

Victims' Experiences of Wrongful Convictions in Punjab Pakistan

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Abstract

In recent years wrongful convictions have received a considerable amount of research attention. This flourishing interest has resulted in a growing body of literature that aims to investigate the criminal justice phenomena. System is not speedy and fast in disposal of cases then automatically innocent suffers. The present study explores the contributing factors, experiences of wrongful convicted victims and their family members also assess the level of reintegration of victims after exoneration in society. This study utilized qualitative approach for the in-depth understanding of challenges faced by wrongful convicted victims and their family members at different stages of criminal justice system (police, prosecution, judiciary and prisons). The data was collected through purposive sampling techniques from 20 victims of wrongful convictions from four regions of Punjab prisons and 10 well experienced Lawyers were interviewed for legal opinions. Thematic and content analysis were made for drawing results.

Keywords: Wrongful, Conviction, Crime, Victims, Exoneration

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1. Introduction

This study explores the factors, effects, and social adjustment of wrongfully convicted victims in the society after being cleared from Pakistan's criminal justice system, drawing on detailed conversations with victims who suffered wrongful conviction (WC) in Punjab. By integrating Herbert Packer's Due Process Model of crime with Michael Foucault's Power Perspective, this study will investigate the experiences of inmates who were unfairly convicted. Inappropriate convictions in the Pakistani criminal justice system are examined in this study in relation to botched police investigation, improper prosecution, bogus confessions, eye witness misunderstanding, legal errors, forensic misunderstandings, and inadequate defense counsel. The definition of wrongful conviction utilized in this investigation is that stated by Jasiski and Kremens (2023) and Black's Law Dictionary.

2. WC and criminal justice system

A person may experience WC as the greatest injustice and unanticipated calamity of their life. (Huf et al., 1986; Shaw & Woodworth, 2013). Across the world, the echoes of WC vary in size and intensity (Leo, 2017), and this applies to all countries, including Pakistan (Akram & Yasmin,

2023). Wrongfully accusing people who are innocent is among the most heinous types of injustice (Le, Hoang, Bui, et al., 2023). As a result of these injustices, the criminal justice system's credibility is compromised, and those who are unfairly convicted suffer grave and long-term repercussions (Dioso, Nash, & Keeffe, 2023). Wrongful convictions have increased significantly over the past 30 years, going from an average of 24 per year from 1989 to 1999 to an average of 52 per year from 2000 to 2010 (Gross & Shaffer, 2012). Each of the five continents has seen a growth in the prison population during the previous 15 years. While the world's population has grown by about 20%, there are now an estimated 25% to 30% more people behind bars (Roach, 2023). Over the course of 15 years, The Innocence Project has worked on many cases of people who were unfairly convicted, and in the majority of those cases, DNA acquitting evidence was used. The Project discovered that wrongful convictions were caused by systemic flaws that could be precisely recognized and fixed, rather than isolated or infrequent occurrences (Grunewald, 2023). According to The Innocent Project, the following are the main reasons:

Inaccurate identification of an eyewitness statement, which was found to be the primary cause of improperly convicted cases in 75% of the cases reviewed; 50% of instances include invalid or poor scientific technology; In 28% of cases, fabricated confessions and misleading declarations were a contributing cause; 19% of instances include witnesses; It's possible that statements from witnesses are not always reliable. It cannot be disputed that a witness of the defense who identified the accused as the offender had a strong persuasive impact on the jury. Every single democratic citizen has a right to freedom (Cory, 2005). This fundamental right is violated when someone is wrongfully convicted of a crime they did not commit. Worries about the legitimacy of the existing justice system, the shortcomings of the adversarial method, the fallibility of due process, and the previously mentioned breach of fundamental rights are only a few of the issues raised by the prevalence of false convictions (Denov & Campbell, 2005). Additionally, one of the strongest justifications against the death penalty is that it was carried out in error (Roberts, 2003).

3. Wrongful convictions in Pakistan

Pakistan's criminal justice system incorporates Sharia rules while adhering to common law principles (Bhatti & Rizwan, 2023). Due to the judiciary's training in common law, this hybrid legal system may produce a higher volume of WC because it lacks knowledge in the meaning of Islamic regulations (Khan, Ahmed, & Saboor, 2023). According to reports, the number of people on execution row in Pakistan is the highest worldwide. From 2010 to 2018, 39% of capital trials resulted in exonerations, according to Supreme Court decisions on death penalty appeals (FFR & Reprieve, 2019). Prior to their acquittals, innocent death row convicts averaged 10 years in jail (Bibi, Khan, Chang, et al., 2019). Many Pakistanis are disadvantaged in the justice system for crime because they cannot afford competent legal representation (AFP, 2018). When evidence is falsified or manipulated, it can result in false convictions in Pakistan's criminal court system, which is permeated with corruption (Kakar, 2023). According to Bibi et al. (2022) the criminal justice system in Pakistan might be prejudiced towards particular categories, like minorities or marginalized populations, which can result in erroneous convictions based more on bias than on actual evidence. Wrongfully convicted individuals and their families may suffer excruciating repercussions. They may experience physical and mental trauma as a result of being imprisoned for a long period of time for acts they did not commit. The public's confidence in the criminal court system is further damaged by wrongful convictions, which can result in more injustices (Kakar, 2023).

