

Comparative surveying of related economics-social factors to vandalism among immigrant and non-immigrant students of Shiraz

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Abstract: Vandalism, which in deviation sociology, has been used in means of subversion such as destroying public and private properties (Cohen 1955), has been known as a kind of Delinquent behavior. This kind of behavior has been done by people under legal age (Shoe maker 1990) and since it causes social threat and also provides high financial expenses, it should be surveyed as a social issue. Intellectual model of this research designed by use of “Strain Theory“, “Subculture Theory“, “Social Control Theory“ and research hypotheses depends on this model. Data of this research have been provided and analyzed through self-report questionnaire from a sample of 400 immigrant and non-immigrant high school boy students of Shiraz. The result of research shows that average of vandalism behavior had been higher among immigrants than non-immigrants. And the average difference of these behaviors is meaningful. Statistics surveying has been done by “Two Way Analysis of Variance” shows that parents preoccupation and parents consistency in accompany of being immigrant and non-immigrant of response with vandalism behavior has a meaningful relation. In addition, there is an inverted and meaningful relation between dependence of students to family and school and vandalism behavior and there is a direct and meaningful relation between feeling discrimination in school, family and society and vandalism behavior.

[Leila Nickpoor Ghanvati, Mojtaba Hemayatkhah, Comparative surveying of related economics-social factors to vandalism among immigrant and non-immigrant students of Shiraz. New York Science Journal 2012;5(1):85-89]. (ISSN: 1554-0200). <http://www.sciencepub.net/newyork>.

Key words: vandalism, immigrant, non-immigrant, delinquent behavior, Shiraz city

Introduction:

The Development of the societies is dependent to the young and healthy workforce to a much extent. Among the factors, one of the most important factors that damages and reduces workforce efficiency is the Juvenile delinquency because if the youth people don't respect the rules and obligations, their activities will be stopped or are subjected to chaos. Subversion in the perversion sociology is destroying public chattels by the youth (Ahmadi, 2008). Amongst the subversive behaviors that are done by the youth is vandalism because, it is the most frequent subversive behavior in the youth. Subversion and financial damages are the most important crimes of the urbanite boys and rural youth and urbanite girls do these behaviors rarely (Shambiati, 1996) but the immigrant youth have a great share in the vandalism.

Vandalism is very remarkable crime due to its huge damage in chattels. So the vandalism is an important crime in today's urbanized population that should be investigated carefully. Additionally, vandalism has been considered as a severe social problem that imposes huge amount of costs on the citizens besides destroying and reducing the security of urban zones.

In this research the related factors with vandalism have been investigated and then, the

immigrant and Non-immigrant youth are compared according to this behavior.

Literature Review:

Vandalism (or damaging public and private chattels) is one of the most anti social globalized behaviors and is prevalent in all of the societies regardless of their levels of development. In all of the countries the damage to all of the public chattels are high due to vandalistic behaviors. The prevalence of this behavior in the developed countries is to the extent that sometimes the estimation of value of these behaviors is not an easy task (Carrasco et al.2006). Takahashi's study in Japan showed that delinquency and subversion is an important challenge in the schools of Japan. Researches in the most countries have shown that the vandalism has been raised in these countries and factors such as Family socio economic status, structure of the family and the lack of attention to the youth problems have been the most related factors to vandalism and delinquency and amongst the youth, the share of the boys in doing vandalistic behaviors have been higher than the girls (Meneagker, 1994; Buck et al,2003; Altucker, Carrasco at al, 2004; Oggins 2007). The researches in Iran either the researches completely focused on vandalism (Nik Akhtar, 2000; Mohebbi, 2003; Bahrami Mahand, 2004; Mohammadi Bolbolan

Abad, 2005) or the researches partially focused on vandalistic behavior (ex. Mohseni Tabrizi, 2003 in a research on destroying public chattels by spectators of football, Banifatemi & Maghsoodi, 2004 in a research on wall painting behaviors in classroom, Nooralivand, 2007 in a research on Vagrancy in football) all shows that different factors such as being immigrant or not, sex, satisfaction from family, family structure, relation with peer group, and the sense of injustice are the related factors to the vandalism.

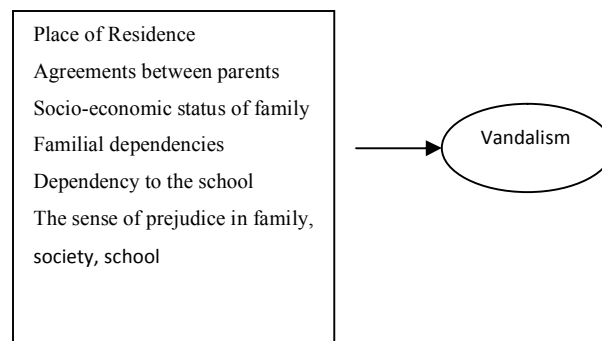
Theoretical framework of this research has been prepared with the pre-assumption that the social pathology theories of vandalism separately have been focused on an especial or specific factors related to the vandalism and delinquency (Ahmadi, 1998). So, as this behavior is related to many interactive factors, it is not rational to use only a specific theory for explaining the causes and impacts of such behavior. In this regard it is advised to use a combination of theories for understanding and explaining vandalistic behaviors (Shoemaker, 1996).

