

Investigating the Effect of Old and New Sectors on Bringing Out Deviant Subcultures in Shiraz

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Abstract

The unbridled and abnormal urbanization as well as formation of new sectors and parishes has increased crime and delinquency in cities. Simultaneously decreasing relative stability and rapid social changes has caused youths to create various subcultures in search for finding their lost identity and satisfying their immediate needs.

This research aims at studying the impact of individual, social and spatial factors affecting the formation of deviant subcultures of youths. Theoretical framework has been designed through synthesizing some theories including subculture theories, ecological theories, Sutherland's theory of differential association and semiotic theory of Lynch. Using Lin table, a sample of 600 persons was interviewed.

Results show that there are significant relationships between dependent variable - tendency to deviant subculture - and independent variables including years of residence, residential concentration, dependency to friends, number of delinquent friends, disruption of family, age, gender, education, family income, family surveillance, existence of criminal in family, and dependency to deviant subculture. These variables all together have explained 63 percent of the variance of dependent variable.

Key words: delinquency, subculture, urban contexts, youth, Shiraz.

Introduction

Skyrocketing population and the migration of the villagers to the urban centers in the developing countries have brought about the formation of spatial structures of cities in an irregular and heterogeneous way. The settlement of the villagers with different languages, races, worldviews, types of work, value systems, and ideals in rural areas have caused increase in the density and the extent of urban space along with huge cultural, social, and economic differences. Vertical and horizontal growth of the cities caused a decrease in the

authority of the primitive groups along with a variety of behavioral standards and criteria within cities and as a result of these two factors people have become unable to understand and accept the correct way and cannot distinguish acceptable behavior and right thought.

Heterogeneous populations with dissimilar interests, values, and positions, have developed various subcultures with their special value systems, norms, and also life styles. The increasing growth of communications has qualified people living in a certain area to get familiar with different subcultures and value systems which, in some cases, have been in conflict with dominant norms of the society and to relinquish them if wanted. Divergent deviant subcultures among the young generation emerge when the society does not recognize the youth, and there replicated patterns offered by the parents are supposed to belong to the past generation and hence are obsolete and outmoded. From the moment the young individual establishes contact with other groups, such replicated patterns become the source of innumerable conflicts which intensify in their adolescence. Such factors have raised the possibility of getting familiar with and accepting the behavioral patterns of the peers and surrounding people, specifically those who live in the local area, for the youth.

Due to immigration to Shiraz and also the existence of different groups and races in its different areas, and accordingly, the break in the informal social controls conducted by primary groups in the social environment, the possibility of observing social nonconformity in the environment increases; and hence, a familiarity with the urban sectors and districts along with other factors is the first step in identifying the social pathologies and planning to solve them. As the title of this paper suggests clearly, the main purpose of this study is “an investigation into the effect of old and new sectors on bringing out deviant subcultures in Shiraz”.

Literature Review

In 2012, a research titled “A Social Investigation into the Causes of the Extent of Social Harms among Those Living on the Outskirts of Tehran” was conducted by Tavassoli and Noormoradi. District 4 Tehran (Khak-e-Sefid) was the area under study in this research. The main concern of the researchers in this study was studying and understanding the factors that may cause social harm. The study follows a survey methodology and the researchers collected the data through questionnaires and interviews. The sample population, on the basis of Cochran formula, is 374 householders who live on the outskirts of Khak-e-Sefid district of Tehran, and the researchers have compared them with the same number of householders who do not live on the outskirts of the district 4. The research findings show that sexual misconduct, theft and lack of social security are among the most significant social harms of Khak-e-Sefid. The most pivotal suggestion and request of the respondents were deploying more security forces and police officers to the area. They also wanted immediate actions of the social authorities so as to reduce and control such harms through remedial planning and effective social interventions (Tavassoli and Noormoradi 2012).

In 2010, another study entitled “Slum Dwellers and Social Crimes” was undertaken by Hekmatnia and Afshani. This research is a case study of Yazd. The major hypothesis of this study is that there is a relationship between poor economic and living situation of the slum dwellers and social crime perpetration. The researchers employ a survey method in their study. The statistical population of the study consists of all of the households dwelling in Yazd. The sample population of the study was 282 persons living in the slum parts of Yazd and who were interviewed face-to-face. Research findings indicate that there is a significant relationship between unemployment, family income, and social crime perpetration. The findings also show that there is a significant relationship between migration, parent’s education, and social crime perpetration (Hekmatnia and Afshani 2010).

