

Research Article

Analysis of the Social, Economic, and Cultural Factors Leading to Violence (Youth Perspective) Al-Qouz Locality as a Model, South Kordofan State

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A B S T R A C T

This study was conducted in South Kordofan State, Al-Qoz locality, from 2020 to 2024. It aimed to identify the social, economic, and cultural factors leading to violence among youth. The paper adopted a descriptive approach. Data were collected via a questionnaire from 100 targeted individuals, selected from a random sample of youth. The data were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program. One of the most important findings of the study is that the weak

role of social institutions has contributed to the spread of violence among youth in the study community. Violence is widespread among children of troubled families suffering from family disintegration. Furthermore, the lack of interaction between parents and children within the home breeds resentment and deviance. The prevailing culture in society leads to violence in some communities. The study recommended encouraging creativity and supporting positive thinking among youth, addressing thorny youth issues that pose a threat to social security and conflict with societal values. It also recommended instilling virtuous moral values in young people through community awareness, developing educational curricula that are appropriate to students' interests, and teaching children the positive roles of interacting and forming social relationships.

Keywords: Social Factors, Economic Factors, Cultural Factors, Youth, Violence, Al Quoz Locality

Introduction

Violence is a phenomenon that no society is free of, whether in a developed or developing country. Violence is a psychological and social phenomenon that requires explanation, especially since many researchers have sought

to explain it with the increase in acts of violence across the African continent. Acts of violence are embodied in violations of society's social and political values, transgressing them and adopting aggressive methods that deviate from the behavioural, constitutional, and legal rules and frameworks that advance society and allow for difference and dialogue.¹

Therefore, violence is considered a complex phenomenon intertwined with social, economic, and cultural factors.

The Problem of the Study

The problem of the study lies in the fact that social and economic factors, represented by the distribution of wealth, poverty, relative deprivation, unemployment, institutional corruption, and other causes, in addition to cultural factors, play a significant role in the increase in acts of violence in the study community in Al-Qouz locality.² Social factors associated with socialisation institutions, such as school, family, and peer groups, have both positive and negative impacts on the individual. Cultural factors also play a unique role in individuals' adoption of violent ideas and involvement in violent groups among young people. The problem of the study lies in its primary question: What is the role of social, economic, and cultural factors leading to violence? This question is divided into:³

- What role does the family play in reducing the phenomenon of violence?
- What is the role of peer groups and schools in the phenomenon of violence?
- Does culture play a role in the escalation of violence?

Study Hypotheses

This study is based on the hypothesis that social, economic, and cultural factors play a significant role in influencing youth and their involvement in violent acts and joining violent groups that threaten community security. The importance of the paper lies in its analysis of the social, economic, and cultural factors leading to violence among youth.⁴

Study Objectives

This study aims to:

- Identify the social, economic, and cultural context leading to violence from a youth perspective.
- Identify the geographical environment of the region and its impact on violence and crime.
- Develop plans and strategies that contribute to the spread of the phenomenon of violence in the study community.

Importance of the Study

The importance of the study lies in the following:

- Enriching the Sudanese library with social studies.
- Discovering geographical environments with high crime rates.
- Proposing solutions and recommendations to assist decision-makers in the state.

Study Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive analytical approach and the social survey approach.

Study Tools

Data was collected via a questionnaire.

Study Spatial Framework:

South Kordofan State - Al-Qoz Locality

Study Temporal Framework:

2020-2021

Study Population:

- The study population was selected from a group of young people from Al-Qoz Locality, selected through a random sample, totaling (100 individuals).
- **First Axis:** Theoretical and Conceptual Framework:
- **First:** The Theoretical Framework:

Among the most important theoretical approaches to the study topic:

Functional Theory

Proponents of this approach emphasise that violence is a product of economic and social conditions, represented by family situations, work conditions and pressures, unemployment in its various forms, poverty, low income, large families, inadequate education, lack of health care, and social status. These social factors combine to reinforce the growth of violence, as they represent socioeconomic pressures that drive aggression toward others.

The theory of poverty and power deprivation

It views poverty as a form of powerlessness, and thus the lack of the ability to influence the social equation. This inability to possess power leads to poor contexts becoming contexts of tension and, consequently, violence and crime. This theory emphasises four basic dimensions:

- **The social and economic dimension:** This refers to the relative lack of resources available to the poor to earn a living and meet their basic needs, which in turn drives them to engage in violent behaviour.
- **The political dimension:** This refers to the lack of a clear political agenda and a voice for the poor, which marginalises them from what is happening in society. This in turn impacts families and fosters violent and aggressive behaviour.
- **The psychological dimension:** This refers to the poor's internal sense of insignificance and passive subservience to authority. This can make their relationship more difficult.

The most important indicators of family failure in socialisation are:

- Frequent family problems.
- Improper socialisation, adopting incorrect patterns that are far removed from virtuous morals.
- Poor role models that lead to imitating bad behaviours.

