



BEHIND BARS FOR THE FIRST TIME: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES OF FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS IN DISTRICT PRISON FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN

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Abstract

First-time offenders are one of the most vulnerable groups in prisons because they are taken into prison for the first time to a highly restricted environment with unfamiliar prison culture, prison routines, and prison hierarchy, where they do not have a previous experience to rely on to help them adjust, so they are emotionally stressed and have difficulties in adjusting. The study was designed to investigate the social, psychological, and economic problems of first-time offenders, their relations with hardened or repeat offenders, problems faced in prison, and needs experienced during the first time in prison, and the important psychological stress factors of first-time imprisonment. The design used in this study is a qualitative research design, which is used to gain an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of inmates. The data was gathered by conducting semi-structured, in-depth interviews with 25 first-time offenders, who were selected through purposive sampling in District Prison Faisalabad. Thematic analysis was then used to uncover key themes and patterns emerging from the data around prison experiences and vulnerabilities. Overall, the study revealed that imprisonment is an emotionally and socially challenging experience for first-time offenders with feelings of fear, anxiety, loneliness, uncertainty, and isolation, particularly in the early stages. The participants expressed difficulty adapting to the rules of the prison, the poor living conditions, and living together, making them feel insecure and helpless.

Keywords: First-Time Offenders, Prison Experience, Psychological Vulnerability, Prison Adjustment, Hardened Offenders, Qualitative Study, Faisalabad Prison, Pakistan

1. Introduction

Crime and imprisonment are significant social issues that affect not only individuals but also families, communities, and institutions. Prisons are established to punish offenders, maintain social order, and rehabilitate individuals who violate the law (Sykes, 1958). However, imprisonment is often associated with numerous psychological, social, and emotional challenges, particularly for individuals who enter prison for the first time. First-time offenders experience a sudden transition from normal social life to a highly controlled and restrictive environment, which can create feelings of fear, stress, uncertainty, and emotional instability (Haney, 2001). Their lack of familiarity with prison culture and institutional life often makes them more vulnerable compared to experienced prisoners.

The prison environment is a unique social institution characterized by strict discipline, limited freedom, overcrowding, social hierarchies, and institutional control (Clemmer, 1940). Within prisons, inmates are expected to adjust to formal rules as well as informal inmate cultures that shape daily life and interactions. For first-time offenders, adapting to such an environment can be extremely difficult because they often enter



prison without prior knowledge of prison routines, social norms, or survival strategies (Crewe, 2009). As a result, they may experience psychological distress, social isolation, and fear of victimization during the early stages of incarceration.

First-time offenders are generally considered more vulnerable than repeat or hardened offenders because they lack experience dealing with prison conditions and inmate relationships. Unlike experienced prisoners who may have developed coping mechanisms over time, first-time offenders frequently struggle to understand the prison system and manage the emotional burden associated with confinement (Zamble & Porporino, 2013). They may become dependent on other inmates for guidance and protection, increasing the risk of exploitation, intimidation, and exposure to criminal influences (Aronno et al., 2023). Their vulnerability is further intensified when institutional support systems such as counselling, rehabilitation programs, and emotional support services are weak or unavailable (Ullah, 2024).

The psychological effects of imprisonment have been widely discussed in criminological and sociological literature. Researchers have identified fear, anxiety, loneliness, depression, emotional instability, and social withdrawal as common experiences among incarcerated individuals (Fazel et al., 2016). The initial period of incarceration is often considered the most psychologically stressful phase because prisoners must cope with separation from family, loss of freedom, uncertainty about the future, and adjustment to prison culture (Haney, 2001). First-time offenders are particularly affected during this stage because they have not previously experienced institutional confinement or prison discipline (Eshra et al., 2025).

Despite the hardships associated with imprisonment, some studies suggest that incarceration may also create opportunities for reflection and personal transformation. Experiences of punishment, separation from family, and emotional suffering may encourage inmates to reconsider their past actions and future goals (Maruna, 2001). Some prisoners develop resilience, emotional control, religious commitment, and a desire for positive change during imprisonment. However, such transformation often depends on the availability of support systems, rehabilitation opportunities, and personal motivation for change (Giordano et al., 2002).

