

SELF-DOUBT CRIMINOGENIC THINKING AND REFUSAL TOWARDS SOCIAL NORMS AMONG PRISONERS

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Abstract

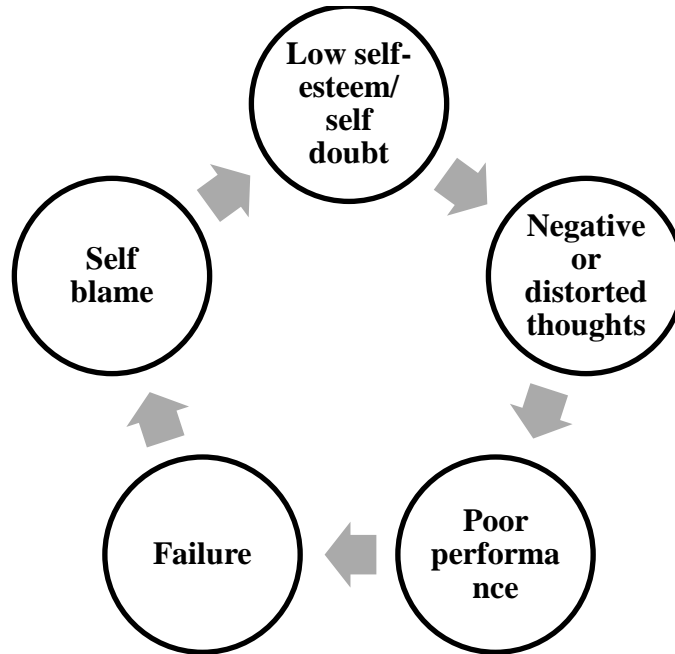
Present study investigates self-doubt, criminogenic thinking and refusal towards social norms among prisoners. As it will help to understand the reasons of anti-social behavior of criminals, as well as it will facilitate to use different strategies to make their behavior as per social norms. Moreover, in teacher training it can teach to assess criminal thinking in students that will prevent to develop future Criminals of society. It is hypothesized that self-doubt and criminal thinking has a relationship, moreover there is positive relationship between criminogenic thinking and refusal towards social norms. Survey research design and convenient sampling technique is used to recruit the sample size, n= 150 prisoners from different jails of the Punjab province. Self-doubt scale by Oleson and Kirsten, CTS (criminal thinking scale) Urdu version and (SNES) Social-norms espousal scale (2014) by George Y. Bizer, Rachel A. Magin, Madeline R. Levine is used to measure refusal towards social norms. Data is analyzed on SPSS. Pearson product moment correlation, t-test and regression analysis is use. Previous researches and theories revealed that there is strong relationship in criminal thinking and refusal of social norms or anti-social behavior. But there is little research done in this context of prisoners.

