

Spatial Variation of Crimes: A Study of Bhojpur District

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The analysis of spatial variation of the phenomena mere physical space is the basic object of geographical study. Though, the occurrence of crime over geographical space is universal phenomenon, its magnitude and spatial pattern is not everywhere uniform. Crimes vary from time to time, season-to-season and from region to region depending on the socio-economic and cultural diversities. Regional and intraregional variation of crimes are therefore of great interest and significance to geographers and other social scientists.

It has been observed that incidence of crimes on regional and intra-regional level tends to exist on sectorial forms, which is attributed to social, economic and cultural diversities. This argument appears to be valid in the case of Bhojpur District, where there exist great disparities in sectorial reactions to various types of human behavior. The inspection of data compiled for the purpose demonstrated that there is substantial variation of incidence of crimes in the District of Bhojpur even within its different police stations. All crimes statistics should, therefore, be taken continuously especially, when they are being related to definite geographical area treated in a comparative manner. The examination of data reveals that Bhojpur District reported a total number of 2640 cases of the occurrence of crime and major heads in 2011 (See the Table). The most noteworthy feature of this magnitude of reported offences is that is a real variation in the study area, is not everywhere the same. The fourteen three angels namely Sandesh, Sahar and Charpokhari accounted for about one-third of the total cases of the District. These thanas besides being located along the Sone have very large concentration of

rural population. The other anchals or police stations which reported relatively higher incidence of crime are Garahani and Tarari above 120 per Lakh population. These areas lie in the east and south east middle Sone plain of Bhojpur district having medium population density also. Udwanthnagar, Ara, Koilwar, Behea, Jagdishpuranchals (or Police Stations) with the lowest rate in 2011 may be taken as exceptional as the incidence of crime sometimes is also affected by crime control measure. The anchals falling in the southern part of the District witnessed medium to Low amount of crime incidence 65 to 80 per lakh population of total crimes, may be attributed in relatively sparse population and lesser socioeconomic conflicts. Because of very high population density along the bank of Sone greater accessibility and greater Socio-economic disparity, the offences as reported to the police station are relatively large. In this area criminals also find good hideouts in diara tract of Sone which is Dot easily approachable to the police.

The average rate of occurrence of reported offences in the district of Bhojpur based on the major selected crime is per Lakh population with the exception of Barhara and Sahpur police station almost all the police station lying to north witnessed more than the average crime value of the district. However some police station likes Piro, Agiaon of the south east side Bhojpur exhibited crime figernever to and even little more than average for the district police station of the east namely Sandesh, Sahar and Charpokhari reported cases for below the average.

Table: Bhojpur District, Population and Crime, 2011

Sl. No.	Anchals	Population in '00	Crime rate per Lakh Population	Major Crimes	Other Crimes
1	Ara	4626	70.47	95	231
2	Koilwar	2021	73.23	44	104
3	Barahara	2406	81.04	57	138
4	Shahpur	2122	81.05	48	124
5	Behea	1784	77.35	40	98
6	Udwanthnagar	1578	68.44	32	76
7	Jagdishpur	2639	78.81	66	142
8	Sandesh	1097	193.25	73	139
9	Sahar	1102	204.17	79	146
10	Charpokhri	1013	166.83	44	125
11	Piro	2549	84.34	61	154
12	Tarari	1826	124.31	76	151
13	Agianon	1483	109.91	51	112
14	Garhani	1032	129.84	38	96

Source: Based on PCA Bhojpur 2011 and Crime Branch S.P office Ara, (Bhojpur) 2011

Turning to examine the intra district variation of crimes in relation to the district of population, the map exhibits some outstanding features. The inspection of the maps reveals that the distribution of population pears to a large extent resemblance with the map showing general distribution of

crimes taken together. It means that the area with high concentration of population reflects higher intensity and higher level of incidence of crimes and vice-versa.

Analysis of the data shows that the anchals of the district of Bhojpur with relatively large concentration of population

characterized by higher rate of commission of crime. Thus, Ara, Behea, Jagdishpur have population densities more than 1000 persons per a kms. These densely populated anchals do have crime rates more than 80 per lakh population whereas the district average crime rate is 96.76 per lakh Population. These anchals are located along the south bank of the Ganga. The fertile plain to the north of the district with the exception of a few anchals forming like islands of high populated densities with relatively low incidence of crimes. Moving southward from the river Ganga, the land gradually rises with definite undulation which partly meets the lowland of Diara. Thus, with the increase in fertility towards south, the general population density also thins out. Accordingly, there is diminishing trend of crime incidence. The population densities in southernmost anchals of the district are in order Udwanthnagar, Ara, Koilwar have also registered some of the lowest volume of crime and rate of crime per lakh population (65-80) respectively. The police stations having central location with almost medium population density (1000 per sq. km.) witnessed a little fluctuation is 100-150 per 100000 incidence of serious nature of offences.

In order to examine the degree of correspondence between the distribution of population and distribution of crime in the District of Bhojpur, simple rank correlation technique has been applied, the value of which is 0.45. The lower value of correlation means that there does not exist very strong correspondence between the rate of incidence of crime and the degree of concentration of population. This also means that the value of population is not proportionate to local resource which has resulted into greater incidence of social evils like unemployment, beggary, delinquency and crime.

It is now clear that the volume and rate of incidence of crime in Bhojpur varied from one area to another with respect

to different topographic expression and socioeconomic structure. The aforesaid observation of spatial variation might be taken into account of the factors affecting incidence of severe offence, i.e., level of literacy, quality of work force, quantum of per capita cultivable land and accessibility etc.

Conclusion

1. Crime which is universal phenomenon exists in every strata of human society. The magnitude and forms, however, vary from one area to another and from one society to another depending on the level of the development of the area.
2. The pattern of distribution of crime in the district of Bhojpur is not uniform. But more generally the spatial distribution of crime corresponds with distribution of general population. It has been observed that the anchals along the river Ganga with heavier concentration of population are characterized by larger number of offences. Therefore a relatively distinct belt of high intensity of crime follows the bank of Ganga.
3. The urban areas are more prone to criminal activity. This is why, the anchals having large urban population are also characterized by greater preponderance of social maladies including serious crime.
4. Araanchal, because of large urban sprawls in the district accounted for largest number of all types of crimes in the district which is attributed to the greater concentration of wealth and assemblage of heterogeneous cultural groups of population.
5. The nature extent and trends of criminality have been changing and fluctuating from year to year.

References

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