

## Ethnic Prejudice: Reasons and Its Impacts on urban population with Special Reference to Ethno-linguistic City; Karachi

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### **Abstract:**

*As internal as well as external migration is quite common in big cities in order to get economic opportunities which causes of heterogeneity in urban areas. Karachi is one of the cities which consisted of multiple ethnic groups and each tries to follow its own customs and tradition. When it's come to language, people consider it as their identity because it makes them different from others specifically in terms of ethnicheritage which forms a heterogeneous society. Due to multiethnic population discrimination, inequality, competitiveness, deprivation, dominancy, diversity, and socio-economic and ethnic status consciousness take place and become a part of urbanism and enormously affects its life due to increasing ethnic prejudice. The present research test the influence of ethnic socialization, ethic discrimination, ethnic relative deprivation, interethnic interaction on ethnic prejudice. Survey data were collected from the 192 citizen aged above 30. The multiple regression analysis demonstared that all the hypothesized relation were supported except the influence of interethnic interaction on ethnic prejudice. The study outlined implication and recommendations for the policy makers and government.*

*Keywords: Ethnic prejudice, Urbanism, Multiethnic city, Ethno-linguistic city, Heterogeneous society, Karachi.*

### **Introduction**

Karachi, the biggest city in the country, considered mini-Pakistan because of its revenue-generating resources, suffers as a victim due to a lack of consideration from the local, provincial and federal governments and faces vulnerable multidimensional problems due to inefficient use of available limited resources. All are used this city for political agendas but do nothing for it accept increasing problems for its residents by dividing and using its population based on ethnicity (Nichola, 2020). Not only this, Ina recent census, Karachi's population has deliberately counted wrong which is 16 million whereas it is estimated that its population is about 20 million. It is done just to disenfranchise its funds and resources (Khan & Khan, 2016). Another study shows the data of a pilot research report, conducted before the census, Karachi was declared the most rapidly growing city in the world. In 2010, the estimated population of Karachi was 15 and a halfmillion however currently it is about 20 million and this city has 24 percent of the urban population and 9 percent of the total population of the country (Hasan, 2016).

According to UNDP, Pakistan is the country where the medium-level human development index is quite lower and ranked 150 among 189 countries in the world. It is estimated that more than 39% of the country's people are below the poverty line and face multifaceted poverty. Extreme poverty has been seen in rural areas of the country where around 50% of people whereas in urban areas around 10% population are facing multifaceted poverty (UNDP & OPHI, 2016) that is why the ratio of internally migrated people from rural to urban areas is high. Usually, males migrate more than females because of economic prosperity and more than 80% get employment opportunities but unfortunately, no single policy is there to facilitate and adjust internally migrated people in order to settle them with scarce resources and they could not be a burden on urban limited resources. That is the reason, they become the cause of many increasing social problems and socio-psychological disorganization in society (Ghamz, Irman, & Ayesha, 2018, IOM, 2019). Due to the high ratio of internally migrated people, who came here for financial reasons, becomes a burden because of extreme lack of management and negatively affects its demography (Khan & Khan; 2016). Rural migration of Saraiki People from Punjab and Sindhi from Sindh has increased in recent years. External migrants also are there and the estimated figure is more than 1.7 million (Hasan, 2016).

Usually, in rural areas, people have 'we' feelings and positive associations among members because it contains a community of homogenous people (Blaschke & Torres, 2002). Opposed to this, urbanism refers to life in metropolitan cities and its diverse cultural studies because in urban areas the peoples' way of interaction and nature

of their relationship with each other is different from sub-urb and rural areas because of the heterogeneous environment. Heterogeneity is the main feature of urbanism which implants an ethnical seed with all its negative aspects and makes the people more conscious of ethnicity which increases differences among groups. Consequently, society and its social life get more disorganized and complicated. However, it was being assumed that urban social life would have no narrowness and orthodoxy due to having an impersonal, impermanence, and individualistic approach. It was being expected by the Urban culture that it made the people more nationalistic rather than ethnical but the situation goes opposed to this and urban culture promote ethnic mindedness due to heterogeneity and difference in language and culture which is being politicized and uncertain due to ethnic politics (Omor, 2017). Heterogeneity, ethnic prejudice, discrimination, inequality, competitiveness, deprivation, dominancy, diversity, and socio-economic status consciousness are some of the major features of urbanism. These are also fundamental reasons for ethnic hatred. These social problems are derived from the difference in ethnicity.

