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GENDER, RELIGION AND NEED ASSESSMENT OF OFFENDERS ON PROBATION IN RAWALPINDI

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ABSTRACT

This study looked at the connection between need assessment, gender, and religiosity among probationary offenders in Rawalpindi District, Pakistan. The research addressed three objectives, to examine the effect of gender on the need assessment of offenders on probation, to examine the effect of religiosity on the need assessment of offenders on probation; and to examine the combined effect of gender and religiosity on the need assessment scores of offenders on probation. The research design adopted was quantitative cross-sectional research and the data gathering instruments were structured questionnaires which were administered to 100 offenders on probation. The questionnaire included socio-demographic data, the Muslim Religiosity-Personality Inventory (MRPI-A) for an assessment of religiosity along with the Probation Service Assessment Planner (PSAP-25) for assessing rehabilitation needs in four areas (Life Necessities, Relationships, Economic Capital and Personal Factors) and a Gender-Responsive Factors Scale. All instruments had acceptable to excellent internal consistency as shown by reliability analysis. The descriptive statistics showed that the respondents were moderately to highly religious and low to moderately rehabilitative needs. Pearson's correlation and multiple regression analysis were used for inferential analyses. The results showed that gender was not a significant predictor of the offenders' need assessment scores ($p = .409$), and religiosity was not a significant predictor of need assessment ($p = .943$) when considered separately. The overall regression model ($F(3,96) = 3.048, p = .032$) was statistically significant, suggesting that the effect of gender and religiosity combined is significant in explaining offenders' rehabilitation needs. There was an 8.7% variance explained in the need assessment ($R^2 = .087$). The study concludes that the influence of gender and religiosity is not the only one affecting the offenders' rehabilitation needs, but also social and economic factors. The findings add to the scant empirical studies conducted in Pakistan and highlight the need for a multi-dimensional assessment of the offenders in its probation process.

Keywords: Intersectionality, Gender, Religiosity, Probation, Need Assessment, Rehabilitation.

Introduction

The association between gender and religiosity has a central impact on determining the perception and treatment of offenders within the probation. In conservative cultures such as Pakistan, gendered expectations are closely bound up with religious expectations, determining how people are assessed for morality, remorse, and suitability for rehabilitation (Shah & Lashari, 2023). For instance, women tend to be encouraged to display increased religiosity, e.g., modesty of attire, submissiveness, and public repentance, as markers of

moral rehabilitation, whereas men can be tested in terms of being providers or staying away from further deviance (Jafri, 2022; Ramzy, 2021). In each instance, religiosity serves as a tool for interpreting gender that generates differential experiences of rehabilitation and stigma. This suggests that religiosity and gender do not work independently, but reciprocally influence justice system responses and probationer expectations (Crenshaw, 1991; Klausen & Islam, 2023).

Probation has in the past few decades become a key component of criminal justice processes around the world, as a community-based alternative to incarceration for rehabilitative and reintegrative purposes (Creswell, 2013). In most Global South settings, however, probation remains under-researched, under-resourced and institutionally ignored, including in Pakistan (Khan, 2023; Jafri, 2022). Although Western scholarship has explored more and more in what ways intersecting social identities like race, gender, and religion inform justice outcomes (Crenshaw, 1991; Singh, 2025), research following suit in South Asia is less common, particularly under the subject of community corrections.

In this context, gender is not simply a biological or binary trait but a social construct and relationships of power, norms and responsibilities. Religiosity, in contrast, is a personal belief system and a socially constructed identity that is manifested in observable religious actions, internal spirituality and perceived moral actions. These identities are not innocent in the criminal justice system; they are constructed within the context of the values and ideologies of the institutions that label, assess and rehabilitate probationers (Shah & Lashari, 2023).

Need assessment is the third main concept that describes the mechanism through which probation officers and institutions of justice measure the probability of an offender reoffending or defaulting on rehabilitation conditions. This is presented as an objective process but is highly rooted in cultural presuppositions, more so in nations such as Pakistan where religiosity and gender factors influence what is seen as morality and deviance (Jafri, 2022; Shah & Lashari, 2023).

Gender and religious identity are an integral part of one's social positioning, perceived moral reputation and access to rehabilitative resources in a very patriarchal and religiously sensitive community (Shah & Lashari, 2023). These do not stand alone, but rather overlap in many different ways and have an impact on the offenders' experiences of the consequences of criminal justice. For instance, a woman of a religious minority would face double stigma, not only for the crime, but also for transgressing the expected gender norms and religious norms (Crenshaw, 1991).