Patrick McCrystal et al., in a study conducted on fifty-one young people, all aged 14-15 years, and who were at high risk to substance abuse, show that the school based prevention programs are not of great help. The reason behind this is that the students need pervasive and full-time support which is not possible for schools and that further and specialized resources are required to fully meet their needs. The research findings point out that the students with greater risk-taking ability are more liable to committing crimes than those with less risk-taking capacity (McCrystal, Higgins and Percy 2006).

Leea et al., in a study about the relationship between alcohol use and delinquency, carried out on 955 high school students of 3 different locations within South Korea, emphasize on the role of peers in crime perpetration. This study shows that people try to attract attention through drinking alcohol, and there is a positive relationship between drinking alcohol and crime perpetration on the one hand, and risk-taking and hazardous behaviors on the other. Furthermore, the research testifies to negative associations of both alcohol consuming and delinquency with parental relations, valuing academic achievement, and shared values, and positive associations with friends' risk behaviors (Leea, Bellb and Watsonb 2007).

Theoretical Framework of the Current Study

The theory employed in this study is a combination of the subcultural, ecological, and semantic theories of Lynch and differential association theory of Sutherland. The major hypotheses of this study have been based on such four theories.

E. W. Burgess suggested the concentric zone model in 1923 for North American cities. His model was generally based on his studies of Chicago (Pitzl 2004, 36). According to this model, city grows outwards from a central area in a series of rings. The largeness of the rings may differ; however, the order does not alter. CBD (central business district and actually all of its accompanied entertainment, financial, cultural and office sectors) is placed at the center of this model. Other rings surrounding the first circle are as follows:

- 1) Zone of transition (accommodated the poor, untrained, and underprivileged citizens);
- 2) Zone of the working class (housed the individual working class citizens);
- 3) Zone of better residence (middle class professional, blue-collar workers resided in this part);
- 4) Commuter's zone ('bright light' areas; high value residential sections for persons of management positions) (Sims 2001, 40).

Burgess believed that the crime rate would differ depending on the distances to the center (Weisburd, Bernasco and Bruinsm 2009, 11). He believed that in the 'zone of transition,' due to high levels of population mobility and density, high rates of migration, and destruction of homes, we would observe high rates of crime (Sims 2001, 40). On the other hand, the outer three zones were of less significance regarding crime perpetration. This is because, as a fact, the farther people could move out of the city, you could notice less social ills in the neighborhood (Tibbetts 2012, 131). Certain features of the zone of transition such as poor housing, the growing encroachment of central business district, and population turnover enfeebled family and communal ties (Green 2014, 11).

Lynch considered urban space as a realm of identity recognition. One of most pivotal theoretical concepts that Lynch put forward was the notion of 'legibility,' by which he meant "the ease with which [the city's] parts can be recognized and can be organized into a coherent pattern" (Lynch 1960, 2-3). Lynch considered legibility as something that evolved over time for urban dwellers as a function of people's cognitive responses to the quantity and complication of distinctive elements they come across. Lynch puts emphasis on the harmonious distribution of population in the geographic area of the city and district and repudiates the concentration and centralization of the population. In his *The Image of the City* (1960), Lynch focuses on three main elements as the environmental images:

- 1) identity, an object recognized as a distinct identity;

- 2) structure, the spatial or pattern relationship between the object and other objects, and between the object and the observer; and
- 3) meaning, the utilitarian meaning of the object to the observer (Malnar and Vodvarka 2004, 117).

Lynch tries to sustain balance among his five categories of urban space which are paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks so as to let the citizens find their 'urban identity' or feel belonging to it (Malnar and Vodvarka 2004, 117). Based on this theory, the researcher can study the individuals living in a neighborhood and their rate of attachment to the neighborhood and the sense of identity-finding, and show the boundaries of the neighborhood based on the district's rate of meaning making in dwellers' understanding of the neighborhood. This theory can be employed to redefine the boundaries of a neighborhood without recourse to the formal, defined space.

Albert Cohen's *Delinquent Boys* (1955) epitomizes one of the most critical delinquency theories. This theory is an extension of the work of Robert Merton and heralds prospective Mertonian-type theories, such as Robert Agnew's general strain theory. Cohen studied delinquency among working class boys and came to know that it was a direct upshot of strain, specifically the strain related to not being able to attain middle-class objectives. Working class neighborhoods foster subcultures containing primarily young generation and these subcultures function as a source of adjustment to issues such as strain (Franzese 2009, 50). Juvenile delinquency which is a reaction against middle-class values emerges out of these subcultures: juvenile delinquency is "... an 'irrational,' 'malicious,' 'unaccountable' hostility to the enemy within the gates as well as without: the norms of the respectable middle-class society" (Cohen 1955, 133). Cohen assumes that lower-class parents do not sufficiently socialize their children in connection with the widely accepted values and norms (Regol, Hewitt and DeLisi 2014, 160). Putting Cohen's theory into practice, the researcher can identify the youth delinquency in deteriorated and settler neighborhoods and also spots the delinquents' attempt to promote their social status by seeking recourse to deviant behaviors by getting in contact with deviant groups.