The concept of race/ethnicity-based on the practice of rejection or acceptance of a group because of their culture or ethnicity. It is an assumption due to socially constructed differences among groups of people that accompanying types of articulation of prejudice lead to discrimination as well as deprivation and cause negative attitudes towards others including violence and abuse verbally and physically (Omor, 2017). Discrimination and inequality are undeniable determinants and the reason behind them is ethnic prejudice (Feng, 1996). It is worldwide problem but factors exist inside the countries due to local socio-cultural settings in which dominating group oppresses people in minority (Kuang & Liu, 2012). Diversity and ethnic perception are also contributing factors here because it has been observed that perceived diversity relies on actual ethnic diversity (Piekut & Valentine, 2016). The same thing is applied to prejudice; actual prejudice is also based on perceived prejudice. Diversity is determined by the racial/ethnic variety but now in demography, it is measured by the size and number of ethnic/racial groups in the area (Kihato et al., 2010). Diversity actually exists in a statistical proportion of a variety of groups that have the same (for in-group) and different (for out-group) characteristics like race/ethnicity (Harrison & Klein, 2007). Diversity raises the factor of dominancy which cause competition among opposite ethnic groups.

Usually, people who belong to rural areas and live in urban society try to hold on to their way of life, behavioral qualities to keep maintain their traditional culture and try not to influence the culture of the currently living area even size, financial or social position does not matter but favorable for these people (Glenn & Hill, 1977). Although the population of rural areas is larger than urban side and has significance due to agricultural activities they do not only under-served but underprivileged and it is all strategic underestimation by policymakers that is why they move toward urban areas for better services and facilities but urban people usually take them negative due to backwardness and maintain a gap from them (Mohatt & Mohatt, 2020) which enhance deprivation among rural people and cause of prejudice in both groups. Rural to urban migrated people face discrimination and negative attitude due to their cultural background, race, or ethnicity. Not only the people but the system and its institutes are involved because of the presumed mindset (PEW Research Centre, 2013) about rural people to be/ of being orthodox. Indigenous urban people do not want to come into contact with rural migrants that is why maltreatment is common with rural migrants and both groups emerge as two different prejudiced entities (Lu, 2006). Thus, there is a need to identify and solve the problem of increasing ethnic prejudice in urbanism because it is a positive approach through which government can make the most by applying appropriate policies instead of making it politicized. Due to inappropriate policies, it has become a hindrance to developing urban society specifically when it comes to Karachi, which is considered to be the backbone of Pakistan because the development of this city is the ultimate development of this country.

#### **Research Objectives:**

RO1: To understand the level of ethnic prejudice in urban areas

RO2: To identify reasons for increasing ethnic prejudice in urbanism

RO3: To know the impacts of ethnic prejudice in urban society

## Literature Review

Interethnic or racial behavior is influenced by ethnical background because it has been observed level of prejudice varies from group to group (Bobo&Hutchings, 1996) because of perceived or assumed characteristics about other groups due to ancestral experiences or hearsay that raise socio-economic competitive situation among groups for domination and cause of conflict based on perception (Schneider, 2008; Bobo & Hutchings, 1996). Another study declares that residents of the same ethnical environment are more prejudiced about other groups due to not acceptance and tolerance but in the Asian context situation is the opposite to this and people of ethnically mixed areas are found more prejudiced and conscious about their ethnic background (Oliver & Wong, 2003). In this regard, Contact theory and conflict theory both represent feelings and behavior about out-group which usually depends on size culture, and socioeconomic status which makes the group strengthen and maintain its domination. it creates a threatening situation for minorities and leads to conflicting situations among groups (Oliver & Wong, 2003).

