

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIME IN INDIA

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Abstract

Crime exists in India in various forms such as murder, extortion; drug trafficking, money laundering, fraud, human trafficking, poaching and prostitution etc. These crimes have different statistical trends and it changes with change in time. This paper provides a complete picture of crime and crime control in India. Location has a significant impact on crime in India. In 2012, Kerala reported the highest cognisable crime rate of 455.8 among States of India, while Nagaland recorded lowest rates (47.7). The rates were calculated by National Crime Records Bureau as the number of incidents per 100,000 of the population.

The gravity of crime in India is also examined from comparative perspective by engaging in a cross national comparison with other countries. The finding of this research indicates that the crime problem in India is more serious than other developed countries. This paper further determines the factors responsible for increase in crime rate and reached on the conclusion that political, economic and socio-cultural factors have played and will continue to play a vital role in crime and crime control practices in India.

Keywords: Crime, Trafficking, Socio-cultural, Political, Economic, Money,

Introduction

Crime exists in India in various forms such as murder, extortion; drug trafficking, money laundering, fraud, human trafficking, poaching and prostitution etc. Although every society experiences various degrees of social change and consequent increases in crime and crime rates, rates of change differ from one society to another. Accordingly, this paper will attempt an overview of the trends and characteristics of crime and crime control in India and in doing so will provide a general understanding of crime in Indian society. This article will conclude with a discussion of the case of India as it experiences rapid change. We will also look at how these changes influence crime and crime control practices. The Analytical Report on Crime is the most comprehensive compilation of statistical data on crime, police activity, and the Crime Rates in India. According to the Criminal Code, offenses are classified into seven sub-categories: violent crimes, property crimes, forgeries, and crimes by government officials, crimes against public morals, crimes of negligence, and others. Crime can influence economic activities in two possible ways: affecting the level of output, for example, loss due to lost working days/lives or property damages; or by affecting the growth rate of per capita income which can happen due to foregone investments and institutional changes that influence productivity growth.

Literature Review

Ehrlich (1973) models the participation of individuals in non-market, legal and illegal activities, and predicts an unspecified effect of crime on economic development.

Chatterjee and Ray (2009) based on a large cross-country sample for the period 1991-2005 and controlling for human capital and institutional quality, find no strong evidence of a uniformly negative association

between crime and growth. Burnham et al. (2004) using US county level data are not able to establish a clear connection between central city crime and per capita income growth.

Barber (2000) analysed the effect of sex ratio on violent crimes (murders, assaults and rapes) for cross-national data of 70 countries in the year 1990 and found a negative relationship between the two, supporting Guttentag and Secord's (1983) theory.

Dreze and Khera (2000) take Oldenburg's argument further by scrutinizing the link between crime rates and various indicators of modernization as well as the social composition of the population. They establish a positive relationship between overall sex ratio and murder rates (annual murders per million persons) for 319 Indian districts in 1981.

Fajnzylber, Lederman and Loayza (2002) show that "crime rates (homicide and robbery) and inequality are positively correlated within countries and this correlation reflects causation from inequality to crime rates, even after controlling for other crime determinant". Social disorganization theory (Shaw and McKay, 1942) highlights that a breakdown of social control machinery can lead to higher crime rates.

Entorf and Spengler (2000) in their study on criminality, social cohesion and economic performance. According to them, wealth varies positively with crime for property related crimes.

Factors Responsible For Increase in Crime Rates

It is interesting to note that increases in crime rates, show different patterns over the past four decades: a notable increase in the crime against human body; a decrease in crime against property. Along with the notable increase and decrease in crime, we need to understand it in a social context. Indian society experienced rapid structural changes brought on by industrialization and modernization after Independence. Social changes always tend to produce social disorganization, some of which is crime.[xxxvi] In India, the rapid growth in the urban population; the increase in the stress and strains of urban life; the higher standard of living; and, the changes in the existing value systems and political system, were some of the factors contributing to the increase in the crime rate.

