



An Analysis the Role and Practices of Investigation: The Comparative Study through the Lens of Criminal Justice System of Pakistan and the UK

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to conduct a comparative analysis of the criminal justice systems in Pakistan and the UK, focusing on their respective roles and investigative procedures. This study employed doctrinal legal research methods to analyze the legislative frameworks, procedural procedures and institutional structures that regulate investigations in Pakistan and the UK. The Researchers was attributing the significant disparities in the study methodology to cultural, historical and institutional factors. The public widely distrusts Pakistan's criminal justice system, attributing to low conviction rates to institutional inefficiencies, widespread corruption, and insufficient resources that hinder investigations. On the other hand, the UK emphasizes the need to maintain professionalism, transparency, and adherence to due process. A commitment to human rights norms, effective supervision systems, and adequately resourced law enforcement organizations facilitate these purposes. This study thoroughly examines legislation, judicial judgments, and academic publications to uncover the differences in research methodology between the two countries. The findings emphasize the crucial need to conduct thorough inquiries to maintain public trust in the criminal justice system. Pakistan must proactively combat corruption, enhance transparency, and strengthen its institutions to rectify its underlying issues. However, the UK places great importance on the principles of due process and accountability, since they play a crucial role in fostering public trust and confidence in investigations. The results of this comparative research shed insight on the difficulties of conducting investigations in diverse legal environments and emphasize possible opportunities for improvement in both nations.

Keywords: Criminal Justice System, Investigation, Police, Legal Frameworks, Deficiencies

1. Introduction

An investigation is an essential component of a criminal court system's proper functioning. It serves as a deterrent for further criminal activities, provides a sense of resolution to the victims, upholds the principles of fairness in society, and guarantees the accountability of the perpetrators for their actions. Despite the inherent dangers and obstacles, the Pakistani police force perseveres in fulfilling this crucial role (Sharma & Nigam, 2021).

1.1. Pakistan Perspective

The CrPC, as well as other provincial and federal statutes and regulations, have a significant impact on Pakistani investigations. Law enforcement agencies, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and other specialist groups like the Anti-Narcotics Force conduct the majority of investigations. When a victim files a complaint or law enforcement agents uncover evidence of criminal behavior, they initiate an investigation. Gathering information, interviewing possible witnesses, collecting forensic samples, and preparing case files for prosecutors are all standard procedures in an investigation (Hussain et al., 2020).

However, conducting effective investigations is one of the many challenges Pakistan's criminal justice system faces. Many problems exist, such as a lack of forensic knowledge, an inadequate budget, outdated facilities, poorly trained personnel, political interference, and corruption. Issues such as witness intimidation, evidence tampering, and delayed justice further impede investigations, leading to low conviction rates and perpetrators' perceptions of impunity (Jibran Jamshed et al., 2020)

1.2. The UK Perspective

In contrast, the UK investigative system is robust and long-standing, with its own set of laws, codes of conduct, and mechanisms for impartial oversight. Law enforcement agencies, including the National Crime Agency (NCA), the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), and the police, conduct investigations into many types of criminal acts. Statutes such as the Human Rights Act, which protects individuals' rights during investigations, and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), which establishes procedures for the gathering and presentation of evidence, govern the investigation process in the UK. Modern forensic expertise, improved investigative tools, and specific training courses all benefit the UK (Newburn et al., 2012)

In addition, bodies such as the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) are crucial for ensuring accountability and maintaining public trust in the investigative process. Despite these benefits, the UK's criminal justice system is not without its flaws. Concerns about monitoring technologies, finding a middle ground between personal liberties and national security, and expanding access to justice in underprivileged communities are also on the list. On top of that, prominent cases of police misconduct or failures in investigations have prompted calls for reforms to increase transparency, accountability, and justice in the system (Stelfox, 2013)

Finally, the role of inquiry and its processes greatly aid in upholding the rule of law, protecting people's rights, and ensuring public safety in the criminal justice systems of Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Different legal,

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institutional, and social circumstances influence the manner in which each country conducts investigations, regardless of whether both countries want to combat crime and serve justice. By addressing existing weaknesses and building on existing strengths it can improve investigative processes in Pakistan and the UK to be more accountable, open and effective in their pursuit of justice and community well-being (Newburn et al., 2012)