If people of the group are less in quantity it affects their behavior negatively due to differences in culture and financial value (Gijsberts&Dagevos,2005;Havekes et al., 2014) but if groups are increasing in size situation becomes more competitive among ethnic groups live in the same area (Quillian, 1995;Gijsberts&Dagevos,2005; Savelkoul et al., 2010) and perception of threatening environment change into actual due to competition (Bobo & Hutchings, 1996). Allport's theory of contact (1954) contends that this negativity of attitude among groups causes less or even no social connectivity with each other. However, social interaction among groups helps decrease the level of prejudice because of knowing eachother thinking, way of life, cultural values, and belief system which encounters presumed or perceived negative image of others and generate positivity in attitude towardeachother but again economic status role is significant here because people usually come into contact with same socio-economic status (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006).

On the other hand, a study shows that people don't need to get personal in contact specifically when they have a perceived image of our group, and to get just familiar is based on superficiality rather than reality (Fischer, 1982). Contrary to this, research denotes that only familiarity among the residents of different ethnic groups develops trustworthiness even having impersonal contacts (Blokland, 2003). It has been seen that differences in culture and financial condition influence the type of relations among groups. Relations with highly prestige people increase peoples' own dignity whereas relationship with lower-class people lowers one's confidence and self-respect (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). People with high social standing attract others by increasing the chance of getting socio-economic benefits (Volker, Flap, & Lindenberg, 2006) that is why people like to connect with people of high social standing rather than the lower one and the general attitude of both minority and majority are found negative towards lower class and people keep the gap with lower social standing people to maintain their social circle reputation (Hagendoorn, 1995). The theory of social identity is also applied to the people who have good social position and prestige come into close contact and have positive interactions even after bearing different ethnic backgrounds and cultural values whereas people with lower social positions maintain gaps due to perceived threats and beliefs not to come in contact. Thus, a positive attitude is likely to be related to higher social standing (Kavekes, 2014).

From 2000 to onward, different agencies public and private conducted a collaborative research project to implement 'new urbanism' in Atlanta to increase racial/ethnic diversity and less prejudiced environment but it was observed that in the name of diversity, the population had been segregated systematically through which people belong to a minority like Hispanics exchange with white or people in the majority (Markley, 2018). This status gap which also leads to the area or resident separation maintains ethnic/racial inequity with a level of satisfaction of being different among rural and urban groups not only this but the educational institutional difference, lack of health services employment chances which limited their hand to mouth and they deprived to afford many social services that increase deprivation and ethnic-racial hatred among minority which cause of depression and many other social problems which affects society as whole due to increasing social wrongdoings (Turner & Rawlings, 2009).

Another survey on urban peoples' prejudiced attitude towards rural populations and its effects on them was conducted in 2011 in China. The outcomes of this survey reported that people in metropolitan cities with a high level of education and economic status have a more prejudiced attitude towards rural migrants. Status is usually transmitted by parents the same thing with prejudice was observed that it is transmitted from one generation to another which keeps maintaining a chain of prejudice and make a stronger negative perception of others and increases day-to-day challenges for rural migrants (Tse, 2016). The researcher observed other societal factors

including residence by applying the social construction paradigm and realized that mixed ethnically residential areas influence negatively the temperament of people (Forest & Elias, 2016). Contrary to this another research that has been conducted from 1972 to 1985 based on the recommendation of Wirth's studies in 1938 and Stouffer's research in 1955 related to how ethnic/racial tolerance is affected by urbanism due to regional and geographical migration and the level of prejudice.

Stouffer believed that a diverse and heterogeneous environment makes the urban people and life more tolerant. Combine with both researchers' contentions are; urban people have more ethnic/racial tolerance than rural people, as opposed to studies conducted earlier, urban impact on tolerance has raised whereas area or regional impact has reduced, the consequences for resilience of urban to nonurban movement affirm Wirth's view of the perpetual quality of urbanism's impact whereas Stouffer's speculation of cultural shock was not approved and process of migration gets more complex (Touch, 1987; Jang & Alba, 1992). Urban transformation is observed where acceptance is getting increases with time and ethnic/ racial minority groups are being inculcated in urban social life. it affects the economical and education system and increases social integrity. it is all because of the increasing rural population in urban areas (Hook & Lee, 2017).