One of the most direct and comprehensible theories of deviance and criminality is that of Sutherland's (Franzese 2009, 80). Sutherland argues that:

- 1) Criminal behavior is learned behavior and hence, not congenital;
- 2) Learning is a by-product of interaction;
- 3) This learning happens mainly and most impressively within small intimate groups;
- 4) The learning of criminal behavior contains both attitudes and techniques;
- 5) People simultaneously learn attitudes that are both favorable and unfavorable toward unlawful and accepted behavior;
- 6) People are more likely to commit law-breaking manners when they have an excess of definitions favorable to law violation over those unfavorable to law violation;
- 7) People's associations vary in terms of frequency, duration, intensity, and priority; and
- 8) Criminal behavior is an expression of the same interests that persons would have in engaging in other (law-abiding) behavior. (Prus and Grills 2003, 28)

Based on Sutherland's theory, a person becomes a felon when he or she realizes more favorable than unfavorable consequences to breaching the law. Individuals become delinquents when they are in contact with people, groups, or events that produce an excess of definitions toward criminality (Siegel 2012, 237). According to this theory, we can study the prevalence and severity of deviance among the young individuals based on interaction with deviant subculture and being affected by the other peers.

The theories of criminal subcultures distinguish the young people from crime and assume that criminal acts are committed by those who have not yet reached legal age. They focus on the criminal behavior perpetrated by the lower class young generation in terms of the features of their subculture such as values, language and

lifestyles. According to the subculture theorists, delinquent behavior is mostly carried out by the lower class criminal groups.

Ecological theorists have argued that population size, residential and social density, and social disharmony associated with urban life lead to the destruction of the social supports and their close ties with formal control mechanisms and bureaucratic institutions. The weakening of social ties and supports among slum dwellers diminish the role of family and primary groups. Based on the differential association theory of Sutherland, the young people imitate others in the process of learning and they learn some of the delinquent behaviors like aggression and violation.

Hypotheses

- 1) It seemsthat there is a relationship between age and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 2) It seems that there is a relationship between family monitoringand the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 3) It seems that there is a relationship between education and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 4) It seems that there is a relationship between religious practices and thetendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 5) It seems that there is a relationship between the sense of belonging to the living place and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 6) It seems that there is a relationship between gender and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 7) It seems that there is a relationship between family disruption and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 8) It seems that there is a relationship between feelings ofautonomyand the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 9) It seems that there is a relationship between having an offender in the family and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 10) It seems that there is a relationship between the years of residence in the neighborhoodand the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 11) It seems that there is a relationship between familiarity and communicationwith the neighbors and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 12) It seems that there is a relationship between dependence on friends and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 13) It seems that there is a relationship between the number of delinquent friends and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 14) It seems that there is a relationship between family income and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 15) It seems that there is a relationship between the intimacy between family members and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 16) It seems that there is a relationship between residential density and tendency towards deviant subcultures.
- 17) It seems that there is a relationship between the settlement area and the tendency towards deviant subcultures.

Methodology

The current study is based on a quantitative approach and employs a survey method so as to collect the required data. The instrument employed in this research has been questionnaire. Statistical population of the

study is all of the 15-29 years old young people living in Shiraz which come to 490,000 individuals (240631 men and 236656 women). Sample population of the study, on the basis of the total population of 490,000, with a confidence level of 0.95, 0.05 of error, 50:50 parameter, has been 597 on the basis of Lin table. According to the statistical population, 300 people have been singled out 300 people from every sector as the respondents (152 men and 148 women).

The collected data through questionnaire were processed through SPSS and the data were analyzed on two levels. On descriptive level, using the frequency distribution of the variables and intersection tables of the independent variables with dependent variables a clear image of population distribution of the current study is offered. On the explanation level, so as to compare the averages F test and T test have been employed. To test the hypotheses and show the correlation between the variables at interval scale, Pearson correlation coefficient is employed. So as to show the simultaneous relationship of several variables with the dependent variable and their analysis multiple variable regression is used and also to show the cause and effect relationships path analysis has been conducted.

Results of the Descriptive Data

The most pivotal findings of the study are as follows: the largest number of the respondents, with a frequency of 234 people (39%) is in the 20-24 age bracket.