In Pakistan, prison research remains limited, particularly regarding the lived experiences of first-time offenders. Existing studies have primarily focused on prison conditions, overcrowding, juvenile delinquency, and criminal justice issues, while the psychological and social vulnerabilities of first-time prisoners have received relatively little scholarly attention (Gul, 2018). District Prison Faisalabad, like many prisons in Pakistan, faces challenges related to overcrowding, limited rehabilitation facilities, and insufficient mental health support (Kazmi & Ismail, 2024). Understanding the experiences of first-time offenders within this context is therefore essential for developing effective prison policies and rehabilitation programs (Tareque et al., 2023).

The present study seeks to investigate the vulnerabilities experienced by first-time offenders in District Prison Faisalabad. The study focuses on understanding their psychological, social, and environmental experiences during incarceration, their interactions with hardened offenders, and the challenges they face while adjusting to prison life. By exploring the lived experiences of inmates, the research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how imprisonment affects first-time offenders emotionally and socially.

2. Literature Review

Vulnerabilities are particularly heightened in prison – there are individual and institutional factors for the first-time offender, and there are also internal and external factors that influence the prisoner. There are many different reasons why an offender bears a high risk of reoffending and victimization. The literature has demonstrated that first-time offenders face numerous vulnerabilities in prison, including psychological distress, social isolation, and increased risk of victimization.

Both individual characteristics and prison environmental factors influence these vulnerabilities. Understanding these issues is essential for developing policies and interventions aimed at improving inmate safety and rehabilitation. Meanwhile, the researcher points out the environmental hazards and social disadvantages in prison. What is the behaviour of the convict when he meets hardened criminals? Discuss the psychological distress of the prisoners. (Steiner, Ellison, & Butler, 2017).

The concept of social and emotional well-being (SEWB) provides a comprehensive framework for understanding prisoner vulnerability, particularly among first-time offenders. SEWB is defined as an



individual's ability to cope with everyday stressors, function productively, and contribute to society. In prison settings, this well-being is often significantly compromised due to a combination of preexisting disadvantages and the harsh realities of incarceration. First-time offenders are especially at risk because they lack prior exposure to prison environments, making their adjustment process more psychologically and socially challenging. (Maxwell, Day, & Casey, 2013).

Prisons are also tall and complex structures, which pose a great deal of risk to themselves and the prisoners. The criminal faces the problem of violence and fear while spending time in prison. Structure and limited resources also greatly influence the upbringing of prisoners. The prison population growth report indicated that the prison population is increasing by 95,800 (Ministry of Justice, 2008). The fact is that the world's prison population is increasing. (Walmsley, 2009).

However, when an individual joins a prison, they are under certain restrictions. They lose their freedom and become cut off from family members and other areas. The individual is not a free citizen anymore as they have become subjects of correction; therefore, the prisoner loses all sense of security, lack of privacy, and many other basic things in life. This model of total control in the prison setting makes it impossible for the prisoner to retain their perception.

During their stay in prison, they are exposed to many problems and hazards posed by the prison environment and personnel, some of which include risk of victimization and a high risk of physical and psychological distress in prison (Islam et al., 2022). They are victims of being physically assaulted by other individuals serving their sentence. This is especially dangerous during their first six to twelve months inside the prison when there is a very high risk of victimization in the prison setting (Gooch, 2025).

The cultural background of a prisoner also makes him more susceptible to certain risks associated with first-time experiences in prison. Communication Gap: Prisoners who do not understand the dominant language of communication within the institution might fail to follow orders from wardens, resulting in punishment or fights. Cultural Isolation: Individuals from a minority culture/religion group could find themselves being "othered," making it hard for them to make friends who will protect them (Holdenson et al., 2003).

Also, racism can be a contributing factor to anger, reduced feelings of self-worth, and impaired self-identity among prisoners. Longitudinal studies have been carried out on this topic, which state that the first year in prison makes one highly vulnerable due to the psychological effects that prisoners undergo. (World Health Organization, 2009).