1.3. Objectives of this Study

The primary objective of this comparative research is to investigate the functioning of the criminal justice systems in Pakistan and the UK, as well as the nature of the inquiries conducted within these institutions. The objective of this research is to examine the legal systems, institutional capacity, and investigation methods of the two instances and highlight the problems encountered in each. The study aims to enhance the fairness, efficiency, and credibility of the criminal justice systems in both countries by identifying and recommending evidence-based best practices in investigations. It does this by evaluating the efficacy of inquiry techniques and their impact on the legal system's impartiality.

2. Methodology

This study employs the doctrinal legal research method, analyzing the existing legal framework in Pakistan and the UK regarding the impact of a malpractice investigation on a trial through legal reasoning. The present study employs a descriptive approach to understand the role and practices of the current phenomenon. This study analyzes secondary data from books, articles, case law, reports, and reviews to understand the current situation.

2.1. The criminal justice system involves an investigation process

2.1.1. Pakistan perspective

When an informant or an official report provides information about a criminal occurrence, police investigations begin. The duty police officer uses this information to determine the existence of a crime and, if applicable, categorize it based on legally established classifications. Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code mandates that all cases deemed cognizable require the police to file a First Information Report (FIR). They lack the jurisdiction to refuse to do so. However, the police are not required to submit a First Information Report (FIR) if there is no proof of a crime (Sahito, I. H. 2009).

When the police receive a formal complaint regarding a serious crime, they may choose to either start an investigation right away or wait until they have completed the conditions outlined in Section 157 of the Cr.P.C. Exercise caution while employing this power; if the supervising officer chooses not to start an inquiry, they must promptly tell the magistrate and offer a detailed explanation for their decision. Furthermore, the informant is informed of the decision, and if they are available, they are asked to sign the FIR as a confirmation of their acknowledgement of the information. When notified of a potential criminal investigation, a police officer will either visit the scene independently or invite a subordinate to accompany them (Waqar, 2022)

According to Section 172 of the Criminal Procedure Code, it is mandatory to keep a detailed record of all actions taken in a case diary. When a crime goes undiscovered, the officer in charge of the station files a formal complaint with the magistrate and records the incident in the daily notebook. Subsequently, the magistrate may authorize a police probe. The police's investigation authority, once approved, is identical to that of cognizable cases, except for the ability to arrest, which requires a court warrant (Jibran Jamshed et al., 2020)

2.1.2. The UK perspective

Identifying the accountable individuals and conducting punishment in a systematic, ethical, and proficient manner is the primary objective of any criminal investigation. Finally, this contributes to crime prevention, enhances trust in law enforcement, and decreases both crime apprehension and actual crime rates. The Code of Practice of the Criminal Framework and Investigations Act of 1996 establishes the structure for conducting investigations in many scenarios, such as potential criminal offenses, cases involving missing individuals, and traffic accidents. The methodological foundation of this approach promotes impartiality, ethical conduct, and adherence to legal requirements, making it beneficial for all stakeholders, including police and staff investigators. The Home Office's Code of Practice for Victims of Crime highlights that effective crime recording has many advantages, including the availability of trustworthy data, the ability to process victim claims, and the facilitation of follow-up investigations. This approach allows law enforcement organizations to efficiently allocate resources, prioritize intricate or critical cases, and maintain a consistent quality of investigation for all cases (King, M.2023).

Three fundamental principles underpin the thorough and multi-faceted investigative process in the British criminal justice system: uncovering the truth, bringing perpetrators to justice, and safeguarding people's rights. Typically, the process starts when a civilian notifies the police about a criminal incident. After receiving the complaint, the police immediately went to the location to thoroughly record and save any evidence to ensure its credibility. One potential phase in this procedure is collecting tangible evidence such as fingerprints, DNA samples, and forensic materials, as well as obtaining witness testimonies and any accessible CCTV video. Detectives thoroughly examine the gathered evidence, sometimes consulting with forensic experts, in order to discover crucial clues and establish cause-and-effect connections between the offender and the crime (Dawnay & Sheppard, 2023).

Interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects is essential for gathering crucial information about the event and its circumstances. Without conducting these interviews, the investigation cannot progress. The meticulously perform the interviews to ensure accurate and ethical documentation of all pertinent facts. It is subjected detained or

arrested suspects to intense questioning and interrogation, adhering to legal rules and protections to safeguard their rights (King, 2023).

Forensic evidence analysis is a crucial method for validating the accuracy of witness testimonies and testimony. It involves a diverse array of procedures, including DNA testing and ballistics investigations. Furthermore, the thorough documentation of the inquiry process, which encompasses all activities and decisions, ensures transparency and accountability. After collecting and scrutinizing enough evidence, prosecutors decide whether to file criminal charges against the accused. If the prosecutors find the charges justified, they will bring the matter to court, where a judge and jury will hear testimony based on the gathered evidence throughout the inquiry. The trial process upholds justice, fairness, and the rule of law by allowing for the comprehensive examination and cross-examination of witnesses and evidence, ultimately resulting in a judgment (Kinsella, 2023).

Regardless of the outcome of the investigation, the British criminal justice system consistently aims to uphold justice, protect the rights of all parties involved, and hold those responsible for their actions accountable. The investigation process, characterized by scrupulous attention to detail, adherence to legal standards, and cooperation among law enforcement agencies, plays a crucial role in uncovering the truth and assigning accountability, thereby becoming an indispensable component of the judicial system (Dawnay & Sheppard, 2023).

2.2. The Pakistan's criminal investigation system

The criminal justice system's efficacy rests on large and successful criminal investigations, vital for proving guilt and upholding justice. However, given the evolving nature of crimes, modernizing investigative procedures, especially with the application of forensic science, is vital. Unfortunately, Pakistan has major challenges in this area, accentuated by a lack of modern investigative techniques and poorly qualified police officers. Moreover, institutional problems like abuse of authority, caste dynamics, and the inability to recognize errors contribute to the degradation of the inquiry system (Rana & Imran). Consequently, the low conviction rates, ranging from 5 to 10 percent, illustrate the restrictions in investigator training, access to vital information, and the prosecution procedure. External involvement, intimidation, and the lack of witness protection further hamper the legal process, enabling serious lawbreakers to dodge punishment. To restore public confidence and reinforce the system's legitimacy, broad legislative amendments, vigorous enforcement of laws, and priority of pre-trial processes are required. By fostering a culture of responsibility and professionalism among judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement forces, Pakistan may aim towards a more effective and fair criminal justice system (Jatoi, Leghari & Tahir, 2023).

2.3. The UK's criminal investigation system

Initiating a criminal complaint with the authorities in the UK is the first stage of a methodical procedure that culminates in an investigation. Swift intervention by law enforcement enables them to establish control over the area, collect evidence, and then send it to a forensics laboratory for examination. If law enforcement finds sufficient evidence, they conduct interviews and interrogations to gather additional information, potentially leading to an arrest and the filing of charges. Prosecutors carefully assess the evidence before making a decision on the charges. Once the prosecution files charges, they present their case to the court for a decision. If the court finds the accused guilty, they will then impose a sentence (King, 2023).

2.4. Legal frameworks for the criminal investigation

2.4.1. Pakistan perspective

The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in Pakistan sets down the fundamental principles for conducting criminal investigations and provides police officials with clear standards to adhere to. This research aims to recognize and uphold the rights of individuals throughout the entire process of arrest, search, and seizure. To achieve this objective, it delineates the roles and jurisdiction of law enforcement in many areas. The Criminal Procedure Code sets out certain criteria for conducting investigations, collecting evidence, and presenting cases in court in order to uphold the principles of justice and maintain the credibility of the criminal justice system. By providing explicit guidelines for interrogating suspects, gathering testimonies, and presenting evidence in court, it promotes the transparent and efficient settlement of criminal cases (Ghani et al., 2022).

The Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) is a legal framework that delineates the prescribed punishments for certain criminal offenses. The primary legislation that regulates criminal behavior in Pakistan is the main body of substantive law. Its solid foundation allows for exhaustive investigations and judicial proceedings against those who violate it. The PPC comprises a wide range of offenses, including those committed against persons, their property, and the state. The PPC provides explicit definitions of unlawful actions and their corresponding penalties, promoting accountability and discouraging further misconduct. This may be necessary to ensure the preservation of law and order in society (Shah & Mahmood, 2023).

The Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order is Pakistan's governing legislation that establishes guidelines and procedures for admitting and assessing evidence during court investigations. Establishing guidelines upholds the integrity and objectivity of the criminal justice system, ensuring the legitimacy and fairness of expert testimony, factual evidence, and statistics. The order safeguards the accused's rights by ensuring the authenticity, reliability, and conclusiveness of the evidence presented in court. The Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order upholds the ideals of stability and fairness in order to maintain the legitimacy of criminal proceedings and foster public trust in the judicial system (Khan & Bhatti, 2023).

The Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) establishes legal guidelines for the investigation and prosecution of acts related to terrorism in Pakistan. The Act grants law enforcement agencies enhanced powers to detect and preempt terrorist acts, while also ensuring efficient and expeditious treatment of terrorist criminal matters. The American Tragedy Act (ATA) authorizes the creation of specialized terrorism courts, the questioning and confinement of those suspected of terrorism, and the enforcement of harsh punishments for acts of terrorism. The Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) improves national security, well-being, and safety by establishing a strong legal structure for combating terrorism (Rahman, Sadiq & Shah, 2023).

The regulation of forensic science laboratories in Pakistan is within the purview of the Act on Forensic Science Laboratories. The Forensic Science Laboratories Act also outlines the specific conditions for admitting forensic evidence in court. By guaranteeing the accuracy and reliability of forensic analysis conducted during investigations, it elevates the standard for evidence presented in court. In order to ensure compliance with international standards, the Act requires the implementation of regulations that control the accreditation and operation of forensic laboratories in order to guarantee compliance with international standards (Masudi, J. A. 2023).

The Act simplifies the use of forensic scientists in criminal investigations, improving the legal system's capacity to accurately identify and punish offenders. Despite its increasing significance in global criminal investigations, Pakistan has long undervalued forensic science. Given the significant increase in terrorist attacks, the government has built and enhanced forensic laboratories to assist in criminal investigations, thereby fulfilling this need. After the events of 2001, the government established organizations like the National Forensic Science Agency (NFSA) (Asif & Qayum, 2023) and the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) to modernize the forensic infrastructure (Kausar, Leghari & Soomro). These firms excel in many fields, such as genomic analysis, digital forensics, and crime scene investigation. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have established a greater number of forensic facilities compared to Balochistan and Sindh. However, there are also ongoing initiatives in those provinces. At PFSA, the ability to use DNA databases has introduced a revolutionary period of criminal investigation. Establishing forensic facilities nationwide is vital to accelerate the dispensation of justice, since the increasing reliance on forensic evidence has led to a mounting backlog in case processing (Asif & Qayum, 2023).

The Pakistan Police Order 2002 is significant legislation that clearly outlines the police force's jurisdiction, power, and responsibilities in the country. The 2002 Police Order sought to streamline and modernize the police force. The project aimed to enhance the efficiency, clarity, and responsibility of Pakistan's police forces (Shah & Mahmood, 2023).

2.4.2. The UK Perspective

A viewpoint from an English standpoint the common law authorizes law enforcement authorities to investigate criminal activities. However, the police are now subject to strict regulations, including the Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) of 2016, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) of 1984, and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) of 2000. Ensuring compliance with these standards is essential for maintaining proper, legal, and morally upright investigative practices (Glover, P. 2023).

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 (PACE) firmly establish the power for police investigations. The Act significantly limits crucial police skills, such as the ability to conduct interviews, collect biometric information, make arrests, detain people, and do searches on private property. An intricate legal framework ensures fairness, suitability, and the protection of individual rights during police investigations. It is important to mention that these authorities sometimes engage with and coincide with other relevant legislation. When officers follow the PACE rules, they can exercise their jurisdiction under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). Section 67 of the PACE rules mandates that police officers must take into account and comply with all pertinent regulations when carrying out their duties. There are a total of seven codes that provide extensive information on PACE's characteristics and include different areas. Police agencies may refer to PACE Code H for specific instructions on how to legally hold people in compliance with anti-terrorism rules. Several PACE statutes exceed the standard by providing legal assistance in compliance with the relevant PACE authority. This comprehensive collection of rules ensures that authorities will lawfully utilize their authority and adhere to specified processes (Turner & Corteen, 2023).