Key words: Criminal thinking, refusal, self-esteem, self-concept, Norms

Introduction

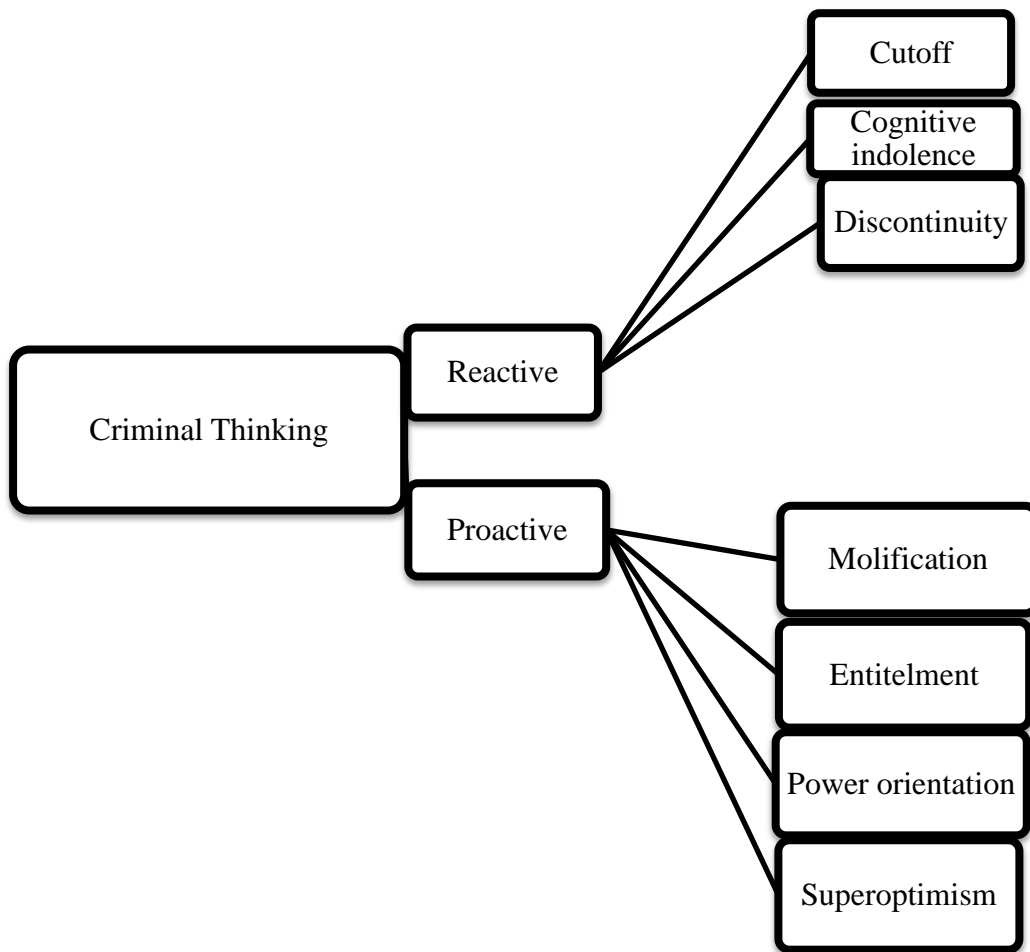
Self-doubt can be referred as unfavorable thoughts which results in personal deficits and pessimistic believes in self-regulatory process. That create stressful encounter and lead towards self-inefficiency to function normally (Sarason, 1996). Self-doubt is basically inability to trust one's own self's abilities and lack of confidence (Kabir, 2018). Erikson, (1995) suggested that in this stage of socio-development parents should give independence to their kids in minor tasks, as toilet training and clothing so that a child learn to do things alone. It will increase their confidence on themselves and will be safe from developing self-doubt.

Development of self-doubt:



Cognition is an umbrella term, which is used to inference different mental events as perception, memory, understanding, attention and learning. Therefor criminogenic thinking is a form of mental events which facilitate criminal behavior, (Gavel, 2017). These are the thinking patterns of unique nature which are exhibited by the offenders. This is a form of thinking that play a vital role to maintain criminal behaviors as well as in onset of such harmful behaviors, (Mandracchia & Morgan, 2011). Beck (1995) relates criminal thinking to the automatic information processing which control and modify specific thoughts of a person in a less critical way. It simply takes place in the biases of schemata. It involves less critical thinking as well as positive and negative in dimensions.

Type of Criminogenic thinking



There are two basic anti-social cognitions which take part in developing criminal thoughts. Justification is on top of the list. It helps in justifying the harmful activities in a positive way. Therefore a criminal never acknowledge crime as a destructive behavior and commit crime frequently, (Palmer & Hollin, 2004).

Refusal means state of denial, saying no to do or follow any guided framework or guideline for specific behavior. As far as refusal towards social norms is concerned it is disobeying and denying social rules. In refusing social norms bring not only disaster to social structure but for the individual as well. In violating rules some individual also becomes victims that may result in more rebellious behavior, (Depiero, 2018).