The term stigma is defined as a personal trait or characteristic that can harm or label someone as less worthy of respect (Austin, 2004). A survey conducted by Mahmood et al. (2014) found that 75 percent of their participants felt. It is as if their families have lost respect since they were imprisoned. The shame of crime and imprisonment is something that goes beyond the individual (Hidayat et al., 2024). Stigma effect on the wider community, not only on the individual but also on the families and the community. The families of the prisoners also feel shame, guilt, and isolation, depression, stigma, and embarrassment.

First experience in Prison inmates Are Susceptible to violent victimization (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2014). The fear of harm fell within three domains: physical harm (Yang et al., 2009), sexual harm (Wolff & Shi, 2009), and psychological harm (Tewksbury, 2012). The prisoners who are physically weak and disable are face many issues during their first time in prison, like showering, climbing up and down on bunks, listening to guards' orders, and dressing. These weaknesses lead to the risk of victimization in prison. Inmates who suffer from poor or complicated health are more likely to be targets of the hard criminals' attack.

The literature presents psychological, institutional, social, physical, and racial vulnerabilities as entirely separate impacts of imprisonment. Each paper addresses one or two dimensions in isolation. No existing theoretical or empirical model integrates all dimensions, individual, environmental, social, and systemic, into a unified explanatory framework designed specifically for first-time offenders. The result of this fragmentation is that practitioners, policymakers, and researchers lack a coherent map of how these dimensions interact and intersect in shaping first-time imprisonment outcomes.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The choice of design is determined by the research problem and the type of evidence needed (Akhtar



et al., 2016). Careful analysis of the problem statement, questions for the study, conceptual/theoretical framework, and review of the relevant literature determine the choice of research design. This study adopts a qualitative research design to explore the vulnerabilities of first-time offenders in District Prison Faisalabad. A qualitative approach is considered most appropriate because it enables an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences, perceptions, and social realities of inmates, which cannot be adequately captured through quantitative methods. Prior prison-based studies in Pakistan have also emphasized the effectiveness of qualitative designs in examining sensitive issues such as inmate vulnerability, prison conditions, and rehabilitation challenges.

3.2 Sampling Technique & Sample Size

Convenience sampling is used in research when the sample is drawn from a source that is convenient to the researcher. (Andrade 2020). In research methodology, Convenience Sampling is a specific type of non-probability sampling where the researcher selects participants based on their easy accessibility and proximity. Instead of choosing individuals through a random process, you include those who are "convenient" to reach at the time of your data collection. This study utilizes convenience sampling, a non-probability sampling technique, to select participants from the target population at District Prison Faisalabad. According to Creswell and Poth (2018), this method is appropriate when the researcher has limited access to a population or when the study is exploratory in nature. For this research, participants were selected based on their availability during scheduled visitation hours and their willingness to share their experiences.

3.3 Tool & Technique for Data Collection

As a part of the qualitative study, an interview guide was constructed, which helped in the accurate data collection for in-depth interviews. An interview guide in research enhances objectivity, structure, and transparency while allowing flexibility and improving the quality and reliability of data (Kallio et al. 2016). An interview guide was used in the research, which helped in keeping the discussion on track. The interview guide generated reliable and valid data that answered the questions.

In-depth interviews are a versatile qualitative research method used to explore complex behaviours, opinions, and experiences, though they face ethical and logistical challenges (Allmark et al, 2009). The primary data collection tool for this study is the in-depth, semi-structured interview. This technique is chosen because it aligns with the phenomenological goal of exploring the 'inner perspective' of the participants (Creswell & Poth, 2018). By using open-ended questions, the researcher can encourage first-time offenders to describe their experiences in their own words, providing a 'thick description' of the social and psychological pressures they face within the District Prison Faisalabad. These interviews are designed to be flexible, allowing the researcher to pursue unexpected but relevant themes that emerge during the dialogue.

3.4 Tool & Technique for Data Analysis

Qualitative data is analysed by examining the information to understand its deeper meanings, implications, and identifying emerging trends (Creswell & Poth, 2018). In this study, the data collected were analysed manually through a systematic process of coding and theme generation. The decision to utilize manual coding rather than software-based tools was based on the specific scope of the project, the availability of institutional resources, and the researcher's intent to maintain a close, interpretive connection with the participants' narratives (Basit, 2003).

