillars of this system are an organization, whereas function of preventing and detecting crime is called as policing. In Pakistan, each Province has its own law of Police organization (Adil, 2019). Mostly the most common method to evaluate effectiveness of the Police agencies is crime rate. However behavior, preventing and reducing crime, improving citizen's trust, perceptions of their safety and citizen satisfaction are also considered in Police effectiveness. It has been noted that there are two kinds of contacts between the Police and citizens i) citizen initiated and ii) Police initiated contacts. Citizen initiated contact includes calling Police for help whereas Police initiated contacts include stoppage and arrests. During COVID-19 pandemic Police personnel confronted with various challenges in order to enforce strict measures adopted by the Government. Facing all

stress Police is expected to perform appropriately. In the crucial situations role of Police is laudable. Police has been serving in the highly threatening situations, in the COVID-19 pandemic Police has performed its role to control the spreading of the disease, maintaining public order and saving communities from the disease. To protect the health of residents, Government adopted unprecedented strict measures which included keeping the citizens safe at their homes; these measures were enforced by the Police. In discharge of this responsibility Police personnel confronted several challenges: constant risk of infection was one of the main challenges, leading to uncertain or stressful situation. In Pakistan Police has been empowered with administration of security and certain legal powers.

### **Literature Review**

The society can stand for a long time despite the infidelity, but not on injustice. Therefore for administration of justice an efficacious system is necessary (Khan, 2022). Criminal Procedure Code 1898 and Pakistan Penal Code 1860 lay out the foundations, procedures and functions of all segments of the system, which includes reporting crime at Police station, trial at Court, and corrections at jails. Though time to time these laws have been amended the major shape is not changed yet. Due to flaws criminal justice system of Pakistan could not achieve its object (Strasser, 2014). Criminal justice process in Pakistan faces numerous issues (Khan, 2024). More often people resort to self justice and criminals are lynched by people. Delayed and defective reporting of crime at the Police Station, lack of proper investigation, delay in the submission of challan, delayed trial, overcrowding of jails are some of the common weaknesses and deficiencies in the criminal justice system of Pakistan. A single segment is not responsible for this but all its pillars equally fall short. Pakistan's criminal justice system inefficient (Sobia, 2023). Criminal justice system in Pakistan isn't at its ideal level (Usman., 2022). People cannot get justice because of flaws in the system (Ali., 2023). Supreme Court of Pakistan in case titled Haider Ali and another v. the DPO Chakwal, to address the 'fundamental issues of the Criminal Justice System in Pakistan. The Court has been pleased to pass fifteen directions (Khan., 2020).

Despite this fact that prosecution has been separated from Police, no revolutionary progress has been made to improve the system. (Arshad, 2017). "To arrest, convict and punish the offenders of serious crimes is the primary function of criminal justice system". From many of the arrested accused person very few get conviction. In some of the cases prosecution do not frame charge because it concludes that there is very weak evidence, sometimes charges are dropped or in some of the cases prosecution fails to convince the Court regarding guilt of the accused. If soon after incident Police Officer succeeds to arrest the offender and recover tangible evidence and witnesses of the incident ready to cooperate; there is more chance of conviction of the culprit. (Justice., 1994).

The major delays and lapses are primarily attributed to a backlog of cases, inefficiencies and modernization. These delays have detrimental effects on the accused, victims, witnesses, and society as a whole, leading to a lack of trust in the system and delaying the timely dispensation of justice (Javaid., 2024). Criminal justice system of Pakistan due to old laws, cumbersome procedure, defective investigation and other reasons is just crumbling. Criminal law scholars embark on a significant and long awaited effort to reform the criminal justice system (Baer, 2021). Prosecutor feel difficulty in asserting their authority and in weak cases to compel the Police for collecting further

evidence, either inability or unwillingness or even both may be the reasons of this (Strasser, 2014).

Balancing justice and rights in the criminal law systems of Pakistan and similar developing countries remains a multifaceted challenge, deeply intertwined with social, political, and institutional dynamics. While progress is evident in advocacy and legal reforms, entrenched systemic issues like custodial torture, judicial delays, and misuse of laws continue to undermine human rights and public confidence. Sustainable change requires comprehensive reform efforts encompassing legal modernization, institutional capacity building, civil society engagement, and adherence to international human rights norms. By embracing such a holistic approach, Pakistan and other developing nations can move toward a criminal justice system that upholds both justice and fundamental human rights (Baig, 2025). At the time of independence Pakistan inherited a more-than-eighty-year-old police system (Suddle, 2003).

