

High Rate of Acquittal in Pakistan: A Critical Review

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Abstract

This article comprehensively assesses Pakistan's high acquittal rates in the judicial mechanism by adopting a comparative lens. Emphasizing jurisdictions with similar legal outlines and cultural dimensions, the report sheds light on the usual complexities of common issues and successful variations that impact flexible recommendations for Pakistan. The article further delves into the intricacies of the jurisdiction's legal mechanisms, focusing on the measures that enhance the gathering of facts, protect witnesses, speed up legal proceedings, and fight corruption in court. The use of qualitative methods allows us to identify such patterns in judicial decision-making, and evidentiary challenges and to make a more nuanced contribution to the socio-legal factors explaining acquittal rates. Evaluating such similar themes and best practices between jurisdictions, the report concludes that tailored interferences, institutional development of capacity, and stakeholder engagement are necessary factors when resolving increase in acquittal rates. Enhancing law enforcement skills, safeguarding witnesses, speeding up court proceedings, and eradicating judicial corruption are among the necessary solutions that assist in restoring the trust of people and ensuring fairness in Pakistan's legal mechanism. To summarise, the comparative research offers detailed information on the complexities and possible responses to Pakistan's high acquittal rates that focus on the significance of accumulated exertions being done and structural enhancements being made.

Keywords: Acquittal, Crime Rate, Police, Evidence, Criminal Justice System, Courts

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1. Introduction

The article seeks to investigate and evaluate the cause of Pakistan's high acquittal rate in criminal cases. Specifically, the study looks at the ineffective law enforcement, judicial procedure, and socio-political elements contributing to this phenomenon. The efficacy and integrity of Pakistan's criminal justice system are called into doubt due to the country's very high proportion of acquittals in criminal trials (Abdul Qayyum Gondal, 2023). Pakistan's crime rate in 2021 was 3.98 per 100 inhabitants, up 6.48% from 3.74 in 2020 which was up 2% from the year before illustrating the difficulties the legal and law enforcement agencies have in dealing with significant problems (Macro trends, 2023). In situations involving violent crimes like murder and rap when the acquittal percentage sometimes surpasses 50% this tendency is mainly noticeable (Muhammad Hamza Tanvir and Muhammad Hamza Tanvir, 2021). This problem is caused by several factors such as a lack of evidence of procedural mistakes and the impact of political and socioeconomic ties on the court decision. The judicial system is also severely impacted by intimidation and corruption since studies suggest that victims and witnesses are often pressured or bought off to change their testimonies (Ali, 2018). The gathering and preservation of evidence is seriously hampered by the

absence of contemporary forensic infrastructure and appropriately educated professionals, which result in feeble prosecution and ensuring acquittals.

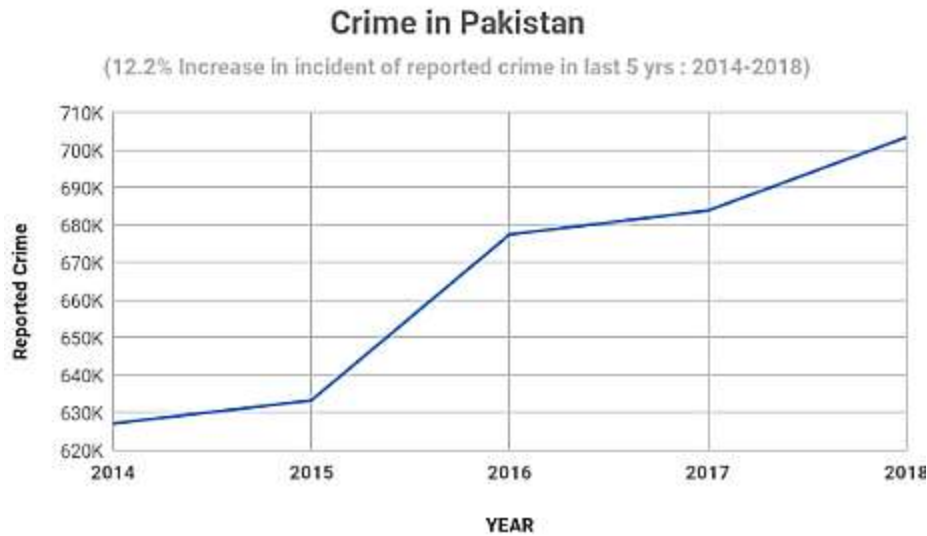


Figure 1: Poverty and crime in Pakistan (Tasdeeq, 2018)