Diversity, the characteristic of urbanism, which is known as perceived, indicates the subjectivity of people to take the place consist of different groups. Perception is a significant indicator of shaping attitudes of individuals or groups towards each other (Newman et al., 2015). In urban areas, diversity is being taken positively in terms of increasing social and economic results like increasing manpower and empowered needy people as well as opportunities of interacting, knowing each other which helps to build a trustworthy and secure environment and increase tolerance and acceptance among different groups for each other but still this environment would be difficult to develop if different ethnic groups live in the same residential area and challenging to get positive results for the authoritative body (Kearns & Whitley, 2017). Another thing, should keep in mind, is the social context of the area. Opportunities must be there otherwise they would be all taken as a socio-economic burden and cause negative attitudes among natives and migrants. Certain researches proved that ethnic/racial actual diversity observed negatively affected socio-economic conditions as well as integrity at a local level (Stolle, Soroka, & Johnston, 2008) as well as a high level of discriminatory attitude of urban natives against rural migrants (Feng, 1996) but some of the other researches demonstrated the indecisive impact of diversity neither negative nor positive (Lancee & Dronkers, 2011; Laurence, 2011).

However, authoritative bodies of urban areas who make policies for providing a conducive environment to the urban population are worried about undesirable results of diverse approaches for systematic unification of culture (Bolt, Ozueken, & Philips, 2010). On the other hand, policymakers have been noticed as defaulters and an unfair social system is observed as one of the major causes of prejudice and discrimination. It was revealed by different theories of system justification, social identity, and social dominance. However, each has its view to describe prejudice and discrimination. The theory of social identity describes the mentality of being different from others as a group by comparing own group to others and it is proved by literature that the social categorization of groups is enough to be a creation of many social issues among groups (Tajfel, 1978; Tajfel & Turner, 1986). The theory of social dominance revealed the fact of a social chain of command of particular dominant groups of society who believe in social groups' hierarchical order and suppresses subordinate groups (Sidanius & Pratto, 1999). Either systematic or individual-based racial/ethnic inequality affects people's behavior toward the government strategy of increasing the chance to inculcate minority in social life. people who face structured hindrance in the success of minorities, get hopeful that something good is going to be done for them and they become supportive of governmental policies otherwise general perspective of racial/ethnic inequity is different and less concerned about government policies (Kleugel, 1990).

## Proposed Model

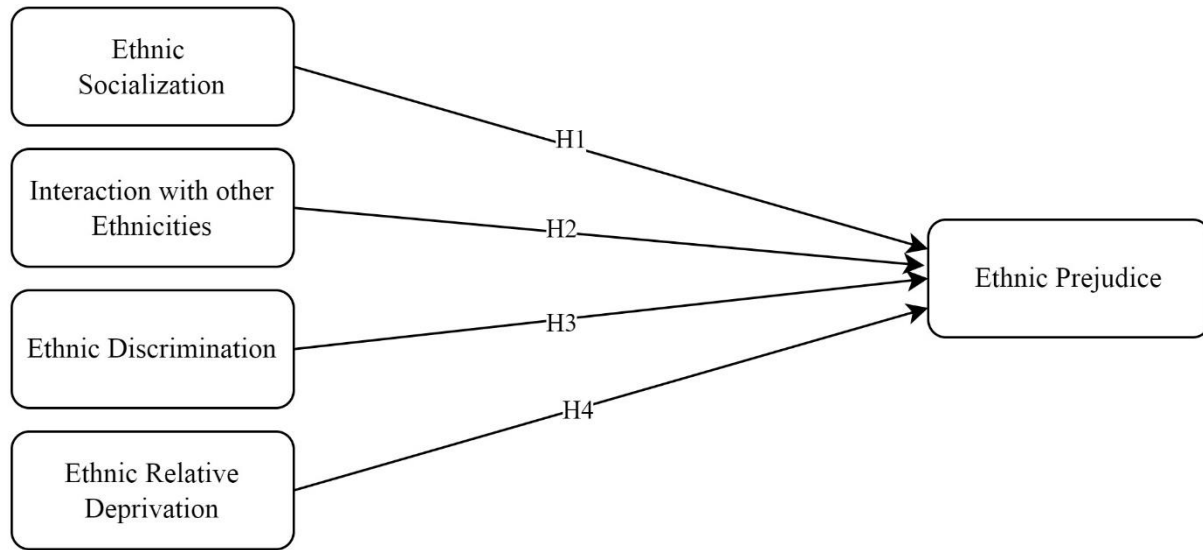


Figure 1. Theoretical Model

**Proposed Hypotheses**

- H1: Ethnic socialization is positively related ethnic prejudice.
- H2: Interaction with other ethnicities is negatively related ethnic prejudice.
- H3: Experience of ethnic discrimination is positively related ethnic prejudice.
- H4: Ethnic relative deprivation is positively to ethnic prejudice.