The police have the authority to disperse protests that produce or pose a danger of disturbance, as stated in the second clause of the Public Order Act of 1986. To manage such protests, law enforcement has access to three distinct tools provided by this Act. According to the Public Order Act of 1986, organizers of protest marches must provide prior notification to the police. Law enforcement authorities might enhance their ability to handle disruptions to public order by mandating the provision of prior notification for planned protests (McCabe et al., 2023)

2.5. Flaws during the criminal investigation

2.5.1. Pakistan perspective

Insufficient investigations in criminal cases have led to significant delays in the dispensation of justice, causing several inmates to languish in jail for years while awaiting trial outcomes. When faced with the deficiencies of the judicial system, several indigenous cultures choose unconventional and outdated methods to establish guilt or innocence, such as immersing oneself in icy water or traversing a fire barefoot. These actions, reminiscent of

archaic trial by torture procedures, demonstrate the erosion of confidence among Pakistani society towards police investigations. Events like the February 2007 incident, where authorities forced a man to undergo a risky test to prove his innocence, reinforce the public's perception of law enforcement as untrustworthy and incompetent. Following prominent events like the death of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and demands for international investigators, the general public became disillusioned with the impartiality and effectiveness of the Pakistani police force (Rafiq, 2023).

The Pakistan police force faces challenges in conducting comprehensive criminal investigations due to a lack of money, poor training, and political party meddling. Hierarchical administration and a lack of coordination between federal and provincial law enforcement agencies contribute to the ineffectiveness and disorganization. Accusations of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, and potential acts of torture often cast the police, whose primary responsibility is to uphold law and order, as corrupt and unaccountable. The public's confidence in police enforcement diminishes due to several factors, such as indiscriminate detentions and fabricated confrontations. The presence of corrupt practices such as bribery and extortion within the police force highlights inherent faults in the system and a deficiency in holding individuals accountable, thereby worsening these problems. Critics blame the police force's promotion system and hierarchical structure for their partiality and lack of meritocracy. The combination of police ineptitude, structural problems and external pressures contributes to the erosion of Pakistan's image for administering fair and unbiased justice (Iqbal, Saleem & Baig 2023).

According to Tajmal (2023) the primary issue facing Pakistan's police force is the contradictory expectations placed on officers, who are responsible for both maintaining public safety and carrying out criminal investigations. Due to the distinct skill requirements of the two professions, it is challenging for officers to excel in both. In addition, the implementation of preventative measures may require a significant amount of time, which could impede the progress of comprehensive criminal investigations. This problem undermines the efficiency of the criminal justice system and is widespread in impoverished nations. In order to tackle this problem, it is essential to develop specialized units for conducting criminal investigations. This will enable ordinary police officers to concentrate on upholding public safety and lowering crime rates. The division of powers is crucial in guaranteeing the protection of the general public and the dependability of criminal investigations (Khuram et al., 2024).

The Supreme Court, in Criminal Petition No. 887-L of 2013, emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive restructuring of the methods used by law enforcement organizations in conducting investigations. The court highlighted the need to provide officers with specialized training in forensic science and recognized the crucial role that forensic science plays in modernizing investigations. Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar appointed Justice Ayesha A. Malik to author the ruling that addressed Mohammad Ramzan's appeal against the Lahore High Court's acquittal of Khizar Hayat from murder charges. On April 28, 2009, an extra session's judge in Khushab issued the first conviction, which the Supreme Court later reversed (Khuram et al., 2024).