2. Historical and Legal Framework

The country has long struggled with the high percentage of acquittal in criminal trials due to in large part historical and legislative foundation that influences Pakistan's judicial system. Pakistan's legal system which was first acquired from British colonial controls, combines Islamic jurisprudence with the British colonial law (Sufi Imdad et al., 2023). Despite being thorough, this integration comes with special difficulties because of the interplay between antiquated colonial laws and regional cultural customs (Hunter, 2023). The legal system has historically developed gradually since Pakistan gained its independence in 1947 (Niaz, 2020). Many pre-independence laws such as the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC) of 1898 and the Police Act of 1861, which were initially intended to govern rather than to serve the individual were still in effect throughout the nation (Pja.gov, 2017). These results have not undergone any major changes to address the demands of a complex society throughout the year instead they may merely be updated to a certain extent. The Qanun-e-Shahadat Order of 1984, which is an Islamic version of the British Evidence Act of 1972 regulates the acceptance of evidence in Pakistan courts (Sultana, 2023). However, (Munir 2021) highlighted that it falls short in addressing modern challenges in addressing modern challenges related to digital and forensic evidence.

There is a concerning pattern of high acquittal rates in Pakistan's criminal judicial system. (Morgan 2023) research states that between 75% and 90% of criminal trials end in acquittal. Different systemic problems might be blamed for this phenomenon. The improper gathering and management of evidence is a major one among them. Eyewitness evidence is notoriously unreliable and vulnerable to manipulation or bribery, but it is often the main source of information used in police investigations (Iqbal, 2024). A lot of police agencies lack the tools and expertise required to effectively protect crime scenes and collect tangible evidence because forensic infrastructure is inadequate (Rana Muhammad Mateen and Tariq, 2019). One major factor damaging the legal system is corruption, rich or those with political ties often have an impact on criminal procedures (Afzal et al., 2023). This manipulation may take many forms such as threatening the judge and prosecutors or buying off witnesses. In addition to distorting trial results, these actions damage the public trust in the legal system.

Procedural delay is also a major problem, an enormous backlog of cases in Pakistan courts and some of them take years to resolve. This delay raises the possibility of acquittal by causing the quality of the evidence to deteriorate and witness testimony to be withdrawn over time (Imran et

al., 2024). Proposal and rare implementation of legal changes have been made with the legal goal of resolving these persistent problems. One such effort to accelerate cases of a sensitive nature was the establishment of the Anti-Terrorism Court in the 1990s (Jawad, 2022). But as Durrani (2020) showed, these courts have taken heat for being too harsh and for not following the rules of procedure. In recent years, more extensive such as revising the Police Act and the criminal procedure court to reflect modern investigation practices and international rights standards.

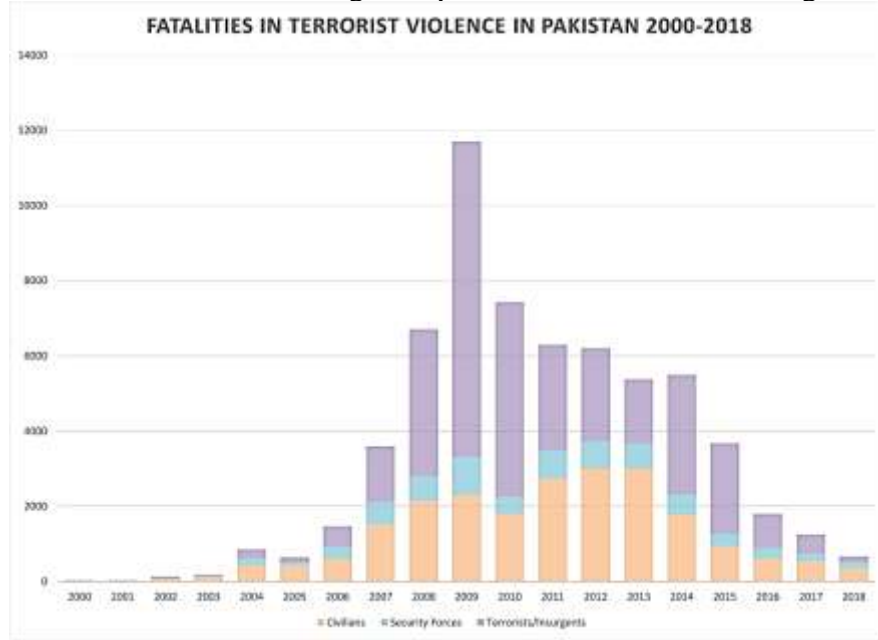


Figure 2: Fatalities rate by terrorism in Pakistan (Stedwards, 2023)