Based on this assumption the theoretical framework of current research has been derived from the social control theory, theory of subculture and pressure theory. The social control theory assumes that the delinquent behaviors are the results of the weakening functions of social controls. People naturally tend to be delinquent and if they don't be controlled, their deviant behavior is the product of the lack of prohibitory mechanisms (Hirschi, 1999). The factors of social control include the dependence to the social institutions such as family & school. In replying the question that "which factors lead to abnormal behaviors in youth?" the social control says that this is dependent to the levels of dependence to social institutions such as family and school. So, this theory respects the role of family and schools in socializing the youth and amongst all it can be pointed to family recognition as the most important factor that is investigated in the current research.

Pressure theory points to socio-economical pressures and social inequities in producing delinquent behaviors especially in poor regions and suburban zones that are the residence place of most immigrants (Merton, 1969). In these residence areas, the youth suffer from problems such as residence, health, food, & socio-economic status of the parents. So their reactions often are delinquent and are in the vandalistic shape (Ahmadi & Iman, 2006). The current research uses this theory for explaining socio-economic status of the family.

Subculture theory has pointed to the youth delinquent behaviors based on their subcultures. Evaluation of the lower category of the society with the standards of the moderate category will lead

lower category youth to be motivated toward destroying the norms of upper category (Cohen, 1955). Thus, the sense of prejudice is one of the elements can be lead to the delinquent behavior according to this theory. This element has been extracted from this theory in the current research for further analysis. Based on the above literature the theoretical model of the research is presented below:



Based on the research Model, it is supposed that vandalism as a dependant variable is the result of factors such as place of residence (immigrant versus non immigrant), agreement between parents, socio-economic status of the family, Familial dependencies, Dependency to the school, and The sense of prejudice in family, society, school.

Research Method:

The current research is a survey research. Using stratified random sampling method and considering heterogeneity of the city under the study, 300 non-immigrant and 100 migrant students were selected. The data gathered using a self-administered questionnaire and the reliability of its dimensions gained above 0.7 for all of the dimensions. The validity of the dimensions were confirmed referring to the related theories. Also, university professors confirmed the validity of the questionnaire. SPSS software was used for analyzing data.

Data Analysis:

Table 1 shows the levels of vandalistic behavior amongst immigrant students compared to non-immigrant students. Table 1 indicates that the vandalistic behavior in immigrant students is higher than non-immigrants.

Table 2 shows the means for vandalistic behaviors for immigrants compared to non-immigrants based on the items of the questionnaire. For comparing vandalistic behavior in two groups, the average mean of 1 has been considered for the non-immigrant group and based on it; the average levels for immigrant group have been calculated. As it can be seen in the table, in all of the items of the

questionnaire, the share of the immigrants in the vandalistic behavior is higher than the non-immigrant students. Based on t-values, the difference between means is significant.

Table 1- Frequency of Vandalistic Behavior amongst Immigrants Compared to Non- Immigrants

The levels of vandalistic Behavior	No	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Immigrant	2 2%	2 2%	16 16%	80 80%	100 100%
Non-immigrant	27 9%	122 40.6%	51 17%	100 33.3%	300 100
Total	29	124	67	180	400

Vandalistic/Delinquent Behavior	Immigrant mean	Non-immigrant mean	Immigrant/non immigrants ratio	T value
Breaking lights in the streets and alleys	1.25	0.74	1.7	
Damaging books in the libraries	1.76	1.45	1.2	
Damaging seats of public buses	0.95	0.75	1.3	
Damaging Schools Chattels	1.57	1.30	1.2	
Damaging Automobiles	1.07	0.63	1.7	
Damaging Peoples Personal Properties after Football Match	0.92	0.54	1.7	
Damaging Flowers and Grasses of Streets and Parks	0.69	0.31	2.2	
Total	1.05	0.50	2.1	7.14*

P<0.01

Table 3 shows the means for vandalistic behaviors based on the fathers job situation as an index of socio-economic status of family for immigrant and non-immigrant students. The job situation of father has been categorized into two categories; 1- low job situation includes the participants their fathers' job has been driver, simple worker, retailer, unemployed and so on. 2- moderate and high job situation includes the participants their fathers' job has been in the higher rank from the first group. In this regard, the transmittal two ways analysis in the table 4 shows that there are significant relationships between the job situation of fathers and the situation of residence with vandalistic behaviors both separately and interactively.