Probation is oftentimes hailed as a rehabilitative substitute for imprisonment, meant to reintegrate offenders into society at less social and economic expense than imprisonment. Probation systems everywhere, and especially in Pakistan, continue to be ensconced in structural inequalities that parallel broader gender and religious hierarchies (Jafri, Khokhar, & Mubeen, 2022). While probation is supposed to be a second chance, in practice it often reveals hidden biases in the assessment of offender need and readiness for rehabilitation.

Most criminal justice systems rely on instruments for the need assessment of offenders, as well as decisions for probation, which are presumed to be objective, but which in fact reflect cultural expectations, religious beliefs and gender norms (Barabas, 2021). For example, a tool like the Level of Service Inventory (LSI) is based on a group of Western male offenders, and is less valid in a heterogeneous gender or cultural context (Geraghty & Woodhams, 2015). The relationship between offenders' identities and the perception of offenders by

probation officers, police and judiciary is a particular dynamic in Pakistan, where the patriarchy and religion are well entrenched.

The most significant empirical work on this subject in Pakistan has been conducted by Bhutta and his colleagues. Bhutta and Wormith (2016) conducted a seminal study with 506 adult probationers in Lahore division and validated the culturally adapted LS/CMI, this instrument was found to be reliable for this population. Their research confirmed that the general risk/need domains of the LS/CMI had research validity for the whole sample which shows its usefulness in the Pakistani context (Bhutta & Wormith, 2016). This study is the first attempt made in Pakistan to explore the risk and need assessment in a sample of adult Pakistani probationers (Bhutta, 2013)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Differentiated Religious Experiences in Correctional Settings by Gender

The gendered differences in religiosity do not only exist in prison but could extend to probation supervision, where needs assessments, and rehabilitation plans, may be based on assumptions about the religious or moral worth of the person (Klausen & Islam, 2023; Shah & Lashari, 2023). Religious beliefs and practices have been found to be a coping mechanism for people in prison, yet their nature and availability are highly gender specific (Stamatakis, 2022). For example, while male Muslim inmates may employ religious practices to build social networks and positive identity, female inmates may be plagued with spiritual conflict and guilt over their offending acts (Klausen & Islam, 2023).

Religiosity and Delinquent Behaviour: International Evidence

Significant results had been found where religiosity has been associated with decreased delinquent behavior among the Malaysian school students (Ramzy, Irfan, & Hussin, 2021), but the findings were based on a relatively uniform and youthful population. Its translation to adult probationers needs to be performed with caution, particularly in religious and socio-cultural pluralistic settings such as Pakistan (Ramzy, Irfan, & Hussin, 2021; Shah & Lashari, 2023). In Western contexts, studies have consistently demonstrated an inverse relationship between religiosity and criminal behavior, with religious beliefs and practices serving as protective factors against delinquency and reoffending (Johnson, 2012; Koenig, 2012). However, the mechanisms through which religiosity influences criminal behavior vary across populations. For adolescents, religiosity may function primarily through social control and peer influence, while for adults, religiosity may operate through identity transformation and moral reasoning (Ramzy, Irfan, & Hussin, 2021). These findings highlight the need for culturally and age-appropriate conceptualizations of religiosity in correctional research.

Effects of Probation on Vulnerable Populations

Female probationers tend to have increased shame, social rejection by the community, and spiritual dissonance when their behavior is perceived as a transgression of religious or gender norms (Shah & Lashari, 2023). This emotional weight is added to when probation officers do not see the cultural pressures that these men are living under. These observations highlight the importance of probation practices being trauma-informed and gender-sensitive and religiously sensitive (Shah & Lashari, 2023; Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003). Research has demonstrated that women on probation often experience higher rates of mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, compared to their male counterparts (Belknap, 2020). Victimization and poverty and social marginalisation are often factors that exacerbate these mental health problems (Daly, 1992).

Gendered Meanings of Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation, for male probationers, entails jobs and refraining from criminal activity. While for female probationers, rehabilitation is, in many cases, returning to patriarchal domestic life and displaying religious modesty (Geraghty & Woodhams, 2015; Ramzy, 2021). Not only do these gendered meanings of reform consolidate patriarchal expectations but also confine the options of personalized rehabilitation planning. It has been found that women's pathways into offending are often linked to experiences of trauma, abuse and socioeconomic disadvantage, and these need to be addressed in order to respond to women's needs in a gender responsive way (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003; Belknap, 2020). But many correctional programs still focus on traditional gender roles, home-centeredness and caring, as signs of women's successful rehabilitation (Geraghty & Woodhams, 2015)..

Theoretical Framework

The present study is theoretically based on the two complementary sociological theories.