Historically police has been used as an instrument of repression against opposition groups. There is need to change and make it strong independent institution. Only a strong police force can control the law and order situation and maintain peace (Frederic, 2010). It has been noted in the research studies about the Police that as compared to Police initiated response (Like as arrest, stopping) in citizen initiated response greater trust and satisfaction have been shown like as call for assistance. In shaping the citizen views as compared to positive experience with Police negative experience with Police Officers had far stronger impacts. Treatment of Police officer with people also has impact in shaping the image of Police among the citizens. Whether individuals approached with Police Officer as crime victim or offender, fair treatment with them let to positive views about the Police. Despite serious flaws in the Police Act 1861 the police have been delivering quite responsibly, though this is mostly due to individual activity. However due to various reasons police has lost the confidence and trust of the people (Ahmed, 2019).

Hollins (2002) states that discrimination and nepotism act as barriers for advancement within the Police Organization. It is also an admitted fact that due to non availability of required technological facilities "custodial torture" is used as a tool in the process of investigation (Kamranl., 2024). If there has been proper implementation of Police Ordinance 2002 it can bring transformation in the quality of policing (Suddle, 2003). Due to various factors duty of police to prevent and detect crime is a dream to be achieved (Danyal, 2019).

Despite various reform efforts, political interference and corruption are hindrance in the police performance (Iftikhar, 2024). Non resolution of issues can hinder the process of police reform (Jawed, 2023). State has failed to fulfill its obligation leading to shortcomings in the administrative system. Other side institutional failure includes short comings and inefficiencies (Jamil., 2025). Perusal of the newspapers and reports illustrate that the police in Pakistan routinely misuse their powers (Ahmad, 2004). Police can be strengthened by improving both procedural and functional evaluations (Hassan, 2025). Pakistan can make its criminal justice system a model of effectiveness, openness, and justice by embracing digitization and artificial intelligence (Gondal, 2025).

Nizam (2025) suggests a comprehensive reform strategy. Discussing role of Police in countering terrorism researcher Khalid (2017) emphasized that police force must improve its police public relationship (Michelle., 2021). Sarwan (2024) suggests that Islam's foundational principles provide a valuable framework for addressing the

complexities of criminal behavior. Resources should be provided in accordance with the job that is expected out of them (Ahsan, 2019).

### **Material and Methods**

Qualitative research methodology has been employed to explore the role of Police in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan. Primary and secondary data were collected. In this regard interviews were conducted with key stakeholders including police officers, legal experts and members of civil society. In order to get diverse perspective in addition to interviews focus group discussion were also conducted. Review of the judgments of the superior courts, research articles reports and other published material was part of the secondary data. A purposive sampling technique was used to select participants with direct experience and knowledge of the criminal justice system and policing practices. This approach ensured that data collected were rich and relevant to the research objectives. This qualitative methodology enables a comprehensive and nuanced examination of the police's role in Pakistan's criminal justice system, providing insights into areas for policy and institutional reform.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Role of Police In The Criminal Justice System:**

##### **Registration of Crime (F.I.R)**

Besides other responsibilities as an important investigating agency of the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan Police becomes active after registration of a F.I.R. It is the duty of Police to register F.I.R promptly, as and when it is reported (Ali, 2023). In Pakistan an ordinary citizen prefers to avoid the Police. Police Station is not a place for gentleman (Jamshed, 2018).

After F.I.R Police initiate investigation. First Information Report is considered as back bone of prosecution case. Basic object of lodging the report at Police Station is to bring in action the machinery of law for undertaking inquiry and investigation in the alleged offence; hence such information can be communicated by any person or any eye witness of the incident. In a landmark judgment in the case of *Sughra Bibi v/s the State* criminal appeal no. 547 of 2017 reported in PLD 2018 SC 595 Supreme Court held that second F.I.R cannot be registered on the basis of same incident (PLD 2018). When information reaches to the In-charge Police Officer as to commission of non-cognizable offence, he should make entries in the book maintained for the purpose (roznamcha) and without any investigation refer the matter to the Magistrate for order. After having obtained appropriate order from the Magistrate, he would proceed in accordance with sub-para(3) of section 155. However he is not competent to arrest accused person without having warrant of arrest from the concerned Magistrate.

