

FACTORS AFFECTING HEINOUS CRIME IN DELHI

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Abstract: Heinous literally means extremely evil or horrible and ‘heinous offences’ are those “for which the minimum punishment under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment for seven years or more. This paper makes an attempt to identify the factors causing heinous crime in Delhi and explain the relationship between them. Factors are grouped under two broad categories economic and social. The identified economic factors include migration, per capita income and employment, on the other hand identified social factors focuses on educational status. Analysis from 2004 to 2013 indicates that migration and educational status are two key economic and social factors respectively. Under economic factors increasing migration exhibits a negative relation with crime whereas educational status under social factors exhibits positive relation with crime. Modernization, vibrant economies and advancement in economic growth results in such negative relation of migration with crime, on the other hand studies indicate that higher IQ does not necessarily act as a “magic bullet” which would diminish one’s propensity to indulge in crime rather it at times facilitates criminal activities due to increased knowledge and capabilities. Suggestions are given so as to identify the factors increasing propensity of an individual to indulge in crime which include appointment of counselor at schools and colleges, providing physiological aid to students etc. There exists further scope to study the physiological variables resulting in higher propensity of crime.

IndexTerms - Heinous Crime, Factors, Social Factors, Economic Factors, Delhi

I.INTRODUCTION

Delhi the capital of India is famous for a variety of things especially for its dynamic culture and gilded history. It is home to Indian Central Government and major institutions that form foundation of Indian democracy. And to add on the list, for the west side, though less heard about: the outlay of human life is almost zero or negligible here. But the state of crime records seems to highlight a different picture of the capital to be specific about the heinous crime. Heinous means hateful or shockingly evil. A grossly incorrigible or nefarious action is called heinous act. According to the recent report releases by National Crime Bureau Records indicated a rise in crime in Delhi. Police said this was “basically a reflection of a higher number of cases being registered due to free and fair policing”. The police chief said that it would be unfair to judge Delhi’s crime situation by comparing it with the figures of other states. To be specific about the strata of crime i.e. heinous crime as per police data there has been 24% decline in the cases from last few years and number of solved has climbed up to 85% this year compared to 69% in 2016.

There are four stages in commission of crime:-

(i) Intention to commit crime

This is the very first stage of committing of a crime. An intention of committing is not punishable until and unless it is communicated to others either by words or conduct. E.g. - A mere assembly to commit an act of dacoit is punishable even though there is no preparation to it.

(ii) Preparation

It is hard for prostitution to proof that necessary preparation has been made to commit a crime. E.g.: In situation if a person purchases a gun and loads it with bullets, it is not possible to prove that the person is holding the pistol to kill someone.

(iii) Attempt

It is also called 'Preliminary Crime'. Section XXIII under IPC, 1860 render with 'of Attempt to Commit Offences' and provides the punishment for attempt.

(iv) Accomplishments

This is the last stage in commission of crime. The accused is found to be guilty only if he succeeds in his act or else he is guilty of its attempt only. (Source: Salim, M. K., & Majumdar, M)

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To identify various factors affecting heinous crime in Delhi.
2. To analyze significance of each factor.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study includes both quantitative as well as qualitative method of analyzing the secondary data collected for various factors affecting heinous crimes in Delhi. Further multiple regression and correlation are used as statistical tools to determine the significance of factors. Secondary data for years 2004 to 2013 is taken from Economic Survey of Delhi and statistical Abstract of Delhi. One of the economic factor i.e. migration is calculated on the basis of census 2011, by differencing increased population and natural increase in population, where natural increase in population means the difference between total births and deaths

3.1 DISCUSSION

Amid concern over frequent incidents of heinous crimes in Delhi, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit has said that migration accompanied with "crisscrossing" of people through cities is one of the biggest obstacles in keeping a check on criminals. Talking about the population density, it has risen to 11,297 persons per km in comparison to 9,294 in 2001(census 2001).It was discovered that a total of 238 households out of 600 households – nearly 40% migrated to the capital city from other towns or villages(census 2001). Despite opening up of economy the issue of employment remains unsolved, "only 29% approximately of population able to join workplace". The survey showed that Trans-Yamuna region specially North East District is far behind in terms of all indicators of development and progress, be it the literacy rate, employment opportunities, income levels, equitable access to quality education, status of infrastructure, health, and other public amenities. "The survey showed that Trans-Yamuna region specially North East District is far behind in terms of all indicators of development and progress, be it the literacy rate, employment opportunities, income levels, equitable access to quality education, status of infrastructure, health, and other public amenities". There exist huge gap in poor and rich. Trans-Yamuna region is one the most crime prone regions of Delhi and in some way of India. It was seen that few areas in Trans –Yamuna region like NandNagri, Seelampur, Khajuri, Kalyanpuri, Mandawali and Gokulpuri. . Common to all localities is the low education, income and over population. One factor found linked with crime is the feasibility to another state as it become very easy for criminal to commit crime in Delhi and cross boundaries to enter Uttar Pradesh.