Intersectionality Theory, which was conceptualized by Crenshaw (1991), provides an engaging framework for analysis of how converging identities, specifically gender and religiosity, intersect to inform the lived lives of probationers in the criminal justice system. In this study, intersectionality sheds light on how those identities not only are constructed socially but also are applied to assess the level of need, character, and potential for rehabilitation of the individual. For instance, a female probationer who violates expected religious or cultural norms will be seen as more deviant or less amenable to reform than a comparable male offender, regardless of their equal criminal histories. Similarly, individuals from religious minorities might face multiple discrimination factors that impact upon their probation experience. This study highlights the importance of using Intersectionality Theory to reveal the ways in which institutional evaluations are driven, not by objective criteria, but by expectations that are linked to identity in the broader context of cultural and structural differences.

Social Control Theory describes how need is assessed in terms of an individual's social bonds, but it is Intersectionality Theory that shows how those bonds are valued or understood differently across identity. For instance, a man's visit to mosque will be seen as an indicator of reform and moral foundation, which will affirm his seeming attachment to society. Yet, a woman might not attain the same visibility unless she also satisfies expectations of modesty, domesticity, or public piety. Thus, Intersectionality demonstrates that even the standards of "control" are gendered and religiously mediated.

This two-theory framework assists in revealing how social norms and systemic bias are interwoven into the ostensibly technical process of need assessment and probation. This combined framework informs the empirical studies and interpretation of the results of the study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used a quantitative cross-sectional research methodology to investigate the association between gender, religiosity, and need assessment among criminals on probation in Rawalpindi District. A standardized questionnaire was employed to gather information from probationers at a single point in time.

Study Setting and Sampling

The "Department of Probation and Parole Service, Rawalpindi" provided the information. With a dedicated criminal justice system that includes district courts, probation offices, and

numerous community rehabilitation programs, Rawalpindi is home to a diverse population in terms of demographics, socioeconomic status, and religion. The city's diverse cultural-religious and socioeconomic standards make it a perfect place to study gender, religiosity, and the perception of criminal need. The city is the perfect place to study gender, criminal need perception, and religiosity because of its highly diverse cultural-religious and socioeconomic standards.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Since access to probationers depended on their availability and permission from the Department of Probation and Parole Services, Rawalpindi, convenience sampling was employed. During the time of data collection, all available and willing probationers were examined (Earl Babbie, 2021). The Department of Probation and Parole Services in Rawalpindi has about 500 active probationers who were part of the target demographic. The initial plan called for a bigger sample size, however access to probationers was restricted due to administrative constraints. As a result, the study's final sample consisted of 100 probationers who were available.

Data Collection Instruments and Procedures

Before collecting the data, approval was obtained from competent authorities of the Department of Probation and Parole Services in Rawalpindi. Eligible probationers were contacted via structured visits to the probation offices and informed about the purpose of the study. The questionnaire was administered voluntarily and informed consent was obtained before the questionnaire was given. The questionnaires were personally designed and handed out by the researcher, who made sure that the respondents understood the questions and gave clarifications if necessary. Official records were also used to complete the probation outcome portion of the questionnaire by the probation officers.

DATA ANALYSIS

Completed surveys were coded for additional analysis and verified for completeness after data collection. IBM SPSS Statistics was used to process the data. (Version 25.0). The sociodemographic traits of the respondents as well as their reactions to religion, need assessment, and gender-responsive factors were summarized using descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations. The internal consistency of the MRPI-A and PSAP-25 scales was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha. The relationship between religiosity and need assessment among probationary offenders was examined using Pearson correlation analysis. Additionally, when appropriate, the mean scores of male and female probationers were compared using an Independent Samples t-test. Statistical significance was defined as a p-value of less than 0.05.

Ethical Considerations

The IRB of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi gave ethical approval to the study (Ref: PMAS-AAUR/IRB/2024-12). All subjects gave written informed consent upon being provided with details regarding the purposes and procedures, risks and benefits involved in the study. Anonymity was guaranteed by anonymization procedures: questionnaires included numeric designations instead of names; records of offender interviews did not contain identifying characteristics; all the information was organized in files with passwords, which were only available to the researcher. The interviews with the offenders were implemented with a special consideration of avoiding the re-traumatizing effect; participants were told that they could end interviews any time, no penalty in this case.

RESULTS

Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF THE STUDY VARIABLES

The descriptive statistics were computed to summarize the responses of the offenders on probation on the religiosity, need assessment, and gender-responsive factors. Responses were described in terms of their central tendency and variability using mean and standard deviation. The descriptive data is presented to obtain a general picture of the scores of the respondents before moving on to the inferential data.