B/ School:

Educational institutions play a leading role, no less important than the family, in building society by protecting its members from deviance and violence and instilling in them principles of self-discipline and meeting their needs without hostility toward others.

Failure to adapt to school leads to deviance from the school system, manifested in:

- Running away from school.
- Absence from and tardiness to school.
- Deviance within the educational environment.

There are also some factors that contribute to changing the dynamic nature of adaptation and interaction between the individual and educational institutions, including:

- The teacher
- The curriculum
- The prevailing atmosphere
- Dropping out of school

Peer group:

This refers to a group of two or more individuals. It is the centre of adolescents' attitudes and values and the greatest source of attraction and influence.

It is also defined as a group of children who are similar in social, economic, educational, behavioural, and other characteristics such as age.⁵

*The most important functions of a peer group:

- Achieving primary status by demonstrating the individual's abilities and skills.
- Providing the individual with wise standards of behaviour.
- Facilitating liberation from the family.

* Peer group types vary, and each type differs from the other. They include:

- A group of close friends, meaning those who are inseparable and confidants.
- **Clique group:** This refers to school, recreational, and organisational groups as an integrated unit whose members are bound by relationships of affection.
- **Crowd groups:** This is a larger unit than clique groups. Its members usually meet on certain days, and their activities focus on dancing and parties.

- **Gang group:** This is a more organised group than clique and crowd groups. It consists of a small number of individuals with close relationships influenced by personal motivations. It is a group with a unique code and password.
- **Violent peer group:** This refers to a violent political or religious group. It is a group with clear goals and specific value systems, even if it is directed destructively rather than constructively.

It is noted that peer groups with negative behaviour influence an individual's behaviour and push them toward violence by:

- Satisfying the needs of individuals with undesirable behaviour, based on the fact that it is their reference group.
- Providing role models to teach the individual negative behaviour.

Some researchers believe that the behaviour of violent peer groups is often governed by two principles:

- **First:** The pleasure principle, whereby its members do whatever they please.
- **Second:** The principle of violence and antisocialism, whereby the individual rebels against society.

Economic factors

The concept of economic factors refers to the stages of economic transformation that encompass society and move it from one state of development to another, such as general economic crises, changes in the value of the currency, and the rise and fall of the general income level.^[6]

- It also refers to the set of factors that influence the behaviour of individuals within society and are a cause of the change that occurs in societies, whether this change is cultural, intellectual, or material.⁷
- It is also defined as material variables, foremost among which are the average income and economic status of the individual, which influence his consumer behaviour and the satisfaction of his living requirements.

Economic Factors Leading to Violence

The economic factors of violence represent the development crisis, the most prominent indicators of which are poverty, unemployment, low income, deteriorating living conditions, and other economic factors. The most important of these factors are the following:

A/ Poverty

Poverty is defined as the category or group of individuals within any society who contribute a set of characteristics and traits that can be identified based on the general living conditions they experience. These traits make them described as poor.

It is also defined as the decline in per capita income in a society or any country below a certain level per year, at an average of \$370. It is also defined as the complete inability of individuals or families within a society to provide the minimum resources or capacity necessary to achieve the minimum possible satisfaction of basic needs or necessities that enable them to survive and carry out their work.

Metrics that can be relied upon to judge the extent of poverty in a society:

- Average per capita GDP index.
- Household consumption index.
- Income necessary for food consumption index.

Th. Poverty Line Index.

- Basic Needs Index.

Unemployment:

Unemployment is linked to the phenomenon of poverty, as poverty prevents investments to create job opportunities that absorb the increase in the labour force.⁸

Unemployed individuals also suffer from numerous financial difficulties and a scarcity of resources, which negatively impacts the security and stability of society. Unemployment is defined as the inability to earn a living. The International Labour Organization defines unemployment as any individual who is able, willing, seeking, and accepting work at the prevailing wage level, but to no avail.

Many researchers and scholars believe that unemployment is merely a manifestation of the imbalance in the economic structure of society, the most important causes of which are:

- Employment not based on competence and merit, but rather on meddling.
- The poor alignment between educational outcomes and the labour market.
- The absence of a clear and stable economic orientation, which leads to the absence of a clear economic vision.
- The low level of education.

The problem of unemployment acquires its seriousness at the local and global levels in:⁹

- Unemployment is a means of wasting societal resources.
- Failure to utilize social capital leads to a decline in its productivity.
- It leads to numerous political and social risks, as a country's political stability is dependent on its ability to create job opportunities.

These reasons indicate that unemployment constitutes an economic burden on individuals and society.

- **The second axis:** the social, economic, and cultural factors leading to violence in the study community.