**Research Methodology:**

The present research type is explanatory and purposely conducted to investigate the reasons and impact of increasing ethnic prejudice in urbanism. Karachi is taken as the universe because of being a multiethnic city and hasan immense migrated population from rural areas. The applied sampling technique is Simple Random Sampling. However, the sample size is 192 (30 and above age group is focused because elders are migrated usually and less than this age majority is born here however, parents may be migrated). A structured questionnaire is used as data conducting tool. SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software is used where Pearson’s correlation is applied to analyze the data.

**Table 1. Correlation Analysis**

Construct	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Ethnic prejudice	1					
2. ethnic socialization	.856**	1				
3. Ethic discrimination	.525**	.586**	.376**	1		
4. Ethnic relative deprivation	.516**	.494**	.597**	.285**	1	

	0.103	0.064	.133*	-0.013	0.084	1
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5. Interethnic interaction

<sup>a</sup>*n* = 192. \**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01; two-tailed.

Table 1 demonstrates that ethnic prejudice has strong positive correlation with ethnic socialization whereas it has moderate positive correlation with ethnic discrimination and ethnic relative deprivation. However, ethnic prejudice insignificantly correlated with interethnic interaction. Ethnic socialization has strong positive correlation with ethnic prejudice whereas it has moderate positive correlation with ethnic discrimination and ethnic relative deprivation. However, ethnic socialization insignificantly correlated with interethnic interaction. Ethnic discrimination has moderate positive correlation with ethnic prejudice and ethnic socialization whereas it has weak positive correlation with ethnic relative deprivation. However, ethnic Discrimination insignificantly correlated with interethnic interaction. Ethnic relative deprivation has moderate positive correlation with ethnic prejudice, and ethnic socialization whereas it has weak positive correlation with ethnic discrimination. However, ethnic relative deprivation insignificantly correlated with interethnic interaction. Interethnic interaction has insignificant correlation with ethnic prejudice, ethnic socialization, ethnic discrimination and ethnic relative deprivation.

**Table 2. Regression Analysis**

Hypotheses	I.V	D.V	R2	F	B	T-test	Sig/p
H1	Ethnic Socialization	Ethnic Prejudice	.732	518.942	0.611	22.78029	0.000
H2	Interethnic Interaction	Ethnic Prejudice	.01	2.035	.185	1.426	0.160
H3	Ethnic Discrimination	Ethnic Prejudice	.287	76.620	.820	8.753	0.000
H4	Relative Deprivation	Ethnic Prejudice	.266	68.784	.499	8.294	0.000

**H1: Ethnic socialization is positively related to ethnic prejudice**

Table 2 demonstrates significant relationship between ethnic socialization and ethnic prejudice

( $\beta = 0.732, p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that 73.2% variance can be explained in ethnic prejudice due to the one unit change in ethnic socialization .This implies that ethnic socialization has significant effect on ethnic prejudice. Thus hypothesis 1 was supported.

**H2: Interethnic interaction is negatively related to ethnic prejudice**

Table 2 demonstrates insignificant relationship between interethnic interaction and ethnic prejudice ( $\beta = 0.01, p > 0.05$ ) indicating that 1% variance can be explained in ethnic prejudice due to the one unit change in interethnic interaction . This implies that interethnic interaction does not influence significantly ethnic prejudice. Thus hypothesis 2 was not supported.

**H3: Ethnic discrimination is positively related ethnic prejudice**

Table 2. demonstrates significant relationship between ethnic discrimination and ethnic prejudice

( $\beta = 0.287, p < 0.01$ ), indicating that 28.7% variance can be explained in ethnic prejudice by the changes in ethnic discrimination. This implies that ethnic discrimination has significant effects on ethnic prejudice. Thus hypothesis 3 was supported.