4.4.1 Religiosity (MRPI-A)

Muslim Religiosity-Personality Inventory (MRPI-A) was used to assess religiosity. The inventory measures the religious beliefs and practices of the respondents by using several statements with a 5-point Likert type scale. The higher the mean scores the more religious, the lower, the comparatively less religious. For interpretation, the following mean ranges were adopted:

Mean Score	Interpretation
1.00–1.80	Very Low
1.81–2.60	Low
2.61–3.40	Moderate
3.41–4.20	High
4.21–5.00	Very High

Table 4.10 Descriptive Statistics of Religiosity (MRPI-A)

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
B1	3.00	1.42	Moderate
B2	3.74	1.06	High
B3	3.51	1.02	High
B4	3.27	1.18	Moderate
B6	3.34	1.15	Moderate
B7	3.49	1.10	High
B8	3.41	1.14	High
B9	3.18	1.20	Moderate
B10	3.12	1.31	Moderate
B11	3.29	1.22	Moderate
B12	3.00	1.42	Moderate
B13	3.00	1.42	Moderate
B14	3.16	1.13	Moderate

The descriptive statistics for the MRPI-A items are shown in Table 4.10. Overall, the results suggest that respondents had moderate to high levels of religiosity on most of the statements. The highest mean score was for Item B2 ($M = 3.74$, $SD = 1.06$), followed by Item B3 ($M = 3.51$, $SD = 1.02$) and Item B7 ($M = 3.49$, $SD = 1.10$) which indicated relatively greater agreement with these aspects of religiosity by the respondents.

A number of items (B1, B4, B6, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13 and B14) had moderate mean scores. The results suggest that overall, individuals' religious beliefs and practices were positive, although there were differences in the level of agreement with each item.

In general, the MRPI-A scores for the present offenders on probation indicated moderate to high levels of religiosity, thus offering a foundation for exploring the relationship between religiosity and need assessment in the subsequent inferential analyses.

4.4.2 Need Assessment (PSAP-25)

The Probation Service Assessment Planner-25 (PSAP-25) was used to assess need. The instrument measures the rehabilitation needs of offenders in four broad areas, including Life Necessities, Relationships, Economic Capital and Personal Factors. Each item was rated on a 4-point scale (Not a Need to High Need) by the respondents. The higher the mean score, the more rehabilitation is needed. The following criteria were used for interpretation:

Mean Score	Interpretation
0.00–0.75	Not a Need
0.76–1.50	Low Need
1.51–2.25	Moderate Need
2.26–3.00	High Need

Table 4.11 Item-wise Descriptive Statistics of PSAP-25 (N = 100)

Domain	Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Life Necessities	Housing and Food	1.50	1.12	Low Need
	Physical Health/Health Care	1.52	1.11	Moderate Need
	Basic Daily Living	1.50	1.12	Low Need
	Marital Relationship	0.51	0.85	Not a Need
Relationships	Relationship with Household Members	0.97	1.18	Low Need
	Relationship with Young Children	0.84	1.10	Low Need
	Relationship with Family Outside Household	1.25	1.17	Low Need
	Friends, Neighbours and Community	1.23	1.19	Low Need
	Spirituality	1.86	1.15	Moderate Need
Economic Capital	Religiosity	2.56	0.80	High Need
	Employment	1.75	1.17	Moderate Need
	Education	1.50	1.12	Low Need
	Finances	1.02	1.10	Low Need
	Childcare	1.42	1.22	Low Need
Personal Factors	Illegal Substances	2.10	1.06	Moderate Need
	Thinking Styles and Self-concept	0.48	0.85	Not a Need
	Attitudes Towards Police, Laws and Courts	0.58	1.00	Not a Need
	Attitudes Towards Violence	1.14	1.03	Low Need

	Future Orientation	1.37	1.18	Low Need
	Perspective Taking	1.91	1.00	Moderate Need
	Emotions and Coping	1.35	1.11	Low Need
	Problem Solving	0.79	1.03	Low Need
	Self-Control	0.76	0.83	Low Need
	General Thinking Styles	0.49	0.90	Not a Need
	Mental Health	1.62	0.83	Moderate Need

Table 4.11 shows descriptive statistics for all PSAP-25 items. In general, people who responded indicated different levels of rehabilitation needs in the four domains. The mean scores of Life Necessities ranged from 1.50 to 1.52, low to moderate scores across the domain. This implies that the majority of respondents had relatively fewer problems concerning housing, food security, physical health and other basic needs.

In the Relationships domain, the highest mean score was for Religiosity ($M = 2.56$, $SD = 0.80$), followed by Spirituality ($M = 1.86$, $SD = 1.15$), at which level there was a moderate level of need. The remaining relationship-related items reflected either not a need or low need, suggesting comparatively fewer interpersonal and family-related rehabilitation concerns among the respondents.