The largest number of respondents, frequency of 234 patients (39%) is between the age group 20 to 24 years. Regarding gender, 50.7% were men and the remaining 49.3% women. 68.4% held diplomas are higher education certificate and 31.6% did not hold a diploma. The highest percentage of respondents (36.8%) earns between 160 to 200 dollars and the lowest percentage belongs to those who earn between 80 to 120 dollars a month.

39% of the respondents considered themselves as belonging to middle class, 29% higher classes, and 32% lower classes. 49.7% of the respondents had personal houses, but the remaining 50.3% had rented houses. People living in houses had the highest rate of frequency (52.7%) and those who lived in the houses with shared courtyards were the least frequent (15.8%). Those who had lived for 3 years in the neighborhood were of the highest frequency (22.5%) and the individuals who had lived for 7 years in the area were of the least frequency (2.2%). 36.3% of the respondents had incomes and 63.7 percent of them didn't.

Inferential Statistics

Based on the findings of this study, there was a significant relationship between the independent variables of years of residence in the neighborhood, residential density, dependence on friends, the number of delinquent friends, family disruption, gender, having a criminal in the family, belonging and attachment to place of residence, and religious practices and the dependent variable tendency to deviant subcultures. These variables totally could explain $R^2=0.63$ of the changes of the dependent variable.

Table 1: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of age brackets.

Age brackets	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
15-19	203	25.67	9.7	27.73	0.000
20-24	234	30.52	7.85		
25-29	163	24.5	8.69		

Table 2: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of family control.

Family control	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Very much	69	35.59	6.20	96	0.000
Relatively a lot	151	34.03	6.57		
Partially	69	24.39	9.18		
Relatively low	40	24.52	8.88		
Very little	190	25.20	6.37		
None	81	16.76	4.69		

Table 3: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of education.

Education	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Primary School	41	36.58	8.77	21.902	0.000
Junior high	149	25.48	9.98		
Diploma	232	29.08	8.15		
Associate of Arts	96	23.47	8.39		
Bachelor Degree and above	82	69.25	6.47		

Table 4: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of commitment to religious practices.

Family control	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Very much	28	11.50	1.52	87.104	0.000
Relatively a lot	28	28.50	1.52		
162	21.37	7.81	9.18		
Relatively low	94	26.27	7.06		
Very little	126	33.96	9.29		
None	162	31.31	4.49		

Table 5: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of sense of belonging and attachment.

Sense of belonging	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
very much	41	22.97	7.97	10.033	0.000
Relatively a lot	175	25.19	9.29		
Partially	163	28.45	10.34		
Relatively low	28	23	5.09		
Very little	153	30.52	8		
None	40	27.55	3.38		

Table 6: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of gender.

Gender	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Female	304	30.4046	9.26244	5.710	0.017
Male	296	24.1959	7.7844		

Table 7: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of family disruption.

Family disruption	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Father's death	52	28.25	5.01713	50.122	0.000
Mother's death	28	29	3.105505		
Parent's death	26	30	0.000		
Divorce	70	29.6	6.93740		
Father's remarriage	109	35.8807	6.62309		
Mother's remarriage	27	33.6667	4.58258		
None	288	22.4038	8.91643		

Table 8: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of independence rate.

Independence rate	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
very much	28	34	8.14680	75.175	0.000
Relatively a lot	112	35.7232	7.19636		
Partially	13	29	0.000		
Relatively low	41	33.1463	4.55829		
Very little	149	28.0537	5.00511		
None	257	28.537	8.46450		

Table 9: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of having a criminal in the family.

Criminal	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
Father	69	31.89	8.74	38	0.000
Mother	26	32.50	3.56		
Brother	135	32.18	7.54		
Sister	53	29.33	3.55		
None	317	22.53	9.02		
Total	600	27.34	9.10		

Table 10: Pearson correlation coefficient among the independent and dependent variables

Dependent variable	Years of residence	communication with neighbors	Residential density	Dependence on friends	The number of criminal friends	Family disruption	Family intimacy
Tendency towards deviant subculture	0.182	0.398	-0.172	-0.634	0.144	0.079	0.597
Significance Level	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.000

Table 11: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of income.

Income	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	F	Significance Level
80 to 120 \$	40	28.60	1.93	6.143	0.000
120 to 160 \$	42	31.66	7.49		
160 to 200 \$	221	26.19	10.42		
200 to 400 \$	150	29.06	8.85		
400 \$ and more	147	25.72	8.13		

Table 12: Testing the mean difference in tendency towards deviant subcultures in terms of context.