**H4: Ethnic relative deprivation is positively related to ethnic prejudice**

Table 2 demonstrates significant relationship between ethnic relative deprivation and ethnic prejudice ( $\beta = 0.267, p < 0.01$ ), indicating that 26.7% variance can be explained in ethnic prejudice by the changes in ethnic relative deprivation. This implies that ethnic relative deprivation has significant effects on ethnic prejudice. Thus hypothesis 3 was supported.

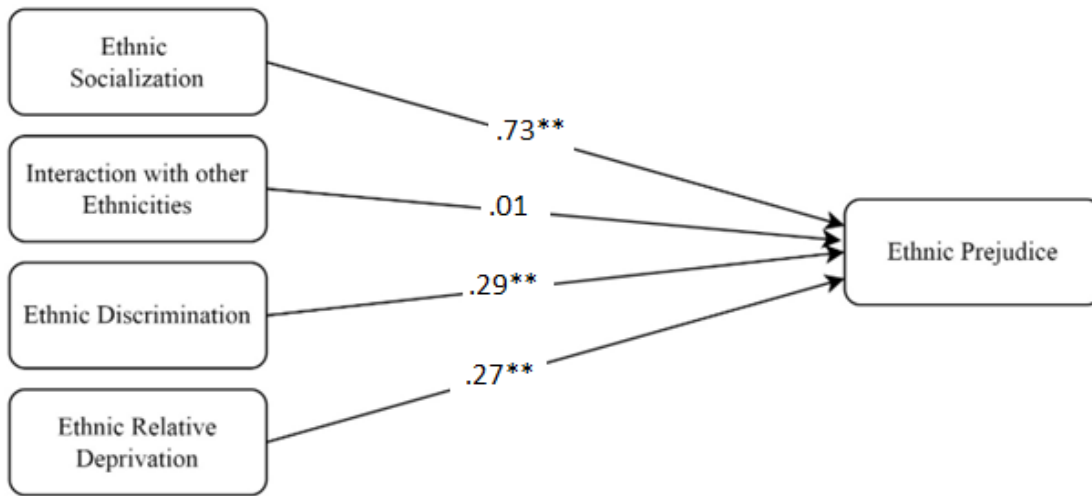


Figure 3. Multiple regression model with results

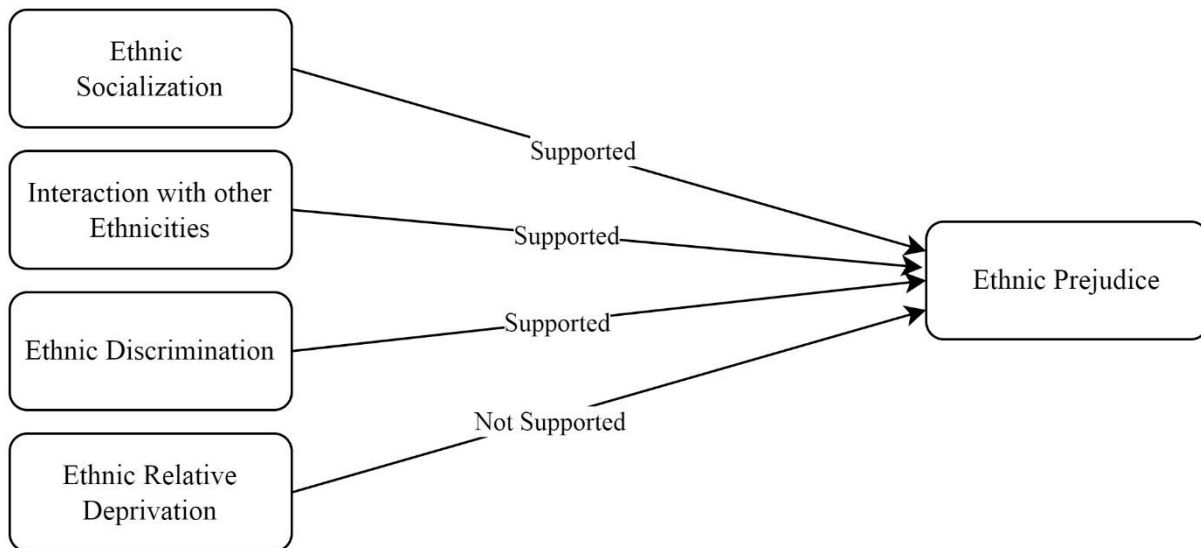


Figure 4. Hypotheses results summary

## Discussion

In this research, the reasons and impact of increasing ethnic prejudice have been investigated in order to make a valuable contribution to control many other social problems. For this purpose, the researcher selected ethnic socialization, ethnic discrimination, ethnic relative deprivation and interethnic interaction as independent variables whereas ethnic prejudice was taken as the dependent variable. In the first hypothesis, the researcher tested the relationship between ethnic socialization and ethnic prejudice. According to the value of Pearson's correlation, which is .856 and the level of significance is .000, both variables have a positively strong relationship with each other. Whereas regression analysis demonstrates ethnic socialization significantly affected ethnic prejudice because one unit change in ethnic socialization accounted for 73.2% variance in ethnic prejudice which means if people are being socialized more ethnically by their families, they will be more prejudiced ethnically.

In second hypothesis, the researcher tested the relationship between interethnic interaction and ethnic prejudice there was no significant relation found between interethnic interaction and ethnic prejudice because in our society people do not get positive interactive opportunities. However previous studies showed that ethnic prejudice can be overcome if people have positive interethnic interaction. In the third hypothesis, the researcher tested the relationship between ethnic discrimination and ethnic prejudice. According to the value of Pearson's correlation, which is .525 and the level of significance is .000, both variables have a moderate positive relationship with each other. Whereas regression analysis demonstrates ethnic discrimination significantly affected ethnic prejudice because 28.7% variance in ethnic prejudice due to ethnic discrimination was observed which means if people have a presumed negative mindset toward other ethnic groups, they will be more prejudiced ethnically.