3. Analysis of Acquittal Rates in Pakistan

Many issues such as legislative gaps, loopholes, and insufficient investigative techniques contribute to the high rate of acquittal in the Pakistan judicial system (Iqbal et al., 2023). Legal circles and media publications often point to Pakistan's acquittal rate which is noticeably high in instances ranging from violent crimes to corruption as a crucial sign of a structural problem in the legal and law enforcement system of the nation (Khan et al., 2022). A survey by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) found that in the Islamabad Capital Territory, 82% of criminal prosecutions resulted in an acquittal (Shabbir, 2024). The poor investigation procedures are one of the main causes of high acquittal rates. Law enforcement organization often struggles with a lack of resources particularly forensic infrastructure which makes it difficult to gather, preserve, and analyze evidence (Tribune, 2019). The problem is made worse by the absence of professionals with the necessary training to manage complex criminal evidence as the DNA samples are sometimes improperly gathered or mistreated during detention in criminal cases particularly those involving murder and rape (Refworld, 2023).

Furthermore, there are several ways that trials may be manipulated or postponed because of Pakistan's procedural regulations. Adjournment is a typical tool used by solicitors to extend court cases which leads to protracted trials where the quality of the evidence deteriorates and the credibility of the witnesses wanes much too often (Hussain, 2022). On the other hand, witnesses often experience intimidation and compulsion which may lead to completely retreated testimony that ends in an acquittal (Lazzaretti and Frøystad, 2022). This is mostly due to the absence of the witness protection regulation or the poor application of those that do exist. The high acquittal rate may sometimes be attributed to the judicial system itself. However, (Iqbal 2022) elaborated on many antiquated provisions of the Pakistan penal code and other procedural legislation such as the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) are not well suited to the demand of contemporary justice.

Eventually, (Kakar 2022) highlighted legal uncertainties lend themselves to many interpretations that defense attorneys sometimes use to cast doubt on the guilt of the accused.

Country	Conviction rate
Pakistan	8.6%
India	37.4%
South Africa	39%
United States (Federal court)	85%
England (Crown court)	90%

Figure 3: Figure 2: Rate of acquittal per country (Latif, 2022)

Pakistan acquittal rates are a complicated picture differing greatly across states and provinces. An examination of these pattern statistically paints a complex picture in which variation in court decision is influenced by provincial legislation, socioeconomic circumstance and local legal traditions (Coccia, 2023). In Panjab, the acquittal rates in criminal trials sometimes surpass 70% that is indicative of the state judicial system and legal quirks. Sindh has a similar trends but with somewhat reduced rates around 65%. This might be attributed to the states unbiased legal system and greater level of prosecutorial efficacy in the major cities like the Karachi (Qadeer et al., 2021). On the other hand, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan exhibit erratic patterns because of the disparate application of procedural rules and the impact of indigenous legal frameworks (Jubeen et al., 2023). The variation in the implementation of important laws such as the Code of Criminal Procedure and Pakistan panel code serves as the foundation of these regional disparities. These laws are consistently drafted but there may be variation in how they are applied and interpretate which can have diverse effect (Khan and Kanwel, 2023). Inconsistence in one province legal system operating structure may result in case dismissal or acquittal in another due to procedural flows that are often disrespected.