The analysis began by transcribing the collected data into codes. In-vivo coding was specifically employed to ensure that the key ideas or concepts were captured using the actual language and expressions of the first-time offenders. Codes addressing similar concepts were subsequently grouped into categories, with coding consistency maintained through a continuous process of revisiting and refining the data. As noted by Creswell & Poth (2018), they argued that structured qualitative data can utilize thematic analysis to identify patterns and generate study-oriented themes. These patterns facilitated the generation of both sub-themes and major themes, which were named according to their specific contents. Throughout the process, themes were reviewed and modified to eliminate overlapping and ensure their distinct nature. Finally, detailed descriptions of these themes, supported by verbatim data excerpts, were prepared for presentation in the results section (Zahid & Ullah, 2026).



4. Results

4.1 Initial Shock and Struggle for Adaptation in Prison Life

The results indicate that first-time offenders tend to have a strong feeling of fear and shock on their first day in prison. The participants expressed that the prison was a strange and intimidating place, and their perceptions were mostly uncertain. Most interviewees stated that the initial few days were especially troubling, with them finding it hard to grasp the strict regime, unfriendly environment, and the disheartening inmate population. One of the respondents said, *“When I was first put in the barracks, I felt I wouldn’t survive.”* There were queer folks everywhere. This shows the abnormal anxiety and fear of victimization that is usually documented amongst first-time inmates. The emotional shock was also enhanced when they lost their freedom and the company of their family. The idea of prison environments as a constant stressor that strengthens emotional vulnerability in inmates is also supported by Pakistani studies (Farakh et al., 2025). In such a way, the current results endorse the idea that the first imprisonment is characterized by psychological destabilization and a severe emotional state.

Another important theme that emerges strongly, considering the data, is the loss of individuality and independence among the first-time offenders. The interviewees further reported that they had been robbed of their personalities as they were absorbed by the strict institutional guidelines and practices. To be reduced to a controlled prisoner and become an individual dehumanizes and renders people helpless. According to one respondent, *“Here, it feels like a person has no identity left; you just become a number”*. This is a symptom of the radical identity crisis that comes with imprisonment. Inability to make simple choices with regard to everyday life also contributes to feelings of powerlessness. These results are explained by the fact that Zamble and Porporino (2013) insist that imprisonment is a major disruption of personal identity and agency, which makes prisoners take on an institutional role.

Respondents often lamented about missing their loved ones and having emotional pain because of the lack of communication. This brings out the emotional loneliness of first-time offenders, according to one inmate, *“The hardest thing is staying away from family; there is no one to share things with”*. Emotional support is missing and contributes to depressive feelings and helplessness. With time, some inmates would seek to deal with it through selective relationships. The results are corroborated by Leban et al. (2016), who concluded that prisoners do not start adapting socially well and tend to be highly isolated and anxious.

4.2 Emotional Turmoil and Cognitive Overload at Prison Entry

The findings indicate that the immediate emotional response of first-time offenders upon entering prison is characterized by overwhelming fear and anticipatory anxiety. Participants described their first moments as filled with uncertainty about personal safety, potential violence, and the unknown social environment. This fear was often not based on direct experience but on preconceived notions and stories about prison life. One respondent shared, *“When the gate closed, my heart was pounding. I was only thinking what would happen to me now”*. Such narratives reflect a heightened state of psychological alertness and vulnerability. The entry moment becomes a symbolic transition from freedom to confinement, intensifying emotional distress. Participants further expressed that fear was compounded by the presence of unfamiliar and seemingly threatening individuals. Many described feelings constantly watched and judged, leading to discomfort and insecurity. One inmate noted, *“Everyone was staring at me; it felt like I had entered a jungle”*. This sense of threat tended to result in withdrawal and silence as defense mechanisms. These results are quite consistent with the available literature, which has always found fear and anxiety as the most prevalent feelings when entering prison. Souza and Dhama (2010) discovered that the fear levels of first-time inmates are much higher at the time of admission than those of repeat offenders.