The victim is imprisoned for years before being finally freed by Pakistan's High Court and Supreme Court as a result of all these circumstances (Yasmin et al., 2023). It is important to note that in

every situation where the defendant is ultimately found not guilty, the victim is never given any compensation (Bibi et al., 2022). The Pakistani criminal justice system as it stands today does not provide an appropriate reaction from the state to those who have been the victims of false accusations. Due to the lack of a statutory or legal framework outlining the state's response to the problem, this exploratory, theoretical and analytical research was conducted (Foundation for Fundamental Rights, 2019).

4. Review of the Literature

A detailed literature review on the subject of wrongful convictions was conducted in this research study by providing a historical background on the occurrence of wrongful convictions. It then proceeds to define and explain the various aspects and components associated with wrongful convictions. Additionally the experiences of individuals who have been wrongfully convicted, explores the connection between wrongful convictions and the role of the police in filing First Information Reports (FIRs). It pays particular attention to the underlying reasons, legal processes, victim experiences, interventions, and existing laws and policies at both the international and national levels that aim to comprehend the issues surrounding wrongful convictions. Moreover, discusses the association between an individual's family economic situation, education, social status, and the influence of social and political forces.

The assertion of innocence by a condemned person is insufficient evidence that their conviction was incorrect. "An individual who has been found guilty of a crime and subsequently absolved of all legal ramifications associated with the conviction due to the unveiling of new evidence proving their innocence, as determined by a prosecutor, governor, or court" (Gross & Shaffer, 2012, p. 15) is referred to as having been exonerated based on factual innocence. But in legal terms, a wrongful conviction can also emerge from appeal court reversals based on legal errors that disprove the constitutional need for a fair trial (Zalman, Smith, & Kiger, 2008). This type of acquittal is referred to as being legal innocence. The concept of contributing components was initially discussed by a researcher in 1932 by the name of Borchard. In addition to the things already mentioned, he added "faulty circumstantial evidence" and "prosecutorial excesses." Confessions made by those who were "feeble minded" or otherwise "mentally inadequate" were included by Brandon and Davies (1973), as well as the group of criminals who served as witnesses. According to Rattner's observation in 1988, certain researchers in previous studies had employed the terms "police and prosecutorial overzealousness" and "police and prosecutorial bad faith" instead of the broader term "official misconduct." According to Huff, Rattner, and Sagarin (1986), a failure in the system on more than one level increases the likelihood of false convictions. Many exonerees encounter significant challenges after their release when it comes to reintegrating into society (Campbell & Denov, 2004; Westervelt & Cook, 2008). According to Westervelt and Cook (2010), those who were wrongfully convicted are frequently victimized again after being exonerated since the government doesn't offer them any real support. Poor health, a lack of employable skills, uncertain work, sentiments of resentment and fury, dread of being victimized again, constricted families, financial dependence, and stigmatizing labels can all result from an exoneree's erroneous conviction (Westervelt & Cook, 2008). Once wrongfully convicted individuals are released, these factors can lead to adverse outcomes such as homelessness, poverty, reliance on drugs and alcohol for self-medication, and a sense of social isolation. Westervelt and Cook (2008) propose that reintegration programmes and services are required and should work in collaboration with innocent projects. Corruption stands as a prominent factor contributing to wrongful convictions in Pakistan; however, the country's system of criminal justice and inquiry faces various other challenges (Bibi et al., 2019). The general public in Pakistan holds the belief that government