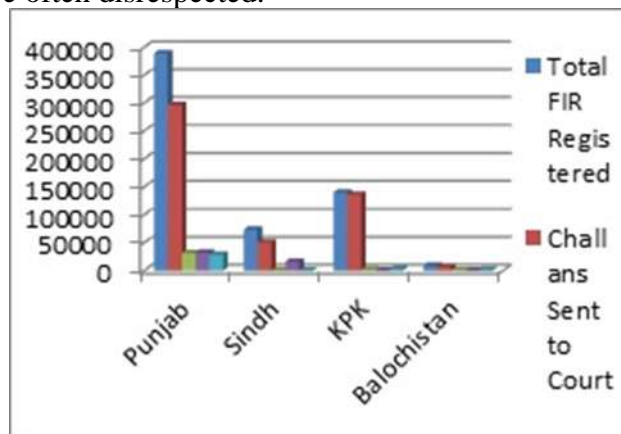


Figure 4: Figure 5: Figure 2: Crime per province in Pakistan (View, 2017)

The differences are even more noticeable when comparing these patterns with the worldwide acquittal rates. These discrepancies may be attributed in part to the stricter enforcement of procedural rulers and the existence of strong legal modifications that have periodically reoriented the legal system to better reflect the changing nature of laws and order (Bhuiyan, 2022). Comparatively, Pakistan has a greater acquittal rate due to in part to evidential flaws while the UK has an acquittal rate of around 35% reflecting a highly procedural system where standards are scrupulously upheld (Lerman et al., 2023). In the UK nations, the prosecution case is significantly strengthened by the use of forensic techniques that have been scientifically confirmed which lower the acquittal rate (Kaplan et al., 2020). On the other hand, poor prosecution and consequent acquittals in Pakistan are often the result of the use of antiquated investigation methods and the frequent lack of forensic testing (Bibi et al., 2022). The lack of expertise in contemporary

investigative procedures and the scarcity of resources in Pakistan's more rural regions make this gap in forensic science application.

Nonetheless, Pakistan's legal system which often grants judges broad discretion provides a broad interpretation of the law which may result in uneven implementation of the law throughout the nation's many jurisdictions (Minow, 2019). This fluctuation damages public trust in the legal system as well as the consistency of law enforcement. Pakistan must expedite its legal procedure and ensure that laws are implemented consistently across all the states as contrasted with nations such as Germany where legal interpretations are stickily regulated (Waqas et al., 2018). By putting these reforms into practice, the criminal justice system's overall effectiveness might be increased and its high acquittal rate could be in line with the global norms of procedural justice and behaviors. When compared to international norms Pakistan's legal system falls short significantly when it comes to court supervision and procedural conformity (Rajput and Benavides-Vanegas, 2022). It is clear that the legal system has to be reformed and that law enforcement and the court need to be given more tools so they can handle cases with the same rigors and attention that are characteristic of a more uniform judicial system across the world (Bowling and Westenra, 2020). Additionally, highlighting Pakistan's main difficulties in enforcing the law this comparison discussed legislative improvement to bring Pakistan's legal system more in line with the global standards.

4. Factors Contributing to High Acquittal Rates

There are many interconnected reasons why criminal trials in Pakistan have high acquittal rates. It is impossible to ignore court system corruption and has an indirect as well as direct impact on acquittal. While indirect influence may take the form of pressure from influential political or social figures to tip the scales in favor of the defendants, direct influence entails bribery and improper influence on the judge or other authorities. According to Sifarish and Liaqat (2023) research on policy changes and legal reform, Pakistan must implement extensive changes to the judiciary and law enforcement procedure to lower its high acquittal rates. Modernizing investigation methods fortifying the forensic system putting in place efficient witness protection plans and updating the legislative framework to plug vulnerabilities that result in technical acquittal are a few of these (Kanwel et al., 2023). The country must take decisive action to fight for the eradication of corruption from the police department and all other allied departments for making the criminal justice system accountable and transparent. Programs for judicial training that focus on the interpretation of evidence are also essential when it comes to instances involving technology and forensics (Shaikh and Khan, 2023). A reduction in erroneous acquittal and an increase in public trust in the judicial system would result from this.



Figure 5: Judiciary most corrupted system in Pakistan (Abbasi, 2021)

It is essential to address these challenges to maintain justice for all members of society, protect the rule of law, and improve laws and order (Gondal et al., 2023). To create a more equitable and effective legal system, this necessitates a holistic strategy that includes legislative revision, judicial

reforms, and an improvement in the infrastructure and capabilities of law enforcement organizations. The high acquittal rate in Pakistan is a pattern that indicates more serious structural problems with the legal system. (Nadeem and Khan 2017) highlighted that Political meddling is not usual in Pakistan's legal system, powerful individuals with political clout often utilize its influence to sway the verdict in court cases which may lead to either a full acquittal of the guilty or a delay in justice. This connection between politics and court ruling seriously compromises judiciary independence and adds to the public impression of the justice system's lack of impartiality and openness (Rafiq, 2022). In cases involving prominent political leaders there are often several unexplained delays and ultimately acquittal due to the manipulation of procedural technicalities in favor of the powerful (Kayani, 2022). This undermines confidence in the organisation tasked with maintaining law and order in addition to resulting in a miscarriage of justice.