The data also reveal that entry into prison triggers strong feelings of regret, guilt, and self-blame among first-time offenders. Participants frequently reflected on their actions and the consequences that led to their incarceration. This moment of realization often brought emotional pain and introspection. One inmate stated, *“At that moment, I was only thinking that if I hadn’t done this, I wouldn’t be here today”*. Such statements indicate a deep sense of personal responsibility and remorse. The prison entry acts as a turning point for self-evaluation. These emotions were often intertwined with concern for family and social reputation. Participants expressed guilt over the distress caused to their loved ones and the shame associated with imprisonment. One



respondent shared, *“I felt the most regret for my family; they suffered because of me”*. The study's results are backed up by Schnittker (2014), who says that being in prison often makes people think more about themselves and feel emotions like guilt and shame.

One of the sub-themes emerging from the data is the pervasive sense of hopelessness and uncertainty experienced at the time of prison entry. Participants reported feeling unsure about their future, legal outcomes, and life after release. This uncertainty created a sense of despair and loss of direction. One respondent stated, *“After coming inside, it feels like life is over; I don't understand what will happen next”*. Such expressions reflect a deep sense of existential uncertainty. The lack of clarity about the future intensifies emotional distress. Participants felt powerless in influencing their legal cases or improving their situation within prison. One inmate shared, *“Everything is in the hands of the system; we can't do anything”*. Western et al. (2015) found that people who are in prison for a time get really stressed out because they are not sure what will happen to them in the future.

4.3 Experiences of Insecurity, Social Exclusion, and Vulnerability in Prison

The results suggest that first-time offenders often experience circumstances where they felt physically unsafe because of intimidation, threats, or if they felt a threat of violence from other prisoners. Participants spoke of a society where domination and strength are the bases for safety, resulting in a constant state of alertness. Many said they had to be careful with their interactions to keep from getting into conflict. One prisoner confided that *“In the beginning, it felt like anyone could start a fight, so there was constant fear”*. This is a long-held sense of insecurity. Daily lives and mobility in the prison are driven by fear of victimization. The results are consistent with those of Edgar et al. (2003), who showed that fear of victimization is a frequent occurrence in prison settings.

Social isolation and emotional withdrawal, especially among first-time offenders who are less able to fit into the prison community, are another important sub-theme. Participants mentioned feeling excluded or disconnected because of a lack of trust, unfamiliarity, or social hierarchy. One of the respondents commented, *“In the beginning, even talking to anyone felt difficult; everyone seemed like Strangers”*. Reflects an emotional separation whilst incarcerated. Being isolated increases mental suffering. One prisoner commented, *“I mostly stay alone and don't talk much to anyone”*. This is in line with Liebling (2014), who stresses that social isolation is one of the most significant “pains of imprisonment.”

Another sub-theme noted is reliance on others for protection, guidance, or survival, which may lead to a sense of vulnerability or powerlessness. Participants mentioned that they had sought guidance and security from more experienced prisoners during their early years in prison. One of the respondents commented: *“A new person has to depend on others for everything. This means you're losing your independence”*. Addiction brings about a feeling of Weakness and insecurity. This is short-term help, but also the risk of exploitation. *“Without group support, things become difficult”*, said one inmate. In the Pakistani context, Ullah (2024) mentions that institutional gaps raise dependence on an informal inmate network. The findings of the present study corroborate these findings, demonstrating the link between dependence and vulnerability.

4.4 Influence of Inmate Relationships on Prison Experience and Adjustment

The findings show that relationships with other prisoners are crucial for providing emotional support and creating a sense of belonging among first-time offenders. Participants explained that connecting with fellow inmates helps lessen feelings of loneliness and fear, especially during the early days of incarceration. These relationships often serve as informal support systems where individuals exchange experiences, advice, and emotional burdens. One participant said, *“If you find someone here who feels like your own, life becomes a bit easier.”* This suggests that companionship can greatly enhance emotional well-being. Supportive peers help normalize the prison experience. These findings align with Liebling and Arnold (2012), who stress that strong relationships among prisoners promote well-being and lessen the hardships of imprisonment.

While relationships can provide support, the findings also show that interactions with other prisoners may expose first-time offenders to harmful influences and criminal learning. Participants indicated that some inmates share knowledge about illegal activities, which can affect attitudes and behaviour. This exposure is especially concerning for first-time offenders who are still shaping their views. One respondent said, *“Some people teach new methods here that can be used outside”*. This suggests that prisons can become places for



criminal socialization. Such interactions may reinforce delinquent behaviour. These findings support Sutherland et al.'s (1992) differential association theory, which claims that people learn criminal behaviour through interactions with others.