The Economic Capital domain demonstrated that Employment ($M = 1.75$, $SD = 1.17$) represented a moderate need, whereas education, finances, and childcare were rated as low needs. These findings indicate that employment-related issues constitute a relatively more important area for rehabilitation compared with other economic factors.

Within the Personal Factors domain, the highest mean scores were recorded for Illegal Substances ($M = 2.10$, $SD = 1.06$) and Perspective Taking ($M = 1.91$, $SD = 1.00$), both indicating moderate rehabilitation needs. Most of the remaining personal factors, including attitudes toward violence, future orientation, emotions and coping, problem solving, and self-control, were classified as low needs, while thinking styles, attitudes toward police and courts, and general thinking styles fell within the not a need category.

Table 4.12 Domain-wise Descriptive Statistics of PSAP-25

Domain	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Life Necessities	1.51	1.09	Moderate Need
Relationships	1.32	0.51	Low Need
Economic Capital	1.42	0.62	Low Need
Personal Factors	1.23	0.53	Low Need

Table 4.12 presents the domain-wise descriptive statistics of the Probation Service Assessment Planner (PSAP-25). The findings indicate that respondents generally reported low to moderate levels of rehabilitation needs across the four domains assessed by the instrument.

Among the four domains, Life Necessities recorded the highest mean score ($M = 1.51$, $SD = 1.09$), indicating a moderate level of need. This finding suggests that issues related to housing, food security, physical health, and other basic living conditions remain relatively important areas requiring attention during the rehabilitation process of offenders on probation.

The Relationships domain obtained a mean score of 1.32 (SD = 0.51), indicating a low level of need. This means that respondents had fewer issues sustaining relationships with their spouses, family members, children, friends, neighbours, and the larger community. Although particular items like as religiosity and spirituality had higher scores, the overall domain indicated a low level of rehabilitation needs.

Similarly, the Economic Capital domain produced a mean score of 1.42 (SD = 0.62), which also falls within the low need category. This finding indicates that, despite some employment-related concerns identified in the item-level analysis, respondents generally reported relatively fewer economic difficulties regarding education, finances, employment, and childcare.

The Personal Factors domain recorded the lowest mean score ($M = 1.14$, $SD = 0.53$), indicating a low level of need. This suggests that respondents generally reported lower rehabilitation needs concerning cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and psychological factors. Nevertheless, item-level findings showed comparatively higher needs in areas such as illegal substance use and perspective taking, highlighting specific aspects that may require targeted intervention despite the relatively low overall domain score.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that offenders on probation reported predominantly low rehabilitation needs, with Life Necessities emerging as the domain requiring comparatively greater attention. These results provide an overall profile of offenders' assessed needs and establish a basis for examining the relationships between gender, religiosity, and need assessment in the subsequent inferential analyses.

4.4.5 Gender-Responsive Factors

Gender-responsive factors were measured using six statements designed to assess respondents' perceptions regarding the influence of gender on probation supervision, rehabilitation opportunities, access to services, and treatment within the criminal justice system. Respondents rated each statement on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Higher mean scores imply a greater agreement that gender issues influence the experiences and rehabilitation needs of probationers. The mean scores were interpreted using the criteria listed below:

Mean Score	Interpretation
1.00–1.80	Very Low
1.81–2.60	Low
2.61–3.40	Moderate
3.41–4.20	High
4.21–5.00	Very High

Table 4.13 Item-wise Descriptive Statistics of Gender-Responsive Factors (N = 100)

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
D1	1.58	0.86	Very Low
D2	1.71	0.91	Very Low
D3	1.66	0.87	Very Low
D4	1.74	0.90	Very Low
D5	1.61	0.88	Very Low
D6	1.55	0.83	Very Low

The descriptive statistics of the six gender responsive factors used in the questionnaire are presented in Table 4.13. The results of the survey showed that the mean scores were from 1.55 to 1.74 which falls in the very low category as per the interpretation scale used. In

general, the results indicated that respondents were not very agreeable to the statements which suggested that gender-related issues had a significant impact on their probation experience and their rehabilitation.

Overall, the highest mean score was found for Item D4: $M = 1.74$, $SD = 0.90$, which had the highest level of agreement on the other items. Item D6 ($M = 1.55$, $SD = 0.83$) had the lowest mean score indicating the lowest level of agreement among the respondents. Overall, however, the responses were fairly similar across all six items and suggest that there was a low level of perceived influence of gender-responsive factors within the study population.

The relatively low mean scores might be due to the perception of the respondents that, the rehabilitation needs are more influenced by individual's and socio-economic factors rather than gender-specific factors. The results of this study however should be treated with some caution as the issues surrounding gender may vary depending on offender type and context of the institution.