Law professional experts and others respondents in this research article are of the view that either Police avoids to register F.I.R or demands money to register F.I.R; if F.I.R is registered requirements of the section 154 are not followed. In registration of FIR it depends on the person on whose behest the FIR is lodged and against whom it is lodged. Because of the fact that process of crime registration is not smooth, fair and without pain people don't prefer to register crime. In the criminal justice system where a basic requirement is not fulfilled to bring the criminal law in motion, how it can be expected that further system will be working fairly. If Police register crime on the direction of Ex

Officio Justice of Peace Police may not take interest in conduct of the investigation or that would not be conducted fairly and impartially. In the process of registration of F.I.R Police official always misuse his powers, it depends upon party whether victim party is powerful or not, in some cases police register the F.I.R as per verbatim of informant but in often Police do not lodge the same as per informant' narration, story of complainant is mentioned in FIR but in way to cover legal provisions, they often narrate the same but sometimes Police tries to exaggerate, Police deliberately involve the flaws in registration of FIR, they try to twist the story as to serve the purpose of their interest, there are various reasons, some of the time Police check the names of accuse persons and also made some errors deliberately. Besides this complainant has an other opportunity to file direct complaint before the Magistrate having jurisdiction but that process is also painful and it is very difficult for a common person who is victim of a crime has to prove its case/complaint before the Magistrate beyond the doubt. In the case based on direct complainant it is complainant who has to prove his case where as in the case based on Police report burden is upon the Police/Prosecution instead of the complainant. Due to non registration of case by Police people resort to address their complaints by way of fighting with each other which some times results in the shape of loss of life.

Weak judicial system, demand of money by Police, prolong trial and desire of people to resolve their disputes by themselves are also causes of not approaching Police for reporting crime. Some time people do not want to get involve themselves in the court proceeding. They also want to save time and money. However if trust restored people would like to report crime. In this regard it is the obligation of State to take measure to restore the trust of people and make the process of crime registration easy. People are dissatisfied with the existing procedure of lodging F.I.R. Online registration of F.I.R is a suitable option for registration of crime. CCTV must be customized in the Police department, there must be supervision over police officials regarding lodgment of FIR and there must be strict punishments and strict inquiries over negligence of police officials, an inquiry must be carried on by the Police impartially prior to register the FIR so that innocent people shall not face abuse of the law. There must have punitive action against the Police officer who refused to lodge the FIR, further in modern era of information technology there must have on line registration of FIR and such FIR should not required any signature . Such system must be connected with head of department as well as concern Magistrate, online registration mechanism is a good option. State should fix time for response on each FIR and there should be strict compliance of these rules. Local forum may be introduced so that by their recommendations FIR should be registered to seek help from law enforcement agencies, Police function should be monitored.

### **Investigation and Challan**

After the registration of F.I.R investigation is initiated. Police as a main investigating agency is responsible to collect the evidences in a criminal case. As provided in section 4(1) of criminal procedure code investigation is only prerogative of Police. A Police Officer collects evidence orally or documentary to be placed before a Court of Law for taking judicial notice so as to bring the accused to justice. Object of the criminal investigation is to address the questions aroused with regard to commission of offence, manner and means used, the motive and the identity of the culprit. For the search of material witness able and agree to give deposition against culprit is also remain task of criminal investigation. In the course of investigation in order to get a true picture of the event and to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused all facts relevant with crime are reconstructed.

In conducting investigation, investigating officer has to visit place of incidence, collect the relevant material, record statements of the persons acquainted with the facts of the case, do search of the places where anything in the relevancy of case can be find. In murder case preparing inquest report, getting postmortem of the deceased, collecting examination report the MLO, sending firearm and the used cartridge recovered from the place of incident to the ballistic and firearm expert for examination and report, sending sample for chemical examination and collecting report in case of poisoning etc, sending sample and collecting serologist report as to blood stained earth and cloths and sending finger print and collecting finger print bureau's report are also part of the investigation process. Investigation is conducted for formation of opinion that collected material implicates the accused and he should face trial. However it lacks the required facilities in this regard consequently thorough and adequate investigation cannot be conducted. Though the Government is taking steps in this direction but not up to marked. In the process of investigation forensic, DNA, medical and other testing investigations are poorly managed.