First: The study community

Al-Qoz locality is considered the northernmost port of South Kordofan State. It is distinguished by its unique geographical and strategic location. The order to establish it was issued in 2008, and it has steadily progressed toward development and stability. The locality boasts one of the largest livestock markets in general, and camels in particular, and enjoys a preferential advantage that has placed it at the forefront of localities in South Kordofan State. Al-Qoz locality is located in the far north of South Kordofan State, between latitudes 10-20 degrees north and longitudes 18-10 degrees east. It is bordered to the north by Shaken Locality, to the east by Rahad Locality, to the south by Dilling and Habila Localities in South Kordofan, and to the west by Abu Dhabi and Sunut Localities in West Kordofan State. The locality covers an area of approximately 3,775 square kilometres, and according to the latest census, the population was 152,268. However, the largest proportion of displaced persons came from the localities of South Kordofan, reaching 170,610 people.¹⁰

Second: Social Factors:

Table (1) shows the responses of sample members to identify the social factors leading to violence. Sixty percent of respondents indicated that troubled families suffering from family disintegration are prone to violence, while 50% indicated that the lack of interaction between parents and children leads to violence. Respondents also confirmed that bad friends drive young people to become more violent in society (50%). Severe punishment at school also leads to students running away from school, pushing them into the streets, which embrace them and encourage violence among themselves. Opinions on the loss of social security varied widely, ranging from strongly agreeing to agreeing to being neutral. Forty percent of respondents who disagreed indicated that violence is spreading as a result of young people's isolation and social alienation.¹¹

Third: Economic Factors

Economic factors leading to violence among youth:

Table (2) illustrates the economic factors leading to violence. Poverty is one of the reasons that drive youth to violence, with 50% of respondents strongly agreeing. 30% of respondents agreed that the lack of employment justice drives youth to violence. 50% of respondents agreed that widespread unemployment among youth leads to violence. 50% of respondents strongly agreed that deteriorating economic conditions lead to violence.¹³

Table 1.Shows the responses of the sample members to know the social factors leading to violence

Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		agree		Strongly agree		Reason	Number
%	T	%	T	%	T	%	T	%	T		
0	0	0	0	0	0	40	4	60	6	Troubled families suffering from family disintegration are prone to violence	1
0	0	2	2	10	1	50	5	20	2	Lack of interaction between parents and children leads to violence	2
0	0	0	0	20	2	50	5	30	3	. Bad friends contribute to the growth of violence among youth	3
30	3	0	0	10	1	60	6	0	0	Severe punishment by teachers leads to the adoption of violence	4
0	0	20	2	10	1	20	2	4	4	A culture of violence is widespread among urban peripheries	5
10	1	10	1	30	3	30	3	20	2	A sense of lack of social security contributes to violence	6
0	0	40	4	10	1	30	3	20	2	Violence is spreading as a result of the withdrawal and social alienation of young people	7

Source: Field Study

Table 2.illustrates the economic factors leading to violence

Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		agree		Strongly agree		Reason	Number
%	T	%	T	%	T	%	T	%	T		
0	0	30	3	20	2	0	0	50	5	Poverty is one of the reasons that drive youth to violence	1
10	1	20	2	30	3	30	3	10	1	Lack of employment justice drives youth to violence	2
10	1	20	2	10	1	50	5	10	1	Widespread unemployment among youth leads to violence	3
20	2	10	1	10	1	10	1	50	5	Deteriorating economic conditions lead to violence	4

Source: Field Study

Third Section: Results, Recommendations, and Study List

First: Study Results.

The paper reached a set of conclusions, as follows:

- The weak role of social institutions has contributed to the spread of the phenomenon of violence.
- Violence is common among members of troubled families suffering from family disintegration.
- Bad friends drive youth to violence.
- Severe punishment at school breeds resentment in children, which later leads to forms of violence.¹⁴
- The lack of interaction between parents and children at home breeds and produces injustice and deviance.
- Weak religious restraint is one of the most important causes of violence among youth.
- The prevailing culture in society leads to violence in some societies.
- Openness to values and cultures is not a factor in the growth of violence.
- Poverty is one of the economic causes that lead to violence and deviance.
- The lack of employment justice breeds developmental injustice, which increases unemployment rates, which are compounded by violence.¹⁵
- Economic deterioration among youth leads to violence.

Second: Recommendations.

The most important recommendations of the paper are:

- Encouraging creativity and supporting positive thinking among youth.
- Addressing thorny youth issues that pose a threat to social security and conflict with societal values.
- Instilling virtuous moral values in youth through community awareness.
- Developing educational curricula that are appropriate to students' interests.
- Teaching children positive roles in interacting and forming social relationships.
- Coordinating between families and schools to normalise children's behaviour and instil virtuous values and morals.
- Correcting misconceptions and misperceptions that lead to violence among youth through civil society organisations.¹⁶
- Directing the media to reject violence among youth and imposing an appropriate level of oversight on media and publishing to prevent them from being swayed by violent ideas.
- Encouraging youth to raise awareness about development goals, their implementation stages, and the responsibility of citizens and youth in contributing to achieving these goals.

- Raising economic awareness by increasing production among small producers.
- Establishing a clear and scientific economic policy to absorb the number of people in the labour force to reduce unemployment.
- Developing production gradually and objectively, leading to sustainable development.¹⁷
- Training young people in the labour force and creating job opportunities for them.

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