Certain political elements also use people so as to tilt them in their favor and engage them in criminal activities. Social and economic disparities in connection with the link between police and criminal accompanied with "slow judicial process" acts as a causal agent to increasing graph of crime in Delhi. Under a study conducted (Rao, 2007) it was found that psychological criminology has to peep beyond individuals who have reached the final stage of legal process in order to understand "Criminal mind".

Our approach has to go beyond the behavioral pattern that qualifies one as criminal. Considering area as well as crime type in Delhi, it was found that areas are sensitive towards crime and there exist association between area of and individual and crime type. (Gera, Vohra, 2014).

Social control behavior r refers that a strong connection of an individual with his work acts as an informal social control over criminal behavior. Social control theory is also genial to the fact that "idle hands are the devil's workshop," in the sense that employed individuals simply have lesser opportunities

to engage themselves in crime because they are occupied with their work (Hirschi, 1969). Criminal behavior is one act of enhancing negative feelings out of unemployment further low standard of living due to low income (Angew, 1992). Each type of crime can be evaluated on the basis of three factors being-(i) immediate situation of the individual, (ii) Interpretation of the act by the offender, and (iii) Emotional process of seduction or temptation and compulsion (J Katz, 1988).

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Identifying Factors

Based of literature review there exist various factors that may lead an individual to commit crime. These factors are stratified into Economic, Social and political factors in particular. Economic factors include the income, unemployment rate, balance of trade, rate of interest etc. Social factor include lifestyles, eating habits, religions and beliefs, educational level etc. Political factors involve the policies or acts by government in regard to issue in discussion, bureaucracy, corruption level etc.

➤ According to a study conducted in Sweden, people from foreign backgrounds are found to be 2.5 times more likely conjectured of crimes against people born in Sweden. In later studies, researchers from Stockholm University showed that the vital difference in relation to criminal activities between immigrants and other population was due to difference in socio economic conditions, pointing out to factors like incomes, educational status etc.

Recent studies conducted in US (across 200 metropolitan areas), shows virtually no support to endure assumption that increased migration increases crime. Large cities with considerable immigrant population have lower rates of crime. There were some individual studies that found that with an increase in immigration, there was an increase in crime. However, there exist 2.5 times as many findings showing that immigration was actually correlated with less crime. And, the most common finding was that immigration had no impact on crime.

On analysis of various economic factors it is found that migration as an important role in relation to Crime so as to trace the ongoing trend. *Thus, first identified factor is migration from the economic perspective.*

➤ In a 2002 study by World Bank economists Pablo Fajnzylber, Daniel Lederman, and Norman Loayza, found out that crime rates and income inequality are positively correlated within countries and also between countries. “The correlation is causation – inequality induces crime rates”. Apart from this nation’s economic growth has an impact on Crime. It is interesting to point out that Sweden having good performance in income inequality mitigation, registered highest number of rape cases in Europe.

An individual financial status in terms of one’s income too has a significant role to play in commission of crime.

Thus, another important factor affecting heinous crime is per capita income and is considered in the study from the economic perspective.

➤ Economic choice theory is rooted in the neoclassical idea of utility maximization, which presumes that people are responsive to incentives and choose behavior by maximizing their utility from a stable set of preferences, subject to opportunities and other constraints on their resources (Becker, 1968). The Economic choice theory of crime is about how self-interested individuals allocate their resources and time between legal and illegal activities when the returns to latter is uncertain in nature. Important in this tradition is the “**expected utility model**, according to which a person commits crime when the expected returns from illegal behavior, discounted by punishment risk, exceed the expected returns from law-abiding behavior such as employment”. To be precise criminals find opportunity cost of engaging in crime low and thus find legal generation of income i.e. employment as unattractive.

Thus, **third factor from economic perspective is Employment taken in study**

➤ The background of an individual and one's upbringing has a significant impact on activities one indulges into in present as well as in future. The activities of one are related to the environment one is brought up in and also the educational status one has acquired.

*The study lay stress on **educational status** of an individual as a social factor and links it with crime.*

Based on the literature review there exist various economic and social factors. Study includes the major factors from economic and social perspective as shown in the below table.

Economic Factors	Migration	Per capita income	Employment
Social factor	Educational status		

The identified factors are vital for establishing relation with the dependent factor (heinous crime) in study.

4.2 Significance of Factors

Discussed variables under economic and social factor were compiled together and regression analysis was done. The time period under study ranges from year 2004 to 2013. The chosen variables are stationary in nature tested by KSS and ADF test.