After completion of investigation police officer prepare a report called as challan and is submitted in the Court, meanwhile Police officer is empowered to release an accused person if he found him not involve in the crime. Police has also the powers to withdraw the challan and submit fresh challan. Investigations need to be finished in 1-2 months; implementing a Legal framework that guarantees a speedy investigation of any crime must be one of the reform measures; because delay in investigations is one source of the lack of justice (Imran., 2024). Release of a person under section 63 of Cr.P.C does not mean that they cannot be summoned to stand trial. On the basis of Police report and collected material accused will have to face trial. The concept of initiation of prosecution laid with the aggrieved person under section 154 Cr.P.C and thereafter the same was entrusted to the State whereas under section 494 Cr.P.C if the proceedings were supposed to be withdrawn, the same was responsibility of the Public Prosecutor. The scope of aggrieved person had been extended after the promulgations of criminal law Ordinance 1990, however it was only limited to the cases relating to bodily harms (SCMR 2022).

Evidence is the foundation of justice. In criminal trials the whole case of prosecution is based on evidence and the courts of law decide the matters mostly on evidences. In most of the cases, the police or investigating agency fails in performance of their duties assigned by law for certain reasons (Rajput., 2020). lack of modern technology and uneven compliance with established protocols result in recurrent failures in evidence management (Junaidl., 2025). Attiya., (2025) revealed repeated police inconsistencies in investigative procedures, and a reactive rather than proactive approach, often influenced by media attention and public outrage or pressure. Despite ongoing reforms and policy measures, systemic shortcomings persist, highlighting the need for stronger accountability mechanisms, capacity building, and victim-centered policing strategies. Investigating Officer has to examine earlier a witness which he thinks is acquainted with the case (PLD 2013). Credibility of witness would become highly suspicious if his statement under section 161 is recorded with delay (P.Cr.L.J, 2010). If the criminal case was not investigated effectively, then the whole process proved futile and the culprit will be acquitted (Jammel., 2022).

Police do not start investigation immediately except in cases of heinous nature, whereas, in rest of cases it is subject to corruption, local and political influence. In current process of investigation Police becomes influenced, facts and evidence is manipulated, people do not get justice. Lack of interest and lack of resources also affects fair and transparent investigation. Through centralized Police system investigation officer or

investigation team can be appointed from head quarter in each case and to keep check there should be monitoring system under supervision of law officer, modern technology should also be adopted in the investigation process. Centralized investigation mechanism can reduce the chances of manipulation in the evidence, influence and corruption will be reduced and investigation will be conducted fairly and transparently. The I.O ought to update the daily process report online same like daily case dairies are uploaded online. There must be an official App or website in which process reports may be updated, so that every concern officer may get process report online. Challan is not submitted timely, due to lack of proper scrutiny it results in acquittal of accused.

### **DNA, Forensic, Ballistic and Firearms**

DNA testing has emerged as the sole means and particularly valuable in determining the perpetrator of certain criminal acts, such as rape, murder, kidnapping, robbery, and burglary. However for admissibility of DNA technology evidence it must have been collected, preserved, and recorded properly (Ishfaq., 2024). In remote areas police stations even don't have basic investigation tools (Shabana., 2023). Importance of forensic examination in the cases of murder/homicide, injury, accident, suicide and rape cannot be ignored (Shabana, 2022). Generally police do not have forensic and other scientific expertise, training and resources to conduct investigation in terrorism or other cases of heinous crimes (Jamshed., 2013). Ballistics and firearms are also essential aspects of investigation (Shabana., 2023).

### **Arrest and Evidence in the Court**

In order to get cognizable offence detected or prevented very wide powers are conferred to Police including power to arrest. For this purpose section 54 of Cr.P.C does not require order of Magistrate for arrest as such order may cause delay. However it cannot be left to caprice, arrest and detention of persons (MLD, 2010). Constitution provide safeguards as to arrest and detention. It has been held that without presence of accused person before Court order granting remand would be illegal (MLD 2000). Rights of the arrested persons guaranteed in the constitution of Pakistan and other laws are infringed and an accused person until proven guilty is not treated as innocent (Ali ., 2026). Sentence of capital punishment awarded to the accused that already has remained under custody amounts double jeopardy as in the case of award of imprisonment an accused person is entitle under section 382-B but such benefit cannot be extended to an accused awarded capital punishment (Ali, 2023). After submission of police report court take cognizance and trial is initiated with framing of charge. Prosecution is required to bring the evidence and establish its case beyond reasonable doubt to get the accused convicted. In this regard in addition to private witnesses; investigation officer and other police witnesses are examined in the court, case property is also produced by the concerned police officer. During course of the trial, reports of the experts are also called and examined. In conclusion of trial court announce judgment.