Context	Frequency	Internet Use Average	Standard Deviation	T	Significance Level
Old	300	27.8433	9.43445	1.388	0.239
New	300	26.8400	8.75270		

So as to do the multiple variable regression, dependent variables were used in a stepwise method. As you can observe in table 13, T test shows that Beta coefficient for eight variables at least at the confidence level of 99% is statistically meaningful.

Table 13: The elements of dependent variables for predicting the tendency towards deviant subcultures

Stage	Variable	R	R ²	R ² Ad	F	Sig F	B Coefficient	Beta Coefficient	T	Significance Level
1	Sense of belonging	0.634	0.402	-	401.69	0.000	-1.167	-0.0634	-20.042	0.000
2	Gender	0.639	0.480	0.078	43.275	0.000	5.111	-0.281	9.467	0.000
3	Years of residence	0.734	0.539	0.059	232.60	0.000	-0.325	-0.254	-8.770	0.000
4	Family size	0.756	0.572	0.043	198.50	0.000	-1.002	-0.221	-6.697	0.000
5	Family intimacy	0.747	.0599	0.027	177.80	0.000	0.394	0.276	6.424	0.000
6	Family disorder	0.786	0.618	0.019	160.19	0.000	0.613	0.174	5.431	0.000
7	Communication with neighbors	0.791	0.626	0.008	141.36	0.000	0.406	0.118	3.384	0.000
8	Residential density	0.794	0.631	0.005	126.43	0.000	0.076	0.90	3.973	0.000

In total, 8 variables of dependence on delinquent friends, gender, years of residence, family size, family disorder, and residential density could predict 63% of dependent variable ($R^2=0.63$).

Conclusion

The current study started with 17 hypotheses out of which 16 were proved and one was repudiated. The results of variation analysis show that the variables of family income with a significance level of $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=6.143$, sense of belonging to the residence, with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=10.033$, family control with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=96$, education with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=87.104$, commitment to religious practices with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=87.104$, having a criminal in the family with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=38$, dependence on friends with $\text{Sig}=0.000$ and $F=0.144$, family disruption with $\text{Sig}=0.054$ and $F=0.079$, gender with $\text{Sig}=5.710$ and $F=0.017$ were all proved in variation analysis and the means in each and every category of variables were different. Hence, the hypothesis of H_0 or the hypothesis of no relation is rejected for these variables and the

hypothesis of H_1 is accepted. This study showed that the residential area context is not of significance in enrolling in the deviant subcultures and therefore our main hypothesis was rejected.

With the development and the changes occurred in the social structures and public occasions, modernity has affected various facets of individual and social life, and has exposed human relations to the evolution, change and complication. As the cities developed and highly crowded towns emerged, simple and happy lives based on emotional ties and empathy were replaced by a life based on formal and emotionless relations with excessive individualism, poor social solidarity, failures, hidden suppressed mental complexes, failed dreams, intensified sense of helplessness, frustration and impotency. The outcome of all these factors is the ever-increasing rebellion of people, especially young generation, against social realities and external oppressive forces.

Disobeying the norms of social intercourse, rebellion against the established order, negative response to the external stimuli are among the most important behavioral reactions of some of the individuals or groups in the modern society. In such a condition, those who insist on their abnormal behavior and it lasts for a long time, are called deviant. One of the most critical sections of any study is offering suggestions and solutions. Before that it is necessary to mention that delinquency is not an exclusively legal or demographic issue, it is actually an economic, social, cultural, and political phenomenon, and its causes are not similar from one society to the other. Different regions and areas differ regarding crime, its seriousness and pettiness, the number of commitment, and other factors. Such differences can be observed in the cities, villages and also different regions of the cities. In each and every community, certain factors such as geographical, climactic, social, economic, familial status, educational, occupational conditions and also certain prevailing attitudes are dominant which influence accepted and delinquent behavior.

The suggestions and solutions offered are as follows:

- 1) Noble religious traditions and the supremacy of values such as respecting the parents should be revived;
- 2) Children and their intimate friends should be supervised and controlled.
- 3) Children should be informed and warned regarding the ethical flaws common in the society.
- 4) The deteriorated contexts should be organized and the urban infrastructural problems should be addressed to.
- 5) Non-governmental organizations (NGO) should be strengthened and their professional partnership should be employed.
- 6) Centers of cultural, artistic, sporting and recreational activities should be established for the young people and adolescents.
- 7) More attention should be paid to the family and the various educational, economic, and cultural problems should be obviated by the government.
- 8) Police centers and courts should be stricter on the adult crimes.
- 9) Modern software and hardware methods should be taken advantage of to attract public participation and to increase the safety rate of the cities and to decrease the grounds for delinquency.
- 10) Police officers should know the psychological problems of the youth and their subcultures.

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