As Indian society increasingly put greater emphasis on material success as a means of determining personal worth, there was a correspondingly higher rate of property crime. As India enjoyed enormous economic growth, and the overall size of the Indian economy rapidly expanded during the 1990s, the number of available targets for property offenses increased as well. One of the main reasons for the sustained trend in the increase in the number of major criminal offenses may be attributed to a continued increase in the number of violations of legislation such as the 'Indian Penal Code'. The other reason may be due to revisions and improvements of the criminal justice system, laws and regulations. The improved regulations represent an attempt to exert more efficient control over India's increasingly complex society. This social phenomenon is manifested in the rapid expansion of the scope of activities engaged in by the public, together with the various ways in which these activities are pursued as Indian society progresses.

Reducing Violence in Marginalized Communities

In the context of this literature review, the term marginalized communities refers to communities which are systematically disadvantaged socioeconomically, suffering from limited access to resources such as housing, employment, education, and healthcare, and are marked by an inability to escape the cycle of poverty.

Routine Activity Theory (Cohen and Felson 1979), or the “triangle of crime,” suggests that in the absence of effective controls, a motivated perpetrator will take advantage of an attractive target. Therefore, violence mitigation revolves around affecting perpetrator motivation (such as anti-gang recruitment programs); increasing effective controls (by improving policing techniques or community oversight); and/or reducing the attractiveness of targets (for instance, through increased street lighting).

Crimes against women

Police records show high incidence of crimes against women in India. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. Earlier, many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation cases. Official statistics show that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women.

Rape

Official sources show that rape cases in India has doubled between 1990 and 2008[17] In most of the rape cases, the culprit is known to the victim. According to National Crime Records Bureau data of 2012, Gujarat has the lowest rape rate (0.8) while Mizoram had the highest rape rate with a value of 10.1. The National Average was at 2.1. The rates were calculated by National Crime Records Bureau as the number of incidents per 100,000 of the population.

Dowry

Research shows that there are proportionately more spousal murders in the United States, but "dowry" gets implicated in India as a cultural crime due to persistent colonial narratives. In 2012, 8,233 dowry death cases were reported across India. Dowry issues caused 1.4 deaths per year per 100,000 women in India.

Domestic violence

Around 70% of women in India are victims of domestic violence, according to Renuka Chowdhury, former Union minister for Women and Child Development. The National Crime Records Bureau reveal that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes, a woman is raped every 29 minutes, a dowry death occurs every 77 minutes, and one case of cruelty committed by either the husband or relative of the husband occurs every nine minutes.

Illegal drug trade

India is a transshipment point for heroin from Southwest Asian countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan and from Southeast Asian countries like Burma, Laos, and Thailand. Heroin is smuggled from Pakistan and Burma, with some quantities transhipped through Nepal. Most heroin shipped from India are destined for Europe. There have been reports of heroin smuggled from Mumbai to Nigeria for further export. A survey conducted in 2003–2004 by Narcotics Control Bureau found that India has at least four million drug addicts. The most common drugs used in India are cannabis, hashish, opium and heroin. In 2006 alone, India's law enforcing agencies recovered 230 kg heroin and 203 kg of cocaine. However a number of crimes classified as due to "dowry" may be falsely attributed as a result of the draconian anti-dowry law.

Conclusion

A cross national comparison with USA reveals that overall rates of crime in India were substantially lower than that in the U.S. According to this study, the overall crime problem in India is not as serious as that in the U.S. However, recent data indicates an alarming increase in the crime rate. From the data analyzed, we can determine that economic, political, and societal factors have played a crucial role in the occurrence of crime and crime control practices in India. The evidence shows that the estimated effects are large in magnitude; these large and persistent effects suggest further investigation of the crime-growth relationship. The results show that crime per se has an important effect on economic performance. It does not rule out that many other factors such as the quality of economic, legal and political institutions and the nature of both macroeconomic and microeconomic government policies, including those related to social sectors may play important roles in determining both the level of crime and economic development. In modern society changes have been taking place in everywhere in almost every field but to protect honour of women. International Women Day is celebrated, a number of women organizations have been working for women freedom and empowerment.

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