officials are extensively engaged in corrupt practices. Particularly, the police force is viewed as the institution most entangled in corruption. A startling 73% of people think that all police officers are involved, while 27% think that some police officers are being involved. Moreover, there exists a negative perception regarding local and national government officials as well as legislators. Interestingly, judges are perceived to be the least involved in corrupt activities (The Dawn, 2018). According to the 2017 report by the World Justice Project (WJP) Pakistan and other sources such as The Dawn news and British Broadcasting Channel (BBC), as well as Abdul Razzaq Yaqoob (ARY), it has been highlighted that rampant corruption within the police department in Pakistan plays a significant role in the occurrence of wrongful convictions in the country. The case of Aftab Bahadur serves as a glaring example of police involvement in acts of human torture and coercing false confessions (The Guardian, 2015). According to The Guardian newspaper, upon the arrest of Aftab Bahadur, the police demanded a bribe of 50,000 rupees with the promise of releasing the person. Unfortunately, Aftab, being a poor plumber's apprentice, could not afford to meet their demands. In April 1993, according to the Speedy Trials Act, Aftab was unfairly convicted which was originally designed for handling terrorist cases. Shockingly, he remained imprisoned for a crime that was not even committed, as the act was executed in 2015 (Express Tribune 2014). Ensuring a fair trial for every suspect is a fundamental human right recognized worldwide. This principle holds particular significance for capital defenders, as an unjust process can lead to the execution of an innocent individual. Unfortunately, trials in Pakistan often exhibit characteristics that violate Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), contributing to a grave concern. Startlingly, it is estimated that over 60% of individuals on death row in Pakistan are innocent, according to The Human Rights Committee (2016). Wrongful convictions epitomize a profound failure of justice. It is a situation where an innocent person is mistakenly convicted of a crime that is not being committed (Henry, 2018). These cases often result in years of arduous incarceration, a deeply troubling consequence. When compared to Canada's strong system of checks and balances within the criminal justice system, these incidents are especially upsetting. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the custom of an impartial quasi-judicial authority known as the Crown, and a police force dedicated to fair and impartial inquiry make up Canada's legal framework (Grey, 2017). When those working in the criminal justice system take preventative steps to avoid more wrongfully convicted people, it reinforces public trust in the fair administration of justice, thereby upholding the system's integrity. Khan (2022) did a study on wrongful conviction and miscarriage of justice. This study utilizes a qualitative method to examine examples of erroneous conviction in order to emphasize the causes and contributing factors. The data used comprises the case studies of significant cases, journal articles, books, reports of newspaper and human rights organizations. The report demonstrates how seriously flawed Pakistan's criminal justice system is. It has several peculiarities and a gap that creates a vicious cycle, but overall, CJS in Pakistan is founded on the widely accepted premise that no one is ever convicted.

5. Contributing Factors Associated with WC:

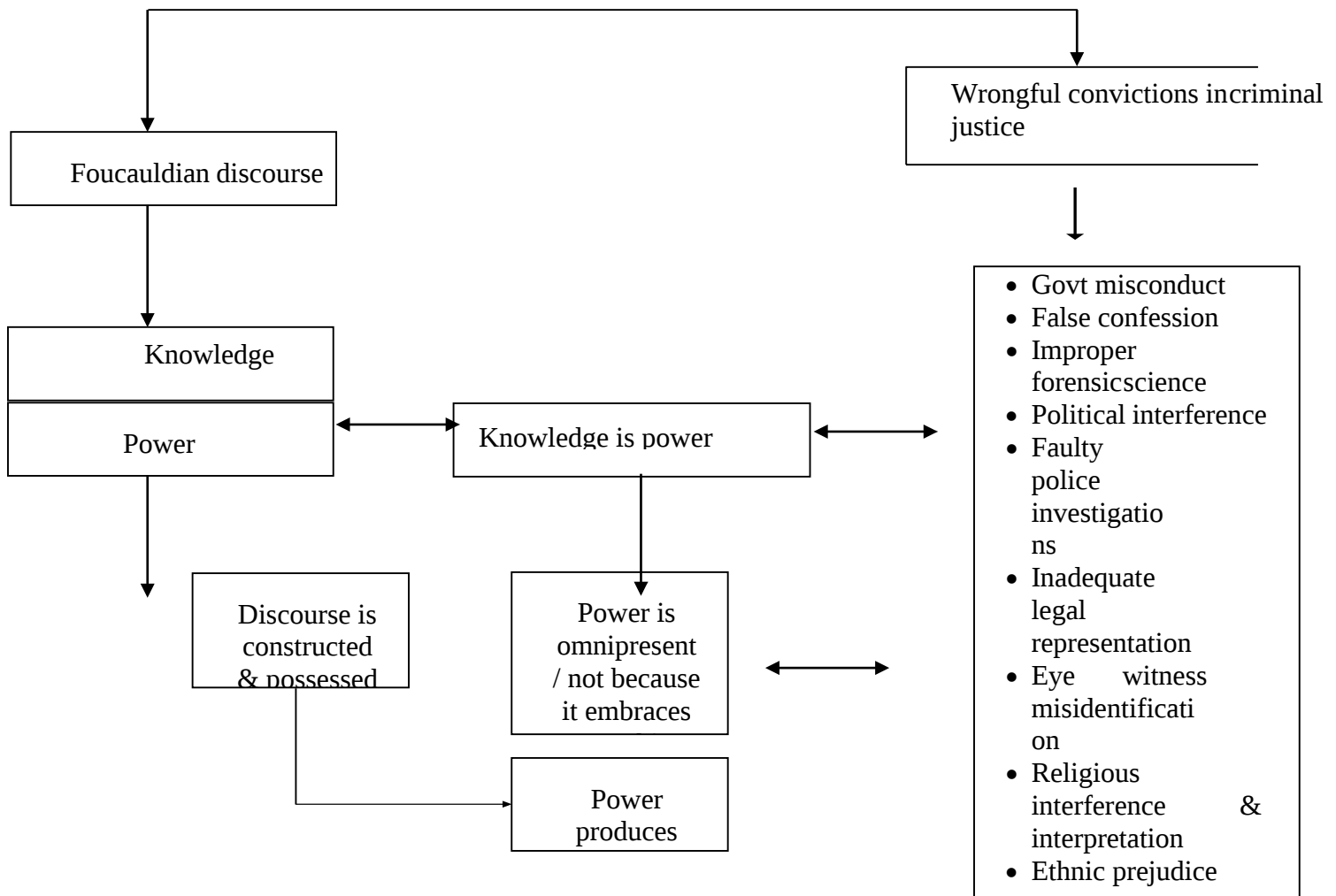
According to research (Gross et al., 2005; Innocence Project, 2010), a wrongful conviction can result from a variety of factors, including eyewitness misidentification faulty or inappropriate forensic science, false confessions, reliance on informants or snitches, government malfeasance, and incompetent legal counsel. Even though decades of study have shown that eyewitness identification is unreliable (Wells & Olson, 2003), eyewitness testimony still plays a significant role in naming, accusing, & eventually convicting criminals. As far back as 1966, the Supreme Court acknowledged the fallibility of eyewitness identification, recognizing that mistaken