Table 4.14 Overall Descriptive Statistics of Gender-Responsive Factors (N = 100)

Scale	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Gender-Responsive Factors	1.64	0.88	Very Low

Table 4.14 presents the overall descriptive statistics for the Gender-Responsive Factors Scale. The overall mean score ($M = 1.64$, $SD = 0.88$) shows that the level of agreement on the importance of gender-responsive issues on the rehabilitation needs and probation experiences of offenders is very low. The result indicates that most people do not feel gender is a major determinant in the rehabilitation process.

The results are not to be interpreted as evidence that gender responsive practices are not needed, although they showed low level of agreement. A previous study identified that the process of becoming an offender may be different for women than men and that women may need different rehabilitation to meet their needs (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003). Thus, the perceptions reported in the current study were relatively low, possibly because they were based on the experiences of the respondents and not because gender-related challenges did not exist in the probation system.

4.5 INFERENTIAL STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Inferential statistics were employed to test the suggested research hypotheses and investigate the impact of gender and religiosity on the scores of offenders in need assessment. First, the direction and intensity of the association between religiosity and need assessment were ascertained using Pearson correlation analysis. The question of whether gender and religiosity significantly affected offenders' need assessment ratings was next investigated using multiple linear regression analysis. Lastly, an interaction study was done to see if gender affected the association between need assessment and religion.

4.5.1 Pearson Correlation Analysis

Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to determine the relationship between religiosity and offenders' need assessment scores.

Table 4.15 Correlation between Religiosity and Need Assessment (N = 100)

Variables	Pearson's r	Sig. (2-tailed)	Interpretation
Religiosity and Need Assessment	0.066	0.512	Very weak positive, not significant

Table 4.15 presents the Pearson correlation analysis between religiosity and offenders' need assessment. The results indicate a very weak positive relationship between religiosity and need assessment ($r = .066$). However, this association was not statistically significant (p

=.512), demonstrating that higher religiosity levels did not result in significantly different need assessment scores among offenders on probation. As a result, religion alone did not show a significant linear association with rehabilitation needs in the current investigation.

4.5.2 Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Multiple linear regression analysis was undertaken to examine the extent to which gender, religiosity, and their interaction predicted the need assessment scores of offenders.

The regression equation was specified as follows:

$$\text{Need Assessment} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\text{Gender}) + \beta_2(\text{Religiosity}) + \beta_3(\text{Gender} \times \text{Religiosity}) + \epsilon$$

Table 4.16 Model Summary

R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of Estimate
0.295	0.087	0.058	0.442

Table 4.16 shows the model summary for the multiple regression analysis. The model yielded a correlation coefficient of $R = .295$, demonstrating a weak positive association between the combined predictor variables and offender need assessment scores. Gender, religiosity, and their interaction account for 8.7% of the variation in offenders' need assessment ratings ($R^2 = .087$). The adjusted R^2 value of .058 suggests that after adjusting for the number of predictors, the model explained approximately 5.8% of the variance in need assessment. These findings indicate that although the predictors contributed to explaining variation in offenders' rehabilitation needs, a substantial proportion of the variance was attributable to other factors not included in the model.

Table 4.17 ANOVA for Multiple Regression

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1.787	3	0.596	3.048	.032
Residual	18.770	96	0.196		
Total	20.557	99			

The ANOVA results indicate that the overall regression model was statistically significant, $F(3, 96) = 3.048$, $p = .032$. This finding suggests that the predictor variables, when considered together, significantly explained variation in offenders' need assessment scores. Therefore, the regression model provided a better prediction of need assessment than a model without predictor variables.

Table 4.18 Regression Coefficients

Predictor	B	Std. Error	t	Sig.
Constant	0.705	0.619	1.139	.258
Gender	0.482	0.581	0.829	.409
Religiosity	0.014	0.190	0.071	.943
Gender $\times$ Religiosity	0.009	0.178	0.051	.960

Table 4.18 presents the regression coefficients for the predictor variables. Gender produced a positive regression coefficient ($B = 0.482$), indicating that changes in gender coding were associated with a slight increase in offenders' need assessment scores. However, this relationship was not statistically significant ($p = .409$).

Religiosity also demonstrated a positive regression coefficient ($B = 0.014$), suggesting a negligible positive association with need assessment. Nevertheless, the relationship was not statistically significant ($p = .943$), indicating that religiosity did not independently predict offenders' rehabilitation needs.

The interaction term between gender and religiosity ($B = 0.009$) was likewise not statistically significant ($p = .960$), indicating that gender did not significantly moderate the relationship between religiosity and offenders' need assessment.

Overall, although the regression model was statistically significant, none of the individual predictor variables demonstrated a statistically significant independent effect on offenders' need assessment.