Cultural beliefs and customs are important considerations when it comes to Honor crimes or gender-based violence. Under pressure from family or the community there is often a high percentage of acquittal or charge withdrawal in these circumstances (Jayasundara and van Wormer, 2021). Cultural customs like forgiving laws which let the accused family pardon the victim often led to the acquittal of those responsible for horrible crimes like rape and murder. Although (Hussain 2022) elaborated that the goal of these laws is to respect cultural customs they are often used to shield the guilty, creating an atmosphere in which illegal activity is subtly encouraged by the possibility of legal forgiveness. The quality of legal education and professional ethics among Pakistani attorneys add another level of complexity to this problem. The bar associated plays a pivotal role in sustaining or mitigating the pattern of acquittal predicted by weak persecutions (Mehtar, 2020). Even while everyone facing charges has the right to a just defense there are situations where the moral line between upholding justice and defending someone is crossed which results in acquittal in situations when the evidence would seem to indicate otherwise.

5. Consequences of High Acquittal Rates

High acquittal rates in Pakistan have a variety of negative effects on society as a whole, undermining public confidence in the legal system and having an influence on both the socioeconomic environment and the legislative framework (Ahmed, 2023). Due to the prevailing high rate of acquittal in Pakistan even from the genuine cases the victim or the legal heirs of the victims as the case may be are taking the law into their hands. They are forced to take the revenge against rivals at their own ends instead of knocking the doors of the judicial forums. Public opinion of the judicial system deteriorates when a high percentage of criminal trials end in acquittals. Individuals start to have less faith in the system's capacity to maintain laws and order which may result in a decline in respect for the law itself. Individual integration with the legal system is profoundly impacted by this deep loss of confidence which often makes them unwilling to use the legal system to seek justice (Ahmad and Von Wangenheim, 2021). The elevated rate of acquittal can indicate fundamental problems with the judicial system ranging from evidence gathering and management to persecution efficiency. Insufficient resources in evidence handling might make it difficult for persecutors to present compelling cases which can lead to acquittal even in circumstances when the accused may be guilty (Asif and Qayum, 2023). This not only gives potentially dangerous individuals a second chance at life but also deprives victims of justice leaving them aggravated frustrated and powerless. A circle of lawlessness may be perpetuated by this condition since there may be no repercussions for unlawful behavior that might incite others to commit crimes.

The ramifications are considerably more significant when seen from a socioeconomic perspective. Crime rates may rise in areas where acquittals are frequently a result of judicial corruption or inefficiency, which may damage investment and hinder economic growth (Jatoi et al., 2023). In

general businesses and investors want settings that are stable and predictable and many are reluctant to assume the risk associated with a failed judicial system. This might hinder economic expansion and exacerbate Pakistan already serious problem with poverty and inequality. Reform in the court and legislature is also impacted by the high acquittal rate (Cheema, 2018). If the state refuses to acknowledge these systemic issues it may either produce stagnation or motivate adjustment to address the shortcomings of the judicial system (Zahoor and Rumi, 2020). The essential changes may be postponed if these difficulties are treated with lethargy or denial which might make the already existing problem worse.

6. Challenges in Addressing High Acquittal Rates

The high percentage of acquittals that occurs in Pakistan's court mechanism imposes multidimensional trials on the efficacy of enforcing the law and the administration of fairness. Apart from the exertions that are being put into enhancing the legal outline and law enforcement abilities, there exist various high acquittals, demonstrating systemic issues that need to be tackled (Ullah Ranjah, 2018). Amongst them, one of the major reasons behind the high percentage of acquittals is the lack of satisfactory evaluation and fact-gathering performed by law enforcement organizations. In various circumstances, evaluations are hindered through incompetence, dishonesty, and political interferences that lead to failure in acquiring relevant data to support opinions (ur Rehman et al., 2021). As per the latest information attained, a substantial number of criminal examinations in Pakistan comprise of lack of convincing proof that leads to acquittal. This is evident from a survey in which a popular legal advocacy group identified that around 70% of criminal cases examined lacked relevant facts while justifying beliefs that lead to acquittals (Kakar, 2022). This pattern is alarming as it deteriorates the trust of people in the judiciary and also empowers criminals.