### **Discussion**

It is admitted position that without the role of Police community safety, law and order and peace; a former senior police officer and researcher Suddle (2003) noted below mentioned serious flaws in the Police.

- an outdated framework
- arbitrary and whimsical (mis)management

- lack of accountability,
- lack of incentive systems,
- corruption

Police in Pakistan has always been criticized for non- responsiveness to public complaints (Asif., 2019). Political interference undermines public trust in the law enforcement (Jamil., 2025). Nature of the skills is different for criminal investigations and crime prevention, preventive actions reduce the time available for criminal investigations (Khurram., 2024). Pakistan has never been able to achieve its police accountability (Adhi., 2025). Police stations are also inadequately equipped, sometimes even lacking proper premises (Arshad, 2017). The increasing role of electronic evidence, biometric identification, video recording, and predictive analytics calls for updated legal frameworks, data governance, chain of custody protocols and algorithmic fairness concerns. For example, the broader criminal justice literature shows that fairness and accuracy trade-offs exist in risk assessments. One of the greatest impediments is political influence over the investigation, prosecution and policing. Reform of the police remains a perennial issue. Staffing shortages, outdated technology, weak governance and political interference are hindrance in the advancement of Police (Kalanuri). Police investigation procedures and methods are outdated and inefficient (Jibrani., 2020). Higher standard of professionals are required in the criminal investigation (Parveen., 2018). There is no specialized unit for investigation (Jamshed, 2018).

A major cause of the high acquittal rates as noted above is therefore a question of lack of adequate investigative procedures as well as the conduct of evidence. Many a time; the police do not do their best to investigate which results in weak and/or insufficient evidence during trial. It makes it nearly impossible for the prosecution to secure convictions and this greatly undermines its operation. Thus, in situations like corruption or terrorism, the proofs are often absent, and this leads to acquittals, and the defense takes advantage of lacuna in the prosecutor's evidence (Tauseef., 2024). Gaps in the application of laws, technological advancements and forensic capabilities have hindered the effective performance of law enforcement agencies (Shahzad., 2025). Police is not trustworthy institution of the country. Police do not register crime and if registers facts are manipulated. In registration of crime local and political influence and corruption is matter, due to such influence and corruption accused persons involved in the offence are released discharged by the Police, consequently people do not prefer to register FIR. It is the Police Officer who submits final report/challan of the criminal case through the prosecutor who submits it before the court for further proceedings. However due to various reasons Prosecution fails to prove the case in the trial court or appellate court declares the case doubtful. In the survey majority of the respondents declared performance of the Police as poor and held Police responsible for the less conviction rate and emphasized the need to focus Police for reforms.

To improve the system crime should be registered online which already is in existence in two provinces of the country, in Sindh and Balouchistan provinces this system need to be implemented. Till that to avoid the local influence and hindrances, registration of FIR at SSP office can be a suitable option. There is also need of changing investigation mechanism, investigation officer should be appointed by centralized system (ii) there should be monitoring system and (iii) there should be supervision of law officer. By this change chances of manipulation in the evidence, influence and corruption will be reduced investigation could be conducted fairly and transparently. In

cognizable offences arrest should be based on availability of evidence however in severe cases accused can be arrested before completion of investigation.

### **Flaws and Challenges Faced by Police**

Some of the flaws in the Police are mentioned below.