It was stated by British Association of anger management (2020) that lack of self-esteem often leaves an impression of being unlovable on person's mind. While people don't accept and appreciate an individual he or she started to feel bad and develop negative things about one self. In another research it can be seen that low self-esteem is as same as self-doubt. Low self-esteem has a feeling of being worthless, meaningless and losing confidence, these are the remarkable features of self-doubt on the other hand. Self-esteem and self-doubt are the terms used interchangeably in literature (Chida, 2009). Low self-esteem develops psychological issues; which can be anxiety, addiction and aggression. Aggression later on results in refusing norms, crimes and anti-social behavior. It was seen that there was a strong association between low self-esteem and aggression (Kennedy, 2020). Another factor which

has impact on distorted and criminal thinking is immaturity. When a person is not able to grasp the complication of conducted behavior and its consequences how he or she can avoid such risky activities.

It was studied that immaturity leads a person to adopt harmful behaviors and immaturity is not having self-confidence and courage. While an individual do not encourage himself and disqualify to achieve his targets; he starts to control the external environment and behave aggressively. To manage the feeling of guilt and remorse with low self-esteem produce self-doubt and results in immaturity. Younger people show more criminal thinking styles than elders, (Mandrachia & Morgan, 2011). Nicholson and Dahlen (2013) observed that maladaptive behavior and criminal attitude often root in childhood. It was investigated that the compliance of social norms brings political participation among people. On the other side those who fail to confirm social norms were predicted to reject the social norms and participation in any political activity. Results showed that social pressure had a significant impact on the behavior of any individual and outcome, (Garfinkle, 2011).

Faisal & Akhter (2019) conducted a research on the self-esteem in secondary school children in Pakistan. Self-esteem of self-identity was referred interchangeable concepts in that research. It can say that those young people who had high self-esteem are clear in their self-identity. Such will show less tendencies of self-doubt in their behavior. Similarly, Bushra and Hussain (2018) explore the self-concept development in Pakistani people. It was explored that social norms and personal preferences play a vital role in forming self-identity or self-concept in Pakistani culture and young individuals.

As far as criminogenic thinking is concerned a study was conducted in Peshawar by Anwar ul Mujahid & Shahid Iqbal (2019) to see the causes behind criminal thinking in Pakistan. It was revealed that poor economic background leads a person towards criminal activities. It was suggested that control of care-takers, senior family member or father reduce the crime rate in young criminals. Ali & Shafayat (2019) explored in a research that media and specially commercial ads were influencing the Pakistani norms on a large scale. Due to those anti-cultural adds people started to refuse the new norms of society which were not matched to culture.

Objectives

Aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between self-doubt, criminogenic thinking and refusal towards social norms among prisoners. It helps the prisoners to modify their criminal behavior and make them functional individuals of the society.

Rationale

It is a need of time to pay attention towards the causes of increasing crime rate in Pakistan; Present study is being conducted on prisoners. As finding out the reasons behind criminal behavior and associated factors are essential to deal with upcoming criminal behaviors of adolescence. Prisoners are an ideal population to study in this context; so that their criminogenic cognition and correlates can be best understands to deal with it in future. Results of the study about how a person develops criminal thinking can facilitate educational trainers as well to prevent developing such thinking patterns in young children.