Moreover, with the rise of witnesses interfering and pressure rising, the issue of acquiring opinions in Pakistan. Witnesses are consistently risked, forced, or bribed, making them hesitant to appear against the suspect. This problem is common in situations where powerful people or criminal organizations possess the ability to impact or threaten witnesses (Hussain et al., 2021). Witnesses are known to renounce comments or refuse to appear in court in high-profile cases that include politicians or popular people because of a threat to their safety. In these situations, it hinders the prosecution's capability to produce a convincing case and also risks the honesty of the legal system. Further, institutional delays and inefficiencies present in the legal system contribute to Pakistan's high acquittal rate (Malik, 2022). Overburdened courts, procedural dodges, and long trial proceedings consistently lead to delays in justice being provided that enable accused people to optimize legal loopholes or influence the system to their benefit. The mean length of a criminal trial in Pakistan is multiple years, leading to an accumulation of cases and long periods of pre-trial imprisonment for defendants. This prolonged legal procedure weakens the accused's rights and also lowers the chance of conviction because of disappearing memories and tainted facts with time (Shah and Mahmood, 2023).

The extensive corruption in the judiciary develops a hurdle when it comes to resolving Pakistan's high proportion of acquittals. Judicial bribery, favoritism, and nepotism deteriorate the legal system's neutrality and honesty, discouraging the faith of people (Gul and Ali, 2018). Based on recent reports suggest that lush judicial corruption with judges supposedly accepting payments and succumbing to a political burden for reducing positive decisions. These misconducts distort the course of fairness and promote an environment of liberty where the elite and powerful prevent responsibility through illegal ways (Ghani et al., 2023). The complications of Pakistan's high acquittal rate extend beyond law enforcement and the judiciary, which contaminates the society. Acquittals erode the trust of people in the judicial mechanism and also lead to a culture of freedom, signifying the rule of law and preserving social inequality. When criminals go scot-free as an implication of acquittals due to poor evaluations, witness pressure, delays in processes, or judicial

corruption, it sends the impression that few people are above the law, imparting hate and misery in the public (Ahmad and Qayum, 2021).

To summarise, dealing with the major motives of Pakistan's high acquittal rate is more than just judicial reform as it is a major need for fostering stability, prosperity, and social justice. To make use of detailed reforms that reinforce the honesty and efficiency of the judicial mechanism, preserve the rights of people, and support the values of responsibility and the rule of law, where all stakeholders must work together comprising of government officials, civil society organizations, and the international society. With intensive deed, Pakistan will tackle the issues stood through its high acquittal rate and reach its occupied possible as a fair and successful nation.

7. Qualitative Methodology

To analyze the high-rate acquittal in Pakistan, qualitative methods were used that included analysis of court judgments, interviews with legal practitioners, and review of case files. The study also bases its credibility and depth on peer-reviewed articles and academic journals (Liao and Hitchcock, 2018). The use of these methods allows us to identify such patterns in judicial decision-making, and evidentiary challenges and to make a more nuanced contribution to the socio-legal factors explaining acquittal rates. To explore the more fundamental, contextual factors that determine acquittal procedural gaps, ineffectual evidence, and judicial practices not easily recorded in quantitative data, this methodology was used. The study offers a complete picture of the socio-legal environment by focusing on narratives, perspectives of stakeholders, and systemic dynamics. This research is well suited to qualitative research because it captures complex, subjective phenomena such as attitudes, behaviors, and institutional failings of acquittal rates.

8. Comparative Analysis

When selecting and comparing jurisdictions, variables like legal system resemblances, cultural settings, and successful reforms were given priority. As per Pakistan's high acquittal rates, jurisdictions with comparable legal outlines and cultural dimensions were prioritized to ensure that conclusions were pertinent and appropriate. This led to countries with similar issues or that have efficiently made use of reforms to resolve high acquittal percentages that were identified (Sager and Afzal, 2022). Ghori (2020) claimed nation dealing with systemic issues like corruption and witness pressure offers valuable information. The comparative evaluation techniques enable the detection of efficient techniques and interferences for tackling high acquittal rates in Pakistan's court system by selecting jurisdictions that reflect the country's legal background and issues (Rajput and Rajput, 2020).