4.2.1 ECONOMIC FACTORS

Economic prosperity of a nation serves as a backbone for overall progress of a nation. There exist many economic variables that affect an individual's propensity to indulge in crime. Variables under study are migration, per capita income and employment. Table 1 in appendix show the regression results, where migration has most significant impact on crime as compared to employment in private sector and per capita income calculated at constant prices.

Discussing about the signs and their respective relationship with regressed, migration and employment exhibits a negative relation with crime. Here, employment refers to employment in private sector (measured in lakhs) and migration is measured on the basis of census 2011*. The correlation coefficient (in table-1), there exist negative movement in variable crime and migration, however on the other hand crime and employment in private sectors and crime and per capita income shows positive movement i.e. and increase in one is accompanied by increase in another too, where the latter showing moderate correlation as compared to former.

The recent Trump's view was of removing the immigrants who, he said, were increasing crime in US. But research and various studies have another picture to show case. Starting with hypothesis that immigration is associated with higher crime. It has been observed in study of US, large cities with substantial migration taking place registers lower crime rates. The decline in Burglary, murder, robbery and larceny was observed as immigration increased, crime on an average declined.

Reasons for such negative relation could be the modernization of neighborhood, creation of vibrant economies, and advancement of economic growth. With influx of people or broadly households with different background adds to the flavor of living to the existing households boosting up the present standard of living thus reducing the risk of one indulging in criminal activities.

With growing employment opportunities in private sector increases the earning population to some level, which ensures better availability of resources and thus reduces the probability of one indulging in crime or propensity of criminal to commit crime Employment thus have negative relation with crime, an observant increase in employment contributes to decline in crime.

Per capita income has least impact amongst the rest two observed regressors though is significant at 10% level of significance. Showing positive relationship with crime (ceteris paribus) that implies that with increase in per head income crime increases. Well said by Mahatma Gandhi "Nation has enough for everyone's need but not everyone's greed", once the human gets what are basic for his survival he starts to extend his reach towards the lustrous items and develop materialistic outlook. This change of need to greed may be due to demonstration effect at hand. This takes the individual to the path of greed and easy money, if not murder to be particular, one indulge in some illegal ways of grasping money.

4.2.2 SOCIAL FACTORS

Background and health of an individual has an impact on his activities in future. In the present study education level measured on the basis of number of students in universities, colleges and other institution has been taken into consideration while establishing relationship with crime. As per many studies, states that have focused more on education tend to exhibit low rates of violent crime. However, education cannot be treated as “magic” guarantying reduction in criminal activities. Most people argue that education acts as an important ingredient reducing the propensity of an individual to commit crime. But, an increased level of education actually facilitates criminal activities due to more knowledge and enhanced abilities. A major component that emerges here is “individual motivation and desire” that affects one’s propensity to indulge in illegal or to be specific criminal activities.

A higher IQ does not necessarily guarantee lower propensity to indulgent in commission of crime. This relation is quite controversial and complicated. Correlation Coefficient is moderately positive (Table-2 in appendix) that implies with increase in one increases other.

V. CONCLUSION

The paper highlights social and economic factors affecting crime in capital from 2004 to 2013. Evaluation of economic factors gave us three important variables (migration, employment and per capita income) with migration have most significant impact on crime in Delhi. Social factor included education which showed that low education is neither necessary nor sufficient to ensure a decline in propensity for an individual to indulge in crime commission rather it can back fire in some cases due to enhanced capabilities of an individual. Delhi is the region of study which could further be stretched to other states so as to identify state specific economic and social factors resulting in increasing criminal activities in India as a whole.

Crime being done by an individual makes it necessary to first of all study the one indulging in criminal activities. Thus, it requires working and identifying the actions resulting into unacceptable as well as illegal reactions. For this we need integrated and coordinated approach in order to prevent conditions that draw an individual into violent or criminal behavior. At school level a counselor should be allotted to each class who can talk or communicate to students either on personal or group basis about the issues students face in day to day life, like peer pressure, high expectations from teachers and parents, and social acceptance. The act of path changing take place at the age when it is easy to mold childlike clay which can be given any figure or shape when it is wet. If at the initial stage a child is made learnt to share his problems be it emotional or study pressures it becomes for child to face upcoming problems.

There exist a lot of interventions focusing on women’s rights. But vast majority of killing acts around the world are by men on men. There is a need to address the male violence too which further reduces the violence on female.

The global ingredient to increasing crime is “Drug intake” acting as a massive driver to violence and crime. Now it’s time to take this matter on board. We too need to focus on economic inequality which is the center for reducing crime and violence in the long run and minimize the prevailing gap between the haves and have-nots. We need to teach non-violence and methods of non-violent communication, which involve conflict resolution and basis communication.

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