- There are gaps in the application of laws, technological advancements, and forensic capabilities (Shahzad Manzoor Khan., 2025).
- Forensic, DNA, medical, etc. testing and investigations are outdated (Jamshed H. H., 2013).
- Lack of highly qualified professionals accompanied with technical support.
- Lack of forensic science, DNA test, finger prints technologies/labs
- Lack of specialized unit or force within police trained in investigation (Jamshed J. , 2018)
- Inadequate training, corruption and insufficient resources
- Staff shortages and weak governance
- Lack of independent and robust oversight institutions with the powers of investigation and the ability to avoid any political and police interventions.
- Politically induced transfers and appointments in violation of merit and lack of accountability
- Lack of visible and easy-to-navigate systems of complaints.
- Lack of engagement of civil society in surveillance.
- Lack of educating police on community-oriented policing, ethics and human rights.
- The lack of training, outdated laws, no check and balance, and lack of motivation
- Non- responsiveness to public complaints (Asif Naveed Ranjha., 2019)
- Police stations are also inadequately equipped
- Refusal of Police to register crime and lack of online crime registration system
- Lack of coordination between Prosecution and Police
- Delayed and defective investigation
- Lack of modern technology and equipments and scientific knowledge
- An outdated legal and institutional framework

### **Effects of the Flaws and Challenges Faced by Police**

Consequences of these flaws and challenges in the institution of Police which is a major pillar of the criminal justice system of Pakistan results as following:

- People of Pakistan are not satisfied with the criminal justice system of the country.
- There happens miscarriage of justice, cases are decided with delay, accused persons are not convicted and victims/aggrieved persons do not get justice.
- Innocent persons are arrested and remain in custody for the years
- Proper investigation can not be conducted
- Flawed challan is submitted in the Court
- Accused is treated as guilty until proven innocent
- Increases mistrust and gap between Police and citizens
- Crime being not reported and people prefer to do private justice
- Law and order situation becomes more deteriorated
- Criminal become unbridled and common citizen feels themselves unsecure

## **Conclusion**

The examination of the role of police in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan reveals existence of multiple flaws and challenges faced by the institution of Police adversely affecting the whole criminal justice system and causing failure in getting the culprit convicted through the court of law and to provide relief to the victim/complainant of crime. Often innocents are arrested and culprits are not convicted. Due to various flaws as discussed above cases are not decided timely causing miscarriage of justice and loss of the trust of citizens. As police are central to maintaining law and order, prevent and detect crime and bring the criminal in the court of law to face the consequences for the criminal acts; their effectiveness is frequently undermined by issues such as inadequate resources, lack of accountability, and limited public trust. These factors contribute to operational inefficiencies and hinder the delivery of fair and impartial justice. There is need for comprehensive reforms aimed at enhancing police professionalism, transparency, and community engagement. Strengthening mechanisms of monitoring and enhancement of capacity-building are essential to enable the police to fulfill their mandate effectively. Ultimately, a reformed and empowered police force can significantly contribute to a more just, equitable, and trustworthy criminal justice system in Pakistan.

## **Recommendations**

To address the above noted flaws and challenges following recommendations are suggested.

- There should be centralized system for registration and investigation of crime in addition to the option of online F.I.R
- There should be monitoring and coordination committee of the Prosecutors and Police officers
- Modern and scientific equipment/devices be provided to Police
- Steps should be taken to stop/reduce corruption in Police
- There should be check on Police to avoid misuse of power
- Timely and well prepared submission of challan should be ensured
- There should be independent mechanism of accountability of the Police.
- Arrested persons should be treated as innocent until proven guilty
- Pre conviction detention should be discouraged
- Police should be given behavior training, steps should be taken to restore the trust and improve citizen police relationship