The issue of high acquittal rates in Pakistan's judicial system is a significant concern that hampers the delivery of justice. Comparative analysis of judicial mechanisms from different jurisdictions provides valuable insights into potential strategies and reforms that Pakistan can adopt to address this challenge. Focusing on Pakistan's legal framework and its specific challenges in acquittal rates will provide a more direct path toward understanding and addressing the problem. Pakistan follows the British conception of the common laws practicing a hierarchical system of courts which include the Supreme Court, High Courts, and subordinate Courts. Nonetheless, the presence of the legal framework is insufficient to solve the problem with high levels of acquittals. Among them are; delays in trials, poor investigation processes, lack of adequate protection to the witnesses, and corrupt judiciary systems. Some of these have drastic impacts on conviction rates, as well as on the population's confidence in the justice system (Bibi et al., 2022). It is therefore imperative to review the Pakistani legal system in detail to find out the rudimentary causes for the high rate of acquittals and think of ways to reduce such rates.

8.1 Judicial Delays and Backlog of Cases

Trial delays and backlogs constitute one of the causes of high acquittal rates in Pakistan with trials taking a long time to be complete. This is made worse by scarce judicial personnel, underfunded courts, and a slowed process of hearing, meaning that most trials can take as many years as much

as three years. They say such delays make witnesses lose confidence and sometimes, evidence can get weaker and cause acquittals (Laghari, Ali., Khan, A.D., Yang, Hailong & Finn, 2023). In response to this, the government of Pakistan has embarked on measures including forming special courts in the dockets of terrorism and anti-corruption. Still, the problem is that these reforms are often followed by a lack of adequate capacity and political will to deliver timely justice (Haq & Zarkoon, 2023).

8.2 Weak Investigative Procedures and Evidence Handling

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 (Mehmood et al., 2023). Enhancing and modernizing forensic activities, better educating the police academically, and attentively gathering and providing data would cause a decrease in the mentioned acquittal rates.

8.3 Witness Intimidation and Pressure

Interference and pressure on witnesses are still a major hurdle in attempts towards the provision of fair trials in Pakistan. Many witnesses feel threatened and may be either unwilling or coerced into altering their accounts of an occurrence. This usually results in poor presentation of witnesses or at times, no support from vital witnesses at all. In high-profile cases, this is a reason for an acquittal because the prosecution fails to accumulate enough evidence, without key witnesses (Lateef, 2022). The availability of witness protection programs could address this problem. They also afford protection of protection and safety to the witnesses and encourage them to come forward and give testimonies without some form of repercussions.

8.4 Judicial Corruption and Lack of Accountability

Another cause for high acquittal rates in Pakistan is said to be a high prevalence of judicial corruption. Sullyng of the judiciary by corrupt persons erodes the populace's confidence in judgement procedures which affects fair delivery of justice. Wherever the judiciary is pressured, decisions become prejudiced, and the jury can set a person free even when all the proofs point towards the culprit's guilt (Gondal & Hatta, 2023). Though Pakistan has tried to eliminate Judicial corruption through a committee like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), these organizations have had little or no effect because of non-enforcement and political intervention. Enhancing specific anti-corruption mechanisms within the judiciary context, especially the independence of judges is effective in diminishing the rate of corruption and enhancing the conviction rate.

9. Recommendations for Reform

Among these problems, the following changes should be made to resolve the existing high acquittal rates in Pakistan's judicial system. First of all, it would be necessary to mention that there is a large number of cases and they take rather much time. This can be attained through in appointment of more judges, enhancing the court infrastructure and facilities, and enhancing case flow management information systems (Jatoi et al., 2023). As well, there is a need to increase efficiency in handling investigations by providing forensic services and training the officers on how to handle such items well. This would help guarantee the construction of good and credible cases that are essential for a conviction. Second, the creation of a witness protection program shall solve the latter problem as the persons who might become endangered for testifying against someone would be protected. This paper identifies witness protection and due process, police resources and equipment, and trial processes and outcomes as areas that could likely affect conviction rates if laws are enhanced and sufficient resources are allocated to enhance those related

to witness protection. Last but not least; bringing change in the drastic issue of judicial corruption and more accountability in the judicial system is a must. This could be achieved through the extension of measures against corruption, decentralization of judiciary appointments, and the formation of other institutions that would monitor the behavior of judges. There is a need to ensure that judges are as well, answerable for their deeds this would go a long way in making the society regain its faith in the judicial arm of government as well as aiding in preventing acquittals through corrupt practices (Abbas, 2021).