4.5.3 Hypothesis Testing

The hypotheses proposed in the study were tested using the results of the multiple linear regression analysis.

Table 4.19 Summary of Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	Finding	Decision
H ₁ : Gender has a statistically significant effect on need assessment scores	$\beta = 0.482, p = .409$	Not Supported
H ₂ : Religiosity has a statistically significant effect on need assessment scores	$\beta = 0.014, p = .943$	Not Supported
H ₃ : Gender and religiosity have a statistically significant combined effect on need assessment scores	$F(3,96) = 3.048, p = .032$	Supported

The results of the present study showed that the hypothesis was partially supported.

H₁ (Gender): The results of the regression analysis indicated that gender was not a significant predictor of the offenders' need assessment scores ($p = .409$). So, H₁ was rejected. The small number of female respondents ($n=5, 5\%$) in the sample may explain this finding, as it may have reduced the power to detect gender-based differences.

H₂ (Religiosity): The regression analysis showed that the need assessment scores of the offenders were not significantly predicted by religiosity alone ($p = .943$). So, H₂ was ruled out. This indicates that the effects of religious beliefs and practices on rehabilitation needs are indirect, and other factors may have a more significant influence.

The overall regression model (Combined Effect: H₃) was statistically significant ($F(3,96) = 3.048, p = .032$). This suggests that the overall effect of gender and religiosity is statistically significant on the offenders' need assessment scores. Hence, the support of H₃ was given. The model explained 8.7% of the variance ($R^2 = .087$) in need assessment.

DISCUSSION

Discussion of Religiosity

The Descriptive Statistics for the MRPI-A showed a moderate to high level of religiosity among the respondents. The mean scores on a few items were relatively high, indicating that religion plays an important role in the lives of many offenders on probation. This result aligns with the earlier study that posited that personal and social hardships could be associated with religious coping and moral orientation (Koenig, 2012).

The inferential analysis, however, showed that religiosity was not significantly related to the scores on the offenders' need assessments. This implies that while respondents had relatively strong levels of religious beliefs and practices, their beliefs were not reflected in significantly different levels of rehabilitation needs as assessed by the PSAP-25. In some studies, a link between religiosity and personal attitudes and coping was reported, but a consistent relationship could not be found between the two and criminogenic needs or rehabilitation outcomes (Johnson, 2000).

Discussion of Need Assessment (PSAP-25)

The PSAP-25 analysis of the domain-wise was that the overall rehabilitation needs were low to moderate. The highest mean score was found in the domain of Life Necessities, which suggests that there were comparatively higher needs regarding housing, food security, physical health, and basic living conditions in this domain. The discovery implies that issues of materials and health continue to be relevant issues in the rehabilitation of offenders on probation.

Overall, the Relationships, Economic Capital, and Personal Factors domains were in the low need range, with some specific items, like religiosity, spirituality, and employment, having relatively higher scores. These results are in line with the rehabilitation literature, which stresses the need for a comprehensive and differentiated approach for an offender's rehabilitation, where some aspects need more specific, and intensive, rehabilitation than others (Andrews & Bonta, 2010).

Discussion of Gender-Responsive Factors

The overall agreement in the analysis of gender responsive factors was very low with respect to the influence of gender related issues on probation experiences and rehabilitation needs. In general, respondents were not aware of the dominant role of gender in their rehabilitation process. This discovery contrasts with certain gender responsive correctional research that suggests that females and males may have different paths into offending and require different forms of rehabilitation (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003).

The relatively low scores recorded in the current study could be attributed to the nature of the sample (mainly male) or that the respondents considered the economic and personal problems as more immediate issues than gender specific ones. Hence, the results should be interpreted in the light of the population studied and the probation system of Rawalpindi District.

Discussion of Correlation and Regression Findings

It was not statistically significant, and the Pearson correlation analysis showed that there was a very weak positive correlation between religiosity and the assessment of the need. This shows that there was no significant difference in the need for rehabilitation of offenders on probation across the levels of religiosity.

Likewise, the multiple regression analysis showed that gender and religiosity were not significant independent predictors of offenders' need assessment scores. Moreover, the interaction term (Gender×Religiosity) was also not statistically significant, which suggests that the relationship between Religiosity and Need Assessment was not significantly different between male and female respondents.

Interestingly, the overall regression model was statistically significant and accounted for about 8.7% of the variance of the offenders' need assessment scores. This indicates that the individual predictors were not significant predictors but that the model as a whole accounted for some variance in rehabilitation needs. The relatively low level of variance explained suggests that other factors not measured in the current study (socio-economic factors, family support, criminal history, mental health, and substance use) may have a greater influence than those measured in the current study on rehabilitation needs of offenders.