identifications have been prevalent throughout the history of criminal law. Eyewitness identification accuracy has been shown to be influenced by the presence or absence of a weapon, with the presence of a weapon decreasing dependability (Stebly, 1992). Additionally, studies show that people are better at recognizing faces of people from their own race or ethnic group than those of people from people of other races or ethnic origins (Meissner & Brigham, 2001). During victim lineups, whether or not the instruction "might or might not be present" is included has an impact on the chance of misidentification since including it lowers the incidence of false identifications (Stebly, 1992).

6. Foucauldian Power Theory

Foucault, power is ever-present, not for the grounds that it embraces the whole thing equally (Foucault, 1972) but for the reason that it comes from all over the place while the miscarriage of justice is ever present in world along with Pakistan. The society is under the hegemony of political power, power elites have strong influence that leads to miscarriage of justice at gross route level.

Theoretical Model of the Study



7. Research Methodology

The research design provides the necessary information about an investigation and enables the researcher to conduct the study in a certain manner (Crotty, 1998). Data was gathered from two kinds of participants comprising wrongfully convicted victims who had spent more than 10 years in jail in Punjab, Pakistan, investigator in this study chose a research field and conducted interviews.

8. Sample Size and Sampling Technique:

The interviewees were victims of wrongful convictions and the lawyers having vast experiences of handling criminal cases for legal opinion about wrongful conviction and in-depth understanding about wrongful convictions. As recommended by (Kothari, 2008; Kothari, 2004; Liamputtong, 2006), the purposive sampling technique was employed to select individuals who fit the predetermined criteria and had access to a wealth of information. The sample size of this study included 20 victims of wrongful convictions who exonerate after spending more than 10 years in jails, and 10 Lawyers having vast experience of wrongful convictions and practice in Supreme Court of Pakistan.

8.1. Sampling Criteria: Such as cases of death sentence/life imprisonment, minimum ten year spent in the jail and assess of exoneration/wrongful convicted.

9. Data Collection Process for the Study:

The primary information sources comprise victims of wrongful convictions and Lawyers and secondary data source were the judgments, of courts. 20 victims of wrongful convictions were interviewed one-on-one basis at their place and time where they were relaxed. 10 Lawyers having 20 year of experience of handling criminal cases. Secondary sources of information were acquired through reading, examining, and recording the information found in court rulings. The research's qualitative methodologies were chosen because they give respondents a chance to express their experience in the manner they prefer (Landsheer & Boeijie, 2010).

Imprisonment and duration of more than 10 years spending in jail considered for sample. Socio-economic background of Victims: In this study socio-economic background of the participant were collected. According to Turner (2010), it is indeed considered an appropriate practice in research to have knowledge about the variables include gender, age, education, profession, income, approximate assets, living family system, victim's criminal record, and years in imprisonment.