In conclusion, high acquittal rates in Pakistan are complex, and can only be addressed by a range of profound judicial mainstreaming. These concerns include delays, investigation processes, witness protection, and checking the issue of judicial corruption. To eliminate these issues, Pakistan needs to develop a long-term strategy. These reforms used in combination with political will and commitment will help bring down acquittal rates and bring justice for all.

10. Recommendations for Improvement

To tackle the systemic concerns that lead to Pakistan's high acquittal rate, a detailed set of reforms is needed. Such reforms should deal with various dimensions of law enforcement, legal proceedings, and judicial honesty to enhance the management of fairness and reinstate the trust of people in the legal system (Jamshed et al., 2022). Initially, Pakistan's law enforcement authorities should directly enhance their capability and professionalism which comprises investing in training programs to improve investigative skills, forensic abilities, and gathering of proof processes (Abbasi, 2021). Offering law enforcement officers adequate training and resources, authorities can enhance their capability to gather relevant facts and develop strong cases in contradiction of offenders, which reduces the risk of acquittals because of insufficient proof (Imran and Idrees, 2020).

Moreover, steps should be taken to protect witnesses from intimidation and pressure, guaranteeing their safety and urging them towards speaking truthfully in court, which constitutes developing witness protection programs, providing legal assistance and counseling, and making use of strong punishments on anyone found guilty of interfering with witnesses (Khan et al., 2021). Safety of the rights of witnesses and their welfare is where authorities can enhance the prosecution's ability to demonstrate convincing facts and attain opinions. Efforts are exerted to speed up legal proceedings and reduce delays in the court system including passing reforms to speed up trial proceedings, enhance court infrastructure, and enhance case management mechanism (Sifarish and Liaqat, 2023). Diminishing the cases that are all combined up and increasing the solvency of legal disputes provides opportunities for authorities to reduce technical gaps or for their benefit, as with it the opportunity for a successful trial rises (Ghazi and Salamat, 2023).

Fighting against judicial corruption is compulsory as it assists in re-developing the trust of people and ensuring honesty in the legal system. It is necessary to incorporate anti-corruption measures such as increasing transparency in judge nominations, developing processes for tracking, and making use of harsh punishments for judicial malfeasance (Usman and Ahmad, 2021). Authorities can ensure neutrality and fairness in the legal system by motivating judicial employees to be responsible, as it raises the trust of people in the administration (Khan et al., 2018). Overcoming Pakistan's high incidence of acquittals is vital by incorporating extended techniques such as modifications in various domains of the legal system. This offers an opportunity for the authorities to improve the efficacy and justice of the judicial system by enhancing law enforcement powers, protecting witnesses, reducing the time spent on legal proceedings, and diminishing judicial corruption that assures responsibility for criminal offenses by protecting the rule of law (Ali and Hassan, 2021). All the efforts that are being made will be working in favor of Pakistan to handle the issues that arise in systemic components that tend to limit the just administration by acquiring the trust of people in the legal system again.

11. Conclusion

The entire evaluation that was performed on the research of the increase in acquittal rates in Pakistan's legal systems paid attention to the complexities of the concerns that were faced by the administration of justice. Historically, it is evident from past situations with poor investigation, manipulated witnesses, procedural delays, and court corruption entirely hampered the legal system, which increased the rates of acquittal fading the trust and confidence of people in the judicial system. The research performed on Pakistan's acquittal statistics displays evidence that a major percentage of criminal cases that are cleared are due to a lack of reliable facts being available, pressure on witnesses being laid, and institutional delays. Based on the findings it was identified that the main requirements for reform work towards improving the ability and justice of law enforcement agencies, increasing trial proceedings, and combating judicial corruption. Tackling such concerns fosters freedom and ensures the use of the rule of law and social unity. The increase in acquittal rates negatively influences the safety, security, and general quality of government and people. Without any responsibility being given to them leads to the recurrence of crimes, and corruption in the judiciary that deteriorates the trust and confidence of people in governmental administrations. All of this raises the need for tackling such issues through incorporating collaborative efforts being exerted by all parties including government officials, civil society organizations, and the international society.

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