Justice Malik criticized the prosecution for only relying on eyewitness testimony, which he found to be inconsistent and without corroborating evidence. Despite their presence at the murder site, she questioned the dependability and trustworthiness of the witnesses. Justice Malik emphasized the need to guarantee that the accused receives equitable treatment, as stated in Article 10A of the Constitution. She highlighted the many contradictions and issues in the prosecution's case and expressed regret that they were unable to prove the defendant's guilt with a high level of certainty. The court's ruling emphasized the significance of forensic science in providing impartial evidence and strengthening the criminal justice system. Although forensic proof is necessary to prove a suspect's guilt, this case lacks such evidence. The prosecution's argument was unconvincing, and there was insufficient evidence to support the conviction. As a result, the court agreed with the high court's decision to exonerate the accused. In order to ensure the credibility of the criminal justice system, the ruling has prompted law enforcement organizations to incorporate forensic science into their investigation tactics and revamp existing approaches (Khuram et al., 2024).

In the Haider Ali and Others vs. DPO Chakwal and Others case, the Pakistani Supreme Court expressed concerns about the investigating authorities' inadequate understanding of key elements of criminal investigations. The initial delay in securing the crime scene increased the potential for public contamination before evidence collection. Furthermore, the detectives demonstrated a lack of proficiency in gathering crucial evidence, including fingerprints, blood samples, hair strands, fibers, and clothes, from the murder scene. Moreover, the protocols for effectively eliminating fingerprints from different objects and guaranteeing their appropriate assessment for investigative purposes were insufficient. Additionally, the court emphasized the ineffectiveness of obtaining forensic laboratory data and presenting it as reliable evidence in trials. Pakistan's top courts produced rulings that reflected similar views, emphasizing the ongoing obstacles faced by criminal investigations. In *Ali Sher v. State*, the investigating officer's lack of sufficient evidence and disregard for scientific methods led to the accused's acquittal. In *G. M. Niaz v. State*, the court overturned the conviction due to its failure to contact key witnesses and provide crucial evidence, including blood-stained clothes. Due to the investigating officer's tardiness in transmitting the crime scene evidence to forensic laboratories, the prosecution in *Ali Bux v. State* found the evidence inadmissible, ultimately leading to the accused's acquittal (Ghani, Ayu & Ras, 2022).

These examples illustrate the urgent need for a complete overhaul of Pakistan's criminal investigative mechanism. It is crucial that the police conducting investigations get sufficient training and resources to guarantee the

appropriate management of crime scenes, the gathering of evidence, and cooperation with forensic labs. Establishing rigorous monitoring protocols is crucial to holding investigators accountable for any procedural errors that could potentially compromise the integrity of criminal investigations and subsequent legal procedures.

2.5.2. The UK perspective

Issues in criminal investigations may have an impact on the fair and effective functioning of the judicial system, even in a nation like the UK, which has a strong legislative framework and well-trained police officers. The inadequate security protocols used at crime sites are a common problem. Law enforcement often fails to recognize the significance of safeguarding the crime scene from contamination or the potential loss of vital evidence. This inaccuracy has the potential to undermine the dependability of forensic analysis and increase the difficulty of determining culpability or innocence. Furthermore, obtaining evidence via improper means increases the likelihood of committing mistakes that might hinder its admissibility in court. The errors, such as mishandling tangible evidence and neglecting digital evidence, may compromise the successful conclusion of criminal proceedings (Baig et al., 2024)

2.6. A comparative study in Pakistan and the UK

The Police Rules and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) serve as the primary regulatory frameworks for investigations in Pakistan. Nevertheless, the confidence of the general public in the police force has significantly declined as a result of numerous accusations of corruption, instances of police misconduct, and interference by political entities. Unaddressed investigative errors or abuses frequently remain without punishment as a result of deficiencies in Pakistan's oversight protocols (Hussain et al., 2020). In contrast, the Codes of Practice and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) establish a robust legal framework for criminal investigations in the United Kingdom. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and other comparable autonomous oversight organizations guarantee transparency and accountability in police investigations. The public in the United Kingdom trusts investigations because of the strong legal protections and judicial supervision in place (Glover, 2023).