## References

- Adhi, M. Z., Ibrahim, M., Ali, R., & Saeed, N. (2025). Police Accountability and Public Safety Commissions in Developing and Developed Countries: A Comparative Study of Pakistan, India, and the United Kingdom—Lessons and Best Practices for Pakistan. *Journal of Political Stability Archive*, 3(3), 671-686
- Adil, K. (2019). The Criminal Justice System of Pakistan: A Brief Overview.
- Ahmad, I., & Bakhsh, F. (2024). Emerging Developments in DNA Technology and Their Potential Implications for the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan. *Current Trends in Law and Society*, 4(1), 90-95.
- Ahmed Saeed Minhas. (2019). Police Reforms: An Appraisal. *ISSRA Paper* , 11(1).
- Ahsan, S. A. (2019). Police Reforms: Public Perception and Introspection. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology* , 11(3), 155-162.
- Akram, A., Jaffar, A., & Ahmad, W. (2025). Justice under Pressure: Investigating Police Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan (2018–2025). *Journal of Social Horizons*, 2(3), 141-57.
- Ali Raza Laghari., S. K. (2023). CJS: Study of the Supreme Court Judgments on Criminal Appeals and Constitutional Petitions reported in the SCMR 2019 to 2022. *Multicultural Education* .
- Ali, S., Rehman, T. U., Ghayoor, A., Shahzad, S. A., Zawar, A., Usmani, M. A., & Bukhari, S. A. A. (2024). Role of Islam in reducing recidivism and criminality in Pakistan. *Al-Mahdi Research Journal (MRJ)*, 5(4), 866-887.
- Arshad, S. J. (2017). Criminal Justice System in Pakistan: A Critical Analysis. *Courting the Law* .
- Asghar, U., Bhatti, S, H., & Andan, S. M. (2022). The Criminal Justice System in Pakistan: A Critical Study. *Global Legal Studies Review*, VII(I), 1-9.
- Asif Ali Zardari vs the State (MLD 2000) Page 921
- Baer, M. H. (2021). Corporate Criminal Law Unbounded. *Oxford Handbook of Prosecutors and Prosecutions* .
- Baig, D. B. (2025). *Balancing Justice And Rights: Modern Challenges In Criminal Law*. AL-AASAR .
- Baig, K., Laghari, A. R., Akhtar, R., & Abbas, A. (2024). Comparative study of the Criminal Justice System in Pakistan and the UK. *Pakistan JL Analysis & Wisdom*, 3, 105.
- Bilal, J., Riaz, Z., & Sharif, M. (2025). Preservation of crime scene: an analysis of guidelines, legal framework and judicial interpretation. *The Critical Review of Social Sciences Studies*, 3(1), 1767-1777.
- Bolger, M. A., Lytle, D. J., & Bolger, P. C. (2021). What matters in citizen satisfaction with police: A meta-analysis. *Journal of criminal justice*, 72, 101760.

- Chhatari, J. A., & Jumani, A. (2024). Significant challenges in the Criminal Procedure of Pakistani Courts: A Qualitative Analysis. *Journal Of Law, Social And Management Sciences*, 3(2), 85-90.
- Gondal, A. Q., Ahmad, M., & Hatta, Z. (2025). Revolutionizing Criminal Justice: The Role of Digitalization and AI in Pakistan's Legal System. *Al Khadim Research Journal of Islamic Culture and Civilization*, 6(1), 25-35.
- Grare, F. (2010). Political dimensions of police reform in Pakistan. *Policy Outlook*.
- Gul, P., & Ali, B. (2018). Factors affecting conviction rate: A case study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *JL & Soc'y*, 49, 73.
- Hameed, H., & Jamshed, M. K. (2013). A study of the Criminal law and prosecution system in Pakistan. *Manzil Pakistan*, 1-32.
- Hassan, B. (2025). Procedural and functional sources of trust in police in Pakistan. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 40(1), 239-250.
- Hassan, T. A., & Bhatti, S. H. (2024). High Rate of Acquittal in Pakistan: A Critical Review. *Pakistan JL Analysis & Wisdom*, 3, 203.
- Hollins, Robert Norvell III, (2002) "Discrimination and Nepotism With in Police Specialty Units" *DissertationsandTheses.Paper3094*
- Iffi, I. A. K., Ansari, A. A., Maqsood, S., & Kasuri, M. R. (2024). The Role of Police in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan a Historical Perspective and Contemporary Analysis. *Pakistan Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(4).
- Imran, M., Idrees, R. Q., & Saeed, M. A. (2024). Pendency of cases in Pakistan: Causes and consequences. *Current Trends in Law and Society*, 4(1), 52-61.
- Jamil, M., Jehanzeb, R., & Alam, K. (2025). The Decline of Pakistan's Criminal Justice System: State Responsibility or Institutional Failure?. *Social Science Review Archives*, 3(4), 1802-1813.
- Jamshed, J. (2018). Criminal Justice System of Pakistan: An Overview. *SSRN 3152735* .
- Jamshed, J., Javed, M. W., Bukhari, S. W. R., & Safdar, A. (2020). Role of Police Investigation in the criminal justice system of Pakistan. *International Journal of Management Research and Emerging Science*, 10(2)
- Jatoi, S. K., Leghari, A. R., & Tahir, M. (2023). Analysis of defected investigation and its effect on trial in Pakistan: Causes and solutions. *Human Nature Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(1), 401-413.
- Kalanuri, B. M. (n.d.). *The Criminal Justice System in Pakistan: Structure, Challenges and Reform Dynamics* .
- Kausar, S., & Leghari, A. R. (2022). Analysis of Medico Legal aspects of Forensic Autopsy: Scenario and Challenges in Sindh, Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 14(4). P, 89-104