The study also suggests that contact with hardened criminals is frequently enough to encourage first-time criminals to enter into strategic alliances to protect and survive. Strong or influential inmates can offer security in a hierarchy, which is a reason to tie into them, participants explained. A single respondent commented, *“If you are with a strong person, you get some security”*. This is a dependency based on survival. This type of partnership is sometimes a pragmatic one, not an emotional one. In Pakistan, Ullah (2024) says that if the protection of the institutions is weak, people rely on informal networks. The present study confirms these results, demonstrating that strategic relationships are important for survival.

5. Conclusion

The current study was designed to conduct an exploration of the lived experiences of first-time offenders in the District Prison Faisalabad, with special emphasis being placed on analysing the psychological, social, and institutional vulnerabilities of such individuals while undergoing incarceration. Based on the data collected from 25 participants through in-depth interviews, the study has uncovered a highly vivid and profoundly human image of what it feels like to undergo one's first experience of imprisonment — a condition characterized by fear, confusion, emotional trauma, and deep social upheaval. The first few days and weeks following the beginning of imprisonment were identified as the most psychologically challenging stage experienced by first-time offenders. The process of entering prison was characterized as an abrupt shift from normal life and society to a completely different world of strict discipline and rigorous control. Shock, fear, and anxiety were commonly experienced emotions that indicated the process of severe psychological destabilization typical for first-time offenders.

Deprivation of one's own identity and independence was another prominent theme that emerged from the interviews. Individuals talked about how they became parts of the institution after being stripped of their identities, replacing them with their prisoner numbers and behaviour standards. Such loss of identity played a role in contributing to their feelings of powerlessness and emotional instability due to the lack of necessary psychological help and guidance at institutions. The disciplinary approach in institutions, where overcrowding and insufficient resources are prevalent, did little to enable offenders to think or reflect upon their actions and correct them.

Another important theme was associated with the social dimension of becoming a first-time offender. Many individuals felt extremely lonely while staying in prison since they were separated from their families, leading to profound emotional distress, guilt, and sorrow. Offenders often thought about their actions in relation to their families, whose social status could have been harmed, and they could face shame due to that. This feeling of guilt was associated with strong Pakistani cultural values of family honour and community reputation.

Interaction with fellow inmates had both positive and negative consequences. On the one hand, interactions with other inmates allowed for some degree of companionship and comfort through informal relationships and support. On the other hand, this interaction put first-time offenders at risk as far as their possible future criminal activities were concerned, since they were exposed to various negative influences associated with prison subculture. Specifically, the necessity to have the company of hardened prisoners, who could protect and provide advice, created risks of exploitation for first offenders and the need for forming strategic alliances within prison walls. Such findings are especially alarming because they suggest that today's prisons only serve to exacerbate existing problems. There were serious institutional deficiencies detected in the studied prison institution. Namely, the fact that no structured psychological or educational support was available meant that first offenders did not receive proper orientation in the prison environment and could only concentrate on self-protection issues.

The implications of these findings are significant for policymaking and practice. Firstly, there should be awareness among prison administration officials that first offenders form a particularly vulnerable group of people who require special help, especially within the first couple of weeks after entering the prison facility. This will entail the development of programs for helping inmates go through the process of adjustment and



psychological counselling for first offenders. Moreover, the provision of mental care will become necessary as well, paying special attention to first offenders. Also, it will be crucial to limit the impact of veteran offenders on first offenders through various methods.

In general, these findings reveal the need to reconsider the role of imprisonment within Pakistan's criminal justice system. The imprisonment system that inflicts fear upon first offenders, exploits them, deprives them of their identities, and exposes them to criminal socialization without offering any assistance to them becomes harmful rather than helpful in many cases. Therefore, there should be reform in the criminal justice system in terms of improved conditions within prisons as well as a new philosophy regarding the treatment of offenders.

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Contribution of Authors

All the authors participated in the ideation, development, and final approval of the manuscript, making significant contributions to the work reported.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Informed Consent

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

Ethical Approval

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during and analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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