Pakistani law enforcement faces significant challenges such as insufficient training, a lack of resources and dependence on outdated investigation methods. Insufficient funding and infrastructure hinder investigators from conducting comprehensive and scientifically rigorous investigations, resulting in low effectiveness (Iqbal, Saleem & Baig 2023). In contrast, police forces in the UK possess cutting-edge forensic equipment, advanced investigative techniques, and abundant training prospects. Investigators enhance their capabilities through a dedication to continuous learning and specialized training in fields such as computer forensics and crime scene investigation. Sufficient resources enable efficient investigations in the UK, thereby increasing the overall effectiveness of law enforcement endeavors (Baig et al., 2024).

Pakistan's forensic expertise may fall short of international standards due to a variety of factors, such as insufficient training and resources, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to forensic laboratories. The reliance on eyewitness testimony and circumstantial evidence is a consequence of delays in forensic analysis and a lack of standardized procedures for evidence collection and processing, which result in inefficiencies in investigations (Masudi, 2023). On the other hand, the UK offers modern forensic techniques, well-known forensic labs, and extensively trained professionals. To effectively identify criminals and present convincing evidence in court, the use of modern tools such as DNA analysis, digital forensics, and ballistics is crucial in investigations. Investigators use rigorous quality control measures to ensure the reliability and correctness of forensic analysis, thereby enhancing the credibility of investigative results (McCabe et al., 2023)

Lack of community policing initiatives in Pakistan has resulted in a lack of trust between residents and their local law enforcement agencies, as the latter fail to establish effective communication channels. The public's trust in law enforcement diminishes upon learning about instances of capricious detentions, misconduct, and misuse of power. This impedes collaboration in investigations and hampers the police's ability to efficiently deter crime (Ghani, Ayu & Ras, 2022).

The police are fundamental component of law enforcement in the UK where officers actively interact with local communities to establish trust and address issues. The presence of robust connections within the community enables enhanced collaboration in identifying and preventing criminal activities, thereby facilitating more effective data gathering and proactive interventions by law enforcement agencies. Transparent communication, responsibility, and a commitment to ethical principles enhance public trust in the UK police, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of law enforcement operations (Glover, 2023).

3. Conclusion

The study's research highlights regarding investigation techniques are to maintaining the credibility and integrity of the criminal justice systems in Pakistan and the UK. A comparative analysis has shown a number of important problems and obstacles, highlighting opportunities for development and change in both jurisdictions. The shortcomings and inadequacies in criminal investigations in Pakistan are many and firmly ingrained in the institutional structure of law enforcement. The criminal justice system is beset by issues that erode public confidence, ranging from insufficient training and resources to political meddling and institutionalized corruption. The lack of adherence to modern investigative techniques, reliance on outdated methods, and insufficient forensic

capabilities further exacerbate the problem, leading to delayed justice and wrongful convictions. The examples provided, such as the Haider Ali case and others, highlight the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to address these shortcomings and enhance the effectiveness and fairness of investigations.

Conversely, the United Kingdom presents a contrasting picture, with a robust legal framework well-trained police officers, and advanced forensic capabilities. However, even in a system renowned for its adherence to due process and transparency, challenges persist. Issues such as inadequate security protocols at crime scenes, mishandling of evidence, and the need for stronger community policing initiatives underscore the ongoing need for vigilance and improvement. Despite these disparities, there are valuable lessons to be gleaned from both contexts. In Pakistan, efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, combat corruption, and invest in modern investigative techniques are essential to restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system. Emphasizing the importance of forensic science, specialized training for investigators, and ensuring adherence to due process are crucial steps in this direction.

In the United Kingdom, while the legal framework and institutional structures are relatively robust, ongoing efforts to enhance community policing, improve evidence handling protocols, and invest in cutting-edge forensic technologies are imperative to maintaining public trust and confidence. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to community needs, law enforcement agencies can bolster their effectiveness and ensure the fair administration of justice. In conclusion, this comparative analysis underscores the significance of investigative practices in shaping the outcomes of criminal proceedings and maintaining public trust in the justice system. By identifying and addressing the challenges and shortcomings in investigative procedures, both Pakistan and the United Kingdom can work towards achieving greater fairness, accountability, and integrity in their criminal justice systems. Collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to upholding human rights standards are essential in this endeavor, as they are fundamental to the pursuit of justice and the protection of individual rights and liberties.

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