- Kausar, S., Leghari, A. R., & Soomro, A. S. (2023). Critical analysis of the forensic protocols and ballistic experts at crime scene in Pakistan. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 7(2).
- Khan, E. K. E. (2022). Discrepancies in the Legal System of Pakistan. *Indus Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 27-36.
- Khan, M. D. (2019). The Weariness Of Judicial System In Pakistan And Its Impacts On Common Man.
- Khan, M. J., & Bilal, M. Towards an Equitable Justice System: Comprehensions into the Courts and Criminal Justice Frameworks of Pakistan and the United Kingdom. *Journal of Law & Social Studies (JLSS)*, 7(1), 43-52.
- Khan, M. P. (2020). Theoretical Framework for Reforming the Criminal Justice System in Pakistan. Available at SSRN 3152735, 1-10.
- Khan, S. M., Yaqoob, A., Khokhar, J. A., & Malik, F. (2025). An Examining the Legal Framework for Criminal Investigations in Pakistan: Gaps and Reform Needs. *The Critical Review of Social Sciences Studies*, 3(1), 1957-1969.
- Laghari, A. R., & Khan, A. (2023). CJS: Pre-Conviction Detention and Question of Double Jeopardy. A Critical Study of the Legal Status of the Death Penalty in Pakistan. *Global Legal Studies Review*, 8(1), 31-43.
- Laghari, A. R., Kausar, S., & Jatoi, M. N. (2026). Analysis of Criminal Justice System of Pakistan and Presumption of Innocence. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 10(1), 332-340.
- Major Rehan Zia versus the State, SCMR 2022 (Supreme Court Page 1115).
- Masudi, J. A., & Mustafa, N. (2023). Policing in Pakistan: a comprehensive study of law enforcement practices and challenges for reform. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 6(2).
- MLD, (2010) P. 271
- Muhammad Sarwar versus Muhammad Afzal (PLD 2013).
- National Institute of Justice. (1994). *25 years of Criminal Justice Research*, . USA: National Institute of Justice.
- NizamUddin, Shabana Bibi (2025) Reforming Pakistan's Criminal Justice System: Effective and Long-Lasting Solutions for a Reliable and Well-Organized Frame work. *Review Journal of Social Psychology and Social Works*, Volume. 3, Issue. 2, 2025
- P.Cr.L.J, page 1296 (2010).
- Rajput, M. A. (2020). Impact of Defective Investigation and Prosecution on Trial. *the journal of Social Sciences* , 9(6), 265.

- Ranjha, A. N., Gill, A. R., & Mahmood, A. (2019). Enhancing Police Response to Community: A Study of Victim Response Officers in Bahawalpur Region. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 11(3), 61-78.
- Rasool, K., Mubashir, M., & Hameed, A. (2024). In the Shadow of Justice: Custodial Torture and Human Rights Violations in Pakistan. *Pakistan JL Analysis & Wisdom*, 3, 232.
- Raza, A., & Khan, A. (2023). Mechanism of Crime reporting in Pakistan: a critical study. *Human Nature Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(2), 66-81.
- Shahzad, J. A., Ahmad, M., & Qasim, M. (2022). Effectiveness of Criminal Trial in Pakistan. *International Research Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 58-66.
- Sifarish, S., & Liaqat, M. Z. (2023). Examining the impact of criminal laws in Pakistan: A case study of crime rates and punitive measures. *Russian Law Journal*, 11(5), 899-909.
- Strasser, P. G. (2014). *The Evolving Pakistani Criminal Justice System: A Study of the Ramond Davis Matter*. USA: Tulane University Law School.
- Suddle, M. S. (2003). Reforming Pakistan Police: An Overview. *United Nations Asia and* .
- Sughra Bibi versus State, 547 of 2017 (Supreme Court Page 595 PLD 2018).
- Warraich, Ahmad N."Police Powers in Pakistan: The Need for Balance Between Operational Independence And Accountability."Human RightsBrief11,no.2(2004):45-47.