In the fourth hypothesis, the researcher tested the relationship between ethnic relative deprivation and ethnic prejudice. According to the value of Pearson's correlation, which is .516 and the level of significance is .000, both variables have a positive moderate relationship with each other. Whereas regression analysis demonstrates ethnic relative deprivation significantly affected ethnic prejudice because 26.7% variance in ethnic prejudice due to ethnic relative deprivation was observed which means if people have a presumed negative mindset toward other ethnic groups, they will be more prejudiced ethnically. In the light of previous studies and results of present study, it can be concluded that ethnic socialization, ethnic discrimination and ethnic relative deprivation are leading causes of increasing ethnic prejudice. The most negative impact of ethnic prejudice is the continuous process of socialization that is an ongoing process from generation to generation which causes the inculcation of other negative attributes in personality like discrimination and deprivation that become a canker of the society.

### Recommendations

Although ethnic prejudice is an undeniable fact implementation of several strategies could be helpful to control prejudiced feelings:

- The policy of counseling sessions for parents regarding ethnic socialization must be made when a couple is going to have their baby (the specifically first one) through MSOs (Medical Social Officers) because it has been observed that contribution of prejudice is higher than the actual one.
- The media should contribute through appealing programs to control unconscious political exploitation and prejudice behaviors.
- Political parties should not be allowed to politics on ethnic grounds.
- Cultural programs must be organized at the community level in which all communities have to participate.
- All provinces must be bound to celebrate other provinces' cultural programs thereby cultural differences could be overcome.
- Transparency in all sectors must ensure thereby discrimination on an ethnic basis could be controlled cause of ultimate control of deprivation.
- The ethnic counseling program at the community level should be organized to promote unity.

### Conclusion:

There are several causes behind increasing ethnic prejudice but results show that ethnic socialization is considered to be the leading cause of increasing ethnic prejudice. But the interesting thing which can be observed all over the results is prejudice behaviors and perceptions prevail and can have harmful impacts wherever it has been tested which influences the urban population due to a fixed mindset for other ethnic groups and creates hindrances in positive interaction and it becomes an ultimate cause of ethnic socialization, political exploitation, feeling of discrimination



and deprivation because it has been proved that level of actual prejudice is existed but not much higher. To sum up, if perceived prejudice control many other social problems could be overcome automatically.

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