Let's briefly discuss the relevance and significance of each of these variables: Age: is a key 20-40 years. Education: There are five educational groups i.e. Illiterate, Literate, having education till 10th class, 12th, 14th class. This variable can shed light on the participants' socio-economic status, social roles, and potential occupational influences on the research topic. Income: All the respondents belonged to average income maximum respondents belonged to 20-40 thousand income group after exoneration Approximate Assets: Assessing approximate assets provides further insights into participants' wealth, property ownership, and overall financial stability Living Family System: Understanding the participants' living family system, such as nuclear and extended. Victim's Criminal Record: Time Spent in Jail: respondents have spent more than 10 years in jails wrongfully.

The details given below in the table. Demographic Profile

Variable	Options	Frequency	Percent
Age Group	18-25	6	30.0
	26-30	8	40.0
	31-35	6	30.0
	Illiterate	6	30.0

Victims Education	Middle	4	20.0
	Matric	5	25.0
	Intermediate	3	15.0
	Above	2	10.0
Victims Marital Status	Married	15	75.0
	Single	5	25.0
Number of Children	0	3	15.0
	1	2	10.0
	2	3	15.0
	3	4	20.0
	4	5	25.0
	5	3	15.0
Profession	Agriculture	11	55.0
	Job	2	10.0
	Own Business	7	35.0
Income level before wrongful convictions	20-30 Thousand	2	10.0
	31-40 Thousand	3	15.0
	41-50 Thousand	2	10.0
	51-60 Thousand	1	5.0
	Above 60 Thousands	12	60.0
Income Level after Released from Jail.	0	4	20.0
	20-30 Thousand	6	30.0
	31-40 Thousand	5	25.0
	41-50 Thousand	2	10.0
	51-60 Thousand	3	15.0
Residence	Rural	12	60.0
	Urban	8	40.0
Criminal Record	Yes	3	15.0
	No	17	85.0
Nature of Offense	Control of narcotic Evidence	1	5.0
	Kidnapping	3	15.0
	Murder	12	60.0
	Rape 365	4	20.0
Media Attention	Yes	9	45
	No	11	55
Time spent in Jail	10 Years	12	60
	12 Years	4	20
	15 Years	2	10
	18 Years	1	5
	25 Years	1	5

Above table showed the responses of wrongful convicted victims age's, (40%) of wrongful convicted victims were belongs 26-30 years of age. The majority 30% of wrongful convicted victims were illiterate. 75% victims were married and 25 % having four children. Above profession of wrongful convicted victims, 55% were doing agriculture work for their income and 60% of wrongful conviction victims having above 60,000Rs of income. Above table showed the

response regarding income level after wrongful convicted victims, twenty percent (20%) of wrongful convicted victims having no income, thirty percent (30%) of wrongful conviction victims having 20-30 thousand, twenty five percent (25%) of wrongful conviction victims having 31.40 thousand while ten percent (10%) of wrongful conviction victims having 41-50 thousands income and fifteen percent (15%) of wrongful conviction victims having 51-60 thousands of income, 60% of wrongful convicted victims were lived in rural areas. Majority 85 % of wrongful convicted victims have no previous criminal record. The nature of offense of wrongful convicted victims, 60 % of wrongful convicted victims nature of offense were murder. Case get media attention, 55% of wrongful convicted victim's response their case did not get any media attention. 60% of victims were spend ten years (10 years) Jail. Wrongful convictions are a grave miscarriage of justice that occur when an innocent person is found guilty and convicted of a crime he did not commit. These cases highlight significant flaws and shortcomings within the criminal justice system and have profound implications for the individuals affected and society as a whole. In the present study researcher discuss the factor that is becoming the cause of wrongful convictions.