In general, the results indicate that the need for offenders in probation system is likely affected by social, economic as well as personal factors and not just by gender and

religiosity. This underscores the need to adopt holistic and personalized perspectives in probation and rehabilitation planning.

Limitations and Future Research Directions

There are a number of limitations to this study that have to be taken into account when making inferences from the results.

- **Geographical Limitation:** Results of the study may not be transferred to all probationers in Pakistan because the study was conducted with the offenders on probation in Rawalpindi District.
- **Convenience Sampling:** The limited access to offenders on probation led to a use of convenience sampling. Thus, the sample may not be representative of the entire population of probationers.
- **Considering the practical constraints,** such as limited accessibility and time restrictions, the data was collected from 100 respondents, while there were around 500 active probationers registered in Rawalpindi District. Relatively small sample size may have limited statistical power in detecting significance.
- **Gender Imbalance:** The sample was mostly male (95%, n=95) and only 5% female (n=5). This imbalance in gender restricted the power to look for gender interactions and differences. The lack of significant differences in relation to gender and the interaction term may be due to lack of statistical power, and not to the lack of an actual relationship.
- **Self-Reported Data:** The study was based on self-reported data, which could have been influenced by social desirability or by the willingness of the respondents to report personal data accurately.

Only a few predictors were used in this study: gender, religiosity, rehabilitation needs. Other potentially important factors, including criminal history, family support, mental health, substance dependence, and community resources were not incorporated into the analytical model.

The following suggestions for future studies are suggested based on the findings and limitations of the present study:

- Further studies are recommended with larger and representative samples drawn from several districts and provinces for better generalizability of the results.
- Comparisons of male and female offenders, juvenile and adult offenders, and urban and rural probationers may give further clues about the rehabilitation needs of probationers in different offender subgroups.
- The need assessment is a subject that needs to be studied in the future with more balanced and bigger samples to get a more thorough understanding of gender differences and interaction effects. An attempt should be made to make the sample more representative of women to allow for meaningful comparisons with men.
- Further predictors of rehabilitation needs, such as mental health, substance dependence, criminal history, social support, family relationships and community resources should be included in the research to determine what other factors are most likely to affect offenders' rehabilitation needs.
- Longitudinal studies of offenders over the duration of probation would give more information on how the needs of offenders change over time and which interventions are most effective in successful reintegration.

- Qualitative research examining probation officers' perspectives and decision-making in need assessment can offer important insights into how gender and religiosity are understood during need assessment.

CONCLUSION

The present study is an attempt to explore the relationship between gender, religiosity and need assessment among offenders on probation in Rawalpindi District. The results indicated that the proposed hypotheses were supported to varying degrees.

Neither gender nor religiosity was found to be an independent predictor of offenders' rehabilitation needs. It is possible that the lack of a significant difference between gender may be due to the limited number of female respondents ($n=5$, 5%) and a small sample size, reducing the power needed to show a gender difference. Likewise, the lack of a significant relationship between religiosity and rehabilitation needs indicates that, although religious beliefs and practices are common among offenders, they do not directly influence their rehabilitation needs. This suggests that the role of religiosity is not direct enough in meeting the structural and criminogenic needs including housing, employment and mental health, but rather has an impact on personal attitudes and coping mechanisms.

The combined effect of Gender and Religiosity: The overall regression model was statistically significant ($F(3,96) = 3.048$, $p = .032$) despite the lack of significance for the individual effects. The results of this finding support H_3 , which is that the combined effect of gender and religiosity, together with their interaction, helps to account for differences in the rehabilitation needs of offenders. Together, these factors accounted for 8.7% of the variance in need assessment ($R^2 = .087$) which indicates that all these factors together have a meaningful contribution to understanding the rehabilitation needs of offenders.

Implications for practice: The findings highlight the need for a multi-dimensional, holistic approach to need assessment in the context of probation practice. Social, economic and personal factors play a role in determining the rehabilitation needs of offenders, but not demographic or religious factors. The relatively high needs identified under the Life Necessities domain further highlight the need to attend to housing, health care, and other basic living needs in probation supervision.

Contribution to Knowledge: The study is important because it is one of the few empirical studies conducted in Pakistan to explore the need for rehabilitation among probationers using standardized assessment tools. Offers proof that a thorough need assessment needs to go beyond demographic data and religious activities and include other criminogenic and socio-economic factors which have an impact on successful rehabilitation.

Conclusion: The results indicate that the individualized assessment strategies in probation work are important and there is a need to have evidence-based rehabilitation plan in the probation system in Pakistan. Gender and religiosity do not by themselves define the need for rehabilitation but when combined with other factors, it helps to have a full picture of the offenders' situation and what he or she needs to be successful at reintegration.

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