Table 3- The means for vandalistic behaviors for immigrants and non-immigrants based on their fathers' job situation

Categories	Father job situation	frequency	The mean for vandalistic behavior
Immigrant	Average and High	34	6.78
	Low	66	9.28
Non-immigrant	Average and High	205	4.81
	Low	195	6.29

Table 4- transmittal two ways analysis for situation of residence and the father job situation (as independent variables) with vandalistic behavior (dependent variable).

Variable	df	F-value	Sig.
Fathers Job situation	1	42.17	0.01
Situation of residence	1	55.38	0.01
Fathers job situation & situation of residence	1	3.98	0.05

Table 5 shows vandalistic behaviors based on the agreement between parents and situation of residence separately and interactively.

Table 5- Transmittal two ways analysis for situation of residence and the agreement between parents (as independent variables) with vandalistic behavior (dependent variable) both separately and interactively

Variables	df	F-value	Sig.
Situation of residence	1	55.38	0.01
Agreement between parents	1	29.82	0.01
Agreement between parents & situation of residence	1	4.35	0.05

Table 6 shows that how the relationship between the levels of vandalistic behaviors and school/family dependence is significant and negative i.e. with the raise in school/family dependence, the levels of vandalistic behaviors will be reduced.

Table 6- the relationship between school/family dependence and vandalistic behavior

Variables	R-value	R-square	B	Beta	Sig.
Dependence to family	0.16	26%	-0.14	-0.16	0.002
Dependence to School	0.18	33%	-0.17	-0.18	0.000

Table 7 shows the relationship between the sense of prejudice in school, society & family with levels of vandalistic behaviors. The data shows that this relationship is positive and significant.

Table 7- the relationship between the sense of prejudice in school, society & family with levels of vandalistic behaviors.

Variables	R-value	R-square	B	Beta	Sig.
The sense of prejudice in school/society/family	0.16	26%	-0.14	-0.16	0.002

Discussion and Conclusion:

This research aimed at investigating the impact of socio-economic status of the family, the sense of dependency to the school and family, the sense of prejudice in school, society and family, and the agreement between the parents as independent variables on the levels of vandalistic behaviors. Also the research has compared the levels of vandalistic behaviors amongst immigrant and non-immigrant students. The research showed that the frequency of vandalistic behaviors amongst immigrant students is higher than the non-immigrant students (Table 1). The means for vandalistic behavior amongst immigrants and non-immigrants shows that the means of vandalistic behaviors for immigrant students are higher than non-immigrants and this difference is statistically significant (Table 2). This finding is in accordance with the social control theory's assumptions. In line with the entrance of immigrants to the cities, unofficial controls by the unofficial groups (such as family, friends, relatives, etc) will be reduced (Nye, 1958; Gottfredson and Hirschi, 1978). Additionally, the sense of oblivion by the youth living around the populated cities, paves the way for doing abnormal and vandalistic behaviors.

The results of the current study show that vandalistic behaviors are higher in the youth that their parental relationship is weak. Also the

interaction of parental relationship status and student residence status (immigrant versus non-immigrant) together has a significant relationship with the degree of vandalistic behaviors (Table 5). In this regard, the research findings are in accordance with the studies of (Nikakhtar, 2000 & Mohebbi, 2003; Altucker, 2004). Nye (1958) and Hirschi (1968) are from social control theorists believing youth living in the families with parental conflicts, their socializing processes are weak and due to the weak control vandalistic and delinquent behavior will be raised amongst them. In this regard, the relationships between the weak dependence to the family/school/society and vandalistic behavior has been confirmed. This relationship is also from propositions of social control theory (Table 6). The current research shows that socio-economic status of the family is one of the key variables in doing vandalistic behaviors (Table 3) and the youth that have a poor socio-economic status will be more tending to do vandalistic and delinquent behaviors. The pressure theory indicates the positive relationship between the socio-economic status of the family and doing delinquent behaviors. Also as a general rule, the socio-economic status of the families are low in the immigrant youth. So, in the results, the interactive impact of socio-economic status and residence status (immigrant versus non-immigrant) with vandalistic behaviors is positive and significant (Table 4).

Subculture theory that has been developed by Thomas Cohen (1955) focuses on the point that due to the fact that the culture of the society shapes by the groups that are socio-economically in average level, the youth with low socio-economic status sense the prejudice in schools, family & society and in a reaction they will produce vandalistic behaviors sometimes. The current research confirmed this issue and showed that there is a significant relationship between the sense of prejudice and intention for vandalistic behaviors (Table 7).

Paying attention to the findings of the current research, for lowering the vandalistic behaviors in the youth it is necessary to educate familial, social, economical and communicational skills to the families to produce the shared understanding of the family and promote familial, social and institutional dependence towards the health of the family. The bilateral understanding of parents and youth should be along with the rational and logical level of the control. In this regard it seems that the families of the immigrant students need more understanding of the logical level of the control. The continuous attempt of the education and training scholars aiming at creation of a dynamic educational atmosphere with logical relationships to the students and avoidance of

prejudice between the students can help to reduce vandalistic behaviors.

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12/12/2011