10. Discussion, Conclusions and Recommendations

10.1 Contributing factors in Wrongful Convictions

Eyewitness misidentification is identified as a leading cause of wrongful convictions, accounting for a significant percentage of the cases studied (Grunewald, 2023). In the cases of Yasir Bajwa and Ghulam Gillani caused lack of eyewitness or misidentification leads them imprisonment of almost 12 years. Statistics showed that the leading cause of approximately 70% of the acquitted death penalty cases by the Pakistan Supreme Court was unreliable eyewitness testimonies provided at the lower courts. Forced confessions, psychological pressure and misunderstanding can lead innocent individuals to admit guilt falsely. The second contributor to WC is police errors and misconduct. Similarly, Aftab Bahadur tortured by the police and confessed to a murder at the age of 15 and spent 22 years behind the Bar. (JPP & Reprieve, 2014). As one of the most widely feared, complained against, and least trusted government institutions in Pakistan, the police are reportedly responsible for numerous cases of extrajudicial killings of criminal suspects, torture of detainees to obtain confessions, and harassment, extortion of individuals who seek to flee criminal complaints against police officers (Human Right Watch, 2016). The cases of Shafqat Hussain and Aftab Bahadur are good examples of police-biased investigation, torture, and false confession (Bibi et al., 2019). Shafqat Hussain was merely 14 years old when he was sentenced to death by an anti-terrorism court for the alleged charges of murdering and kidnapping. Shafqat was convicted on a forced confession obtained by police in 9 days through violent torture. Before the court, no other evidence associated Shafqat with the accused crime (JPP & Reprieve, 2014). Even the victim's father did not recognize Shafqat's voice as the one he had heard during multiple calls demanding a ransom (JPP & Reprieve, 2014). The use of informant's plays a role in some wrongful convictions, accounting for a percentage of the cases studied (Grunewald, 2023). The reliability and credibility of informants can be questionable, leading to the wrongful conviction of innocent individuals. Due to slow and outdated judicial proceedings and an incompetent judiciary, wrongfully convicted sentences are often completed, especially in death penalty cases, before the acquittal decision arrives (Bibi et al., 2019).

The research highlights various factors such as faulty police investigations, prosecutorial misconduct, false confessions, eyewitness misidentification, judicial errors, forensic misinterpretation, and weak defense lawyering.

10.2. Impacts on Families

According to Bibi et al. (2022), the families of wrongfully convicted individuals experience significant emotional distress as they witness their loved ones being punished for crimes they did not commit. They endure the pain of seeing their family member unjustly imprisoned and may suffer; feelings of helplessness, frustration, and anger. It is evident that the consequences. Sufferings of wrongful conviction do not end when the innocents are released from prison; the consequences for the innocent are life-lasting (Clow et al., 2011). Apart from these emotional sufferings, they suffer economically as they lose their job, employment, business, opportunities, and the age of getting any reasonable source of income. In the present study almost all the respondents face socio-economic, socio-cultural, socio-psychological losses. They have wasted their golden time of age, properties their employment, and above all their families suffered a lot during this course.

Readjustment of victims into society need for comprehensive support systems, including counseling, vocational training, and community reintegration programs, to aid the transition of exonerates back into society. It also emphasizes the role of society in facilitating the reintegration process and combating social exclusion and discrimination. Exonerates also suffer from devastating financial consequences. They have great difficulty finding employment due to a combination of these stigmatizing effects of their criminal records, many of which are not expunged despite their exoneration; their lack of meaningful job training while incarcerated; and the aforementioned psychological consequences, which may make them less than ideal employees.

No	Themes	Findings of the study
1	Police and Wrongful conviction. a) Delaying tactics in FIR registration. b) Involve multiple accused in a single occurrence. c) Faulty Investigation. d) Malafied intention. e) Coerced confession.	Findings of the study explores that in majority of the cases policewas responsible behind wrongful convictions, police used delaying tactics, involved multiple accused in a single occurrence and used torture in investigating crime. In most of thecase police received / demanded a huge amount of bribe money. In many cases police used Torture for confession of crime. So, these studies indicate that faulty police investigation is major cause of W.C in Criminal justice system of Pakistan. In this study the cases of exonerees, Yasir Bajwa, MuhammadAmeen, Muhammad Ayaz , Muhammad Ramzan, ZulqarnainHaider shah, Muhammad Amir , Naveed and Muhammad AfzalBodla , shows police misconduct that become cause of W.C. This study found that the blackmailing of the investigation teamor investigation process was the cause of their wrongful conviction.
2	Eye Witness Misidentifications.	Research data shows that eye witness misidentifications is also abig cause of W.C. In Many cases, wrong eyewitnesses' testimonybecome cause of W.C. Eye witness are produced by the complainant and couched by the police for fabrications of self-