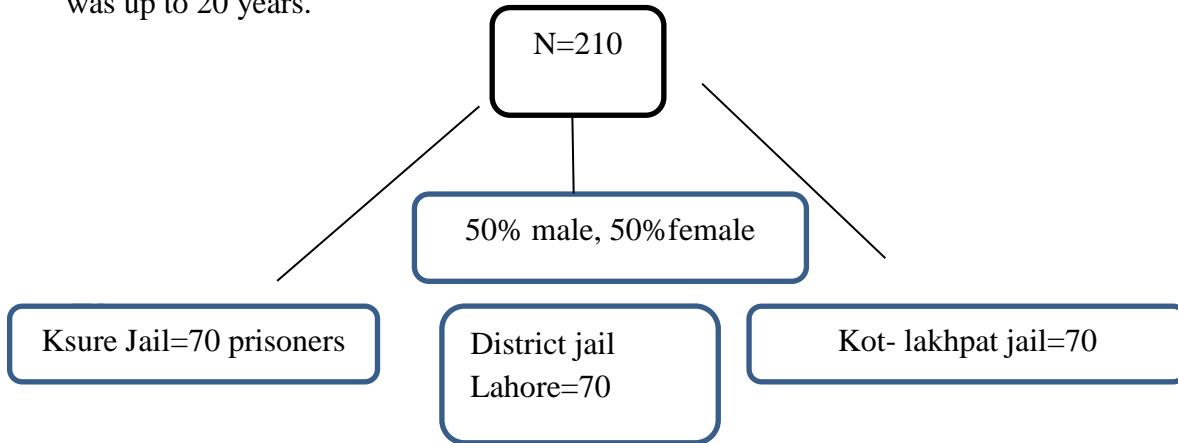
Hypothesis

- I. It is likely to have a relationship between Self-doubt and refusal towards social norms.
- II. There would be positive relationship between criminogenic thinking and refusal towards social norms.

III. Criminogenic thinking would be a predictor of refusal towards social norms.

Method

Research design of this study was Survey research design to explore relationship between self-doubt, criminogenic thinking and refusal towards social norms. Convenient sampling technique was used to collect data from the prisoners. Research was conducted in prisons. Kasur jail, kot Lakhpat jail and District jail Lahore were the research setting, from where data was collected. Prisoners were participants of this research project. Sample size was 210,(70 prisoners from each jail, 50% male and 50%female). Age range of participants was up to 20 years.



Results and Discussions

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics of the Respondents (N=150)

Characteristics	f	%	M(SD)
Age			1.90(.301)
Gender			
Male	75	50	.50(.502)
Female	75	50	
Education	150	100	1.11(.796)
Marital status			1.17(.380)
Single	124	82	
Married	26	17	
Family system			.52(501)
Nuclear	72	48	
Joint	78	52	
Duration in jail	150	100	199 (.618)
No. of time in jail	150	100	1.01(.082)
Committed crime	150	100	1.65(1.003)
Living area			.64(482)
Village	54	36	
City	96	64	

Table 2

Frequency of the demographics characteristics of the participants (N=150)

Variable	Male	Female	Total
Gender	<i>f</i> 75	<i>f</i> 75	<i>f</i> 150
Age			
8-13(Childhood)	2	6	08
14-20(Adolescence)	73	69	142
Marital Status			
Single	60	64	124
Married	15	11	26
Family System			
Nuclear	32	40	72
Joint	43	35	78
Living Area			
City	45	51	96
Village	30	24	54
Education			
Nil	24	16	40
Up to Elementary	22	32	54
High or above	29	27	56
Jail Duration			
6-months	13	6	19
12-month	53	64	117
18-month	4	4	8
2-years	4	1	5
3-years	1	0	1
No Of Time in jail			
1-5 times	74	75	149
More than 5 times	1	0	1
Crime			
Fight	10	12	22
Smuggling	18	18	36
Robbery	27	45	72
Sodomy	12	0	12
Rape	8	0	8

Note: f=frequency

Table 3

Pearson Correlation, Mean and Standard Deviation on Self-Doubt, Criminogenic Thinking and Refusal Towards social Norms (N=150)

Variable	1	2	3
1. Self-Doubt	---	.25**	.59***
2. Criminogenic thinking	---	---	.35***
3. Refusal towards social norms	---	---	---
M	39.19	2.94	45.79
SD	2.25	.28	4.56

Note: M=Mean, SD=Standard deviation, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 3 shows results of Pearson correlation analysis among study variables. Findings revealed that self-doubt is positively correlated with the criminal thinking. Self-doubt is positively correlated with refusal of social norms and shows highly significant value.