		made evidence. The cases of Muhammad Ameen, Yasir Bajwa, Muhammad Ramzan. Layaqat Ali , Zafar Iqbal and Ghulam Gillani represent misidentification of eye witnesses that further become cause of W.C. Exoneree Zafar almost spend almost 15 years in imprisonment due to eye witness misidentification, the eye witness identified him in darkness.
3	Prosecution / Defense Lawyering Errors and W.C.	According to content analysis data of all the cases shows that prosecution has failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubts and benefit of doubts always goes to accused but according to legal opinions of lawyers and experiences of exonerees shows that in majority of the cases police misconduct and other factors becoming cause of W.C. The actual task of prosecution and defense lawyers is like a bridge between police and Judiciary. In Pakistani Courts there is a paper justice and courts believe on evidence produced by police. Courts don't apply legal mind in decision and at the end blame on prosecution that, prosecution has failed to prove the case. The Judgments of all the cases shows prosecution errors behind W.C. This study found that economic status and social relationships of individual were have the strongly influence on prosecution in our justice system. If an individual belongs to higher income level had the strongly influence on the investigation team have chance to easily move out from any troubles.
4	Forensic errors and W.C.	Data shows that Forensic errors in evidence is also becoming cause of W.C. The defense council did not know the forensic
		medical evidence, a medical jurisprudence so that W.C occurs. The data also shows that the political pressure and use of bribe also influence the forensic medical evidence and during sample collections. The data also shows that delaying medical reports leads towards lengthy trials that become suffrage of an innocent person for longtime, the case of Muhammd Ameen , Muhammad Amir, Muhammad Ramzan, Naveed , and Muhammad Rafiq also represented the forensic errors.

5	Judicial Errors and W.C.	The research data shows that our judicial system is also becoming cause of W.C. The judicial system is under the influence of political system. Unfair means is most commonly talked about the subordinate judiciary. The data of research also shows that courts are relying on paper justice and not facts. The cases of Muhammad Ramzan , Layaqat Ali , Abdul Khaliq, Muhammad Nawaz , Muhammad Bilal , Muhammad Amir , SyedZulqarnain Ali Shah depicts the pits and falls in the judicial system. The data shows that lower courts are blind in providing the justice they sentence to death in almost 90% cases and later on Higher courts converted into life imprisonment or in complete acquittal. The judicial system is totally depending on investigation report which was presented by the investigation team, there is no other source which was used to verify the reports.
6	Political Pressure / Feudalism and W.C.	The data of research shows that Political pressure/ feudalism is the second most cause of W.C. In Pakistani society political pressure influence the all-stake holders of criminal justice system like police, prosecution, judiciary. The cases of exonerees Shabir Asif, Muhammad Ramzan Zafar Iqbal Muhammad Ameen, Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Nawaz were intervene by the local political leaders. Our police culture is mostly influenced by the political system that become the directly or indirectly cause of W.C. The study found that the majority of the exonerees were the victims of political pressure and feudalism. The politicians and feudalists have strong impact on the investigation process and team. These two factors have deep rooted influence on the criminal justice system.
7	Ego and Biasness	The research data shows that ego and personal biasness is also a cause of W.C in criminal justice of Pakistan. The cases of Abdul Khaliq , Muhammad Bilal , Muhammad Ameen and Shabir asif exonerees shows that the personal biasness of relatives and local politically influenced persons involved for W.C. Exoneree Abdul Khaliq spend 15 years in imprisonment due to ego of close relative. They themselves deliberately hide the child and later blamed and alleged kidnapping for ransom of thirty lakh rupees. The police conducted a poor investigation and deliberately framed Abdul Khaliq in this case by accepting bribes.

8	Socio-economic impacts. a) Loss of property. b) Loss of jobs/employment.	Data shows that exonerates lost their whole properties, business during wrongful imprisonments for a long period of time they sell their properties in pursuing the cases. Research data shows that they lost their whole savings and resources during this lengthy process. Their families sold their land, gold, vehicles and other assets to fight for justice but did not succeed against the bad investigation system, depending justice system and higher level of involvement of bribes and political authorities.
9	Socio-Cultural Impacts. a) Stigmatization b) Reputation Deficit. c) Familial suffrage.	The study findings shows that when an innocent person is involved in a W.C then his identity in society spoiled and label of criminality is attached to his identity. The whole prestige and reputation destroyed due to this stigma. Exonerees not only facing this stigma but their whole family suffered due to this curse. The reputation of whole family destroyed. The family of exonerees suffered a lot during this course through educational careers of children's, employability, social acceptance due to stigma of crime. No one is willing to give the employment and no one is willing to help them financially. Exoneree Yasir Bajwa Family also face the harassment from police and jail staff. This study found that exoneree's reputation, children education, Unable to fulfill left behind family members daily basic needs.
10	Socio-Psychological Impacts. a) Feeling of frustrations and anger.	Research data shows that psychological impacts faced by victims and his immediate family members are long lasting. When a person spends long time in jail, he loses trust on judicial system

	b) Wastage of time. c) Deprivation due to loss of beloved ones. d) Feelings of distrust on state institutions.	and feel loneliness and feeling of revenge produced permanently in his personality and he became isolated in society, his thought become change and he do not belief on system because he had suffered a lot due to this system, during jail no one supported him from the community side, law makers and overall system during his hard days so it is very difficult to reintegrate in society. Most of the exonerees stated that they had frustrations and anger on this system because this system has lost their golden period of time behind the bar and during this period of time, they had lost their beloved ones and even they could not see their last faces during this wrongful imprisonment. The data shows that when a person is imprisoned for life then even life partners /wife's of exonerees left them and break the relationship. This study found that this wrongful conviction has the social and psychological impact on the victims and victim's families, the victims have anger and feeling of frustration due to wastage of their golden time in imprisonment, lack of proper care of their children and family, they reported their children education, health, and growing also effected. This study also found that the victims have the feeling of distrust on the police and justice system.
11	Non-Acceptance of society. a) Lack of support from family, friends and relatives.	The research findings shows that victims of wrongful convictions face different challenges during reintegration in society after spending a decade of time behind the bar. The challenges include lack of support from family, friends and relatives due to stigma of criminality, even their children's social life become
	b) Strained family and social relations ships due to stigma attached.	challenging in society no one is ready to give him employment and not ready to trust him. All his family members leave him isolated to survive in society. Government do not support him for financially and not provide him any services for their reintegration in society. Most of the exonerees spend remaining life without personal home. This study found that the exoneree's reported that the most of their relatives and family friends left them after their wrongful conviction and they tried to avoid to meet their family members. All the time they feel stress due to their family life's which are in threat due to his conviction and stigma attached or associated with them due to him.

12	Financial Hardships. a) Problems of employment and lack of resources.	The finding of research data shows that the victims of wrongful convictions face financial hardships during reintegration in society during this course they had lost all their properties and resources. After spending a lot of time in jails they are unable to work due to poor health conditions and there is no any mechanism to support the financially from government side. The data shows that the victims of W.C faced difficulties in seeking employment due to stigma of criminality attached with them. Exonerees were faced the economic hardship they lose their business, employment and cultivated land during this period. After released from jail they have no resource left and face financial hardship
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11. Suggestions and Recommendations

To address these systemic issues and reduce the occurrence of wrongful convictions, the passage suggests various recommendations. These include promoting transparency and accountability within law enforcement agencies, implementing reforms to prevent police misconduct and errors, improving training for police officer, enhancing the use of forensic science, establishing conviction integrity units, updating the criminal procedure code, and ensuring competent defense representation. By addressing these recommendations and implementing necessary reforms, Pakistan can work towards creating a fairer and more reliable criminal justice system.

When a person spends long time in jail, he loses trust on judicial system and feel loneliness and feeling of revenge produced permanently in his personality and he became isolated from society. His thought become change and he do not belief on system because he had suffered a lot due to this system. Because no one support him from community side, law makers and overall system during his hard days, so it is very difficult to reintegrate in society. Community should agitate when a person is falsely convicted. In this society power elites enjoy the law in his own way. In our society majority support, the cruel, powerful, political and economically high class instead of true person/ innocent person. Society should condemn the guilty persons and morally encourage the innocent persons so that their belief on justice system may restored. When a person is stigmatized then he became permanent member of crime world and there are very rare chances of his reintegration in society. Implementing these recommendations can help reduce the occurrence of wrongful convictions, ensure the fair administration of justice, and restore public trust in the criminal justice system.

12. Conclusions

Wrongful convictions are a serious and deeply troubling issue within the criminal justice system. They occur when innocent individuals are wrongly found guilty of crimes they did not commit, leading to devastating consequences for the wrongfully convicted individuals and their families. Wrongful convictions not only result in a miscarriage of justice but also undermine public trust in the legal system and the belief in its ability to deliver fair outcomes.

In Pakistan, the problem of wrongful convictions is a pressing concern that requires attention and comprehensive reforms. Factors such as police misconduct, flawed investigations, inadequate legal representation, and flawed forensic evidence contribute to the occurrence of wrongful

convictions. According to (AFP, 2018) many individuals in Pakistan cannot afford quality legal representation, which puts them at a disadvantage in the criminal justice system. This lack of access to competent lawyers can lead to ineffective defense and increase the risk of wrongful convictions. This study also found the influence of political pressure and the misuse of the criminal justice system these factors, raising questions about the impartiality and fairness of the system. Because, it highlights the weaknesses in the police service, lack of independence in the judiciary, corruption, coercion, and intimidation of witnesses. This study explored also emphasizes the role of different stakeholders, such as police officers, prosecutors, eyewitnesses, defense attorneys, and forensic experts, in the occurrence of wrongful convictions. According to Bibi et al. (2019) Pakistan's judicial system is often characterized by delays in the resolution of cases. Lengthy trials and the slow pace of the courts contribute to wrongful convictions, as innocent spend years or even decades in prison before being exonerated.

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