Table 4

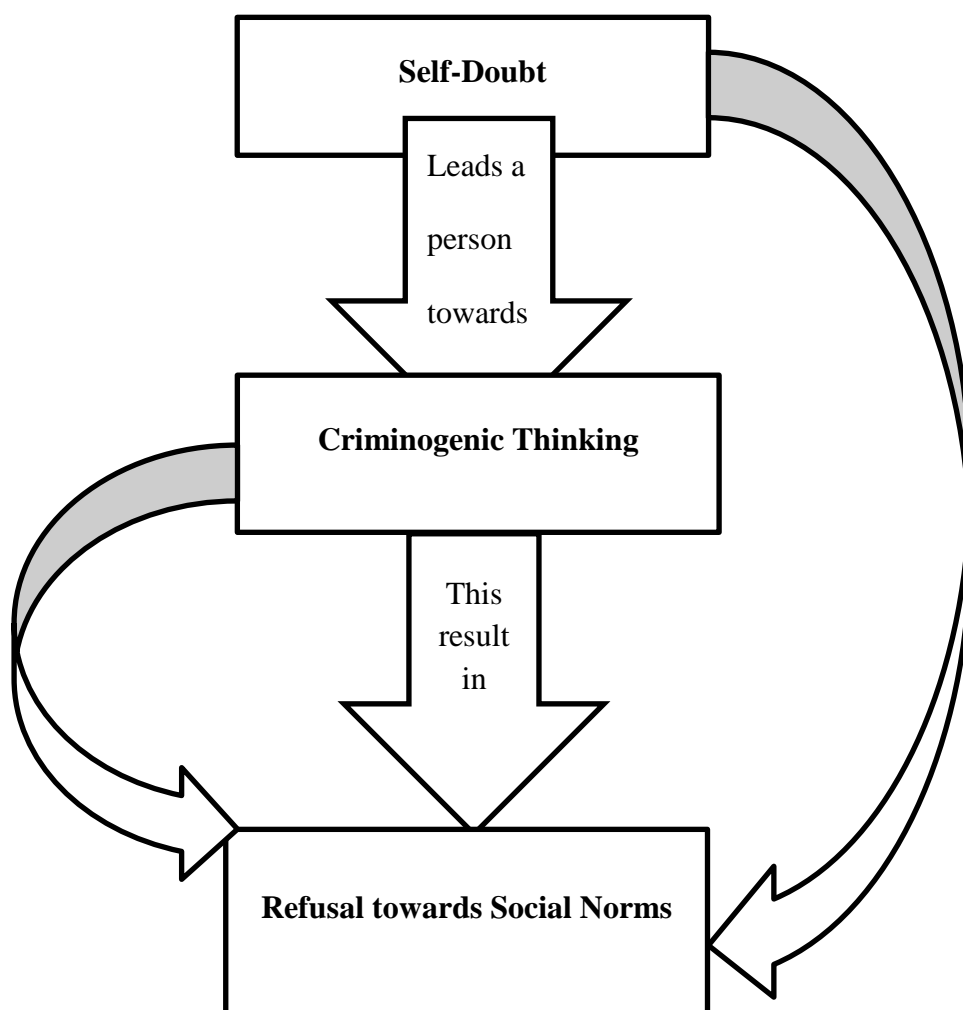
Simple linear Regression analysis for Criminogenic Thinking and Refusal towards Social Norms among prisoners (N=150)

Variables	B	SEB	β	t	p
Self-doubt	.735	.09	.54	8.26	.001***
Criminogenic thinking	5.60	1.23	.35	4.55	.001***

Note=F (20.6). *** $p < .001$, β =Beta

In table 4 results indicate that there is strong and significant relationship among self-doubt, criminal thinking and refusing social norms. Criminal thinking strongly predict refusal towards social norms. And Self-doubt also predict refusal of social norms.

Graphic presentation of summary findings:



It is concluded that self-doubt had relationship with the refusal of social norms as well as with criminogenic thinking. Criminogenic thinking was significantly positive correlated with refusal of social norms. It does not have only relationship but also predict refusal. Those prisoners who have self –doubt can develop criminal thinking as well which will leads them to refuse social norms.

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