

B. A. Part - III - SOCIOLOGY Paper - VI (Urban Sociology)

Topic : Some Urban Problems – Crime
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SOME URBAN PROBLEMS – CRIME

- **Concept**

“ A Social problem is any deviate behaviour in a disapproved direction of such a degree that it exceeds the tolerance limit of the community” . – Lundberg.

In Urban area where we see progress, on the other hand there are many problems.

i.e. – Urban poverty, Child Labour, Urban Unemployment, Urban Population problem, Prostitution, Urban Crime, Individual Disorganisation, Suicide, Alcoholism corruption etc.

Here we will mainly know about Urban Crime.

- **Meaning and Definition of Crime**

An action or activity that is against the Law, or illegal activity generally. Crime is an inevitable part of human Society. The human nature is selfish which comes in conflict with the general welfare of the people and some of the acts which come in conflict with societal norms are Labeled as crimes., it is generally believed that the criminal is not born but the circumstances and social surroundings make a man criminal. Crime exists and increasing in every society . The crimes at international level are posing new dangers to the wealth and security of the society.

- **There are two Aspect of Crime : -**

- (1) Legal Aspect of Crime
- (2) Sociological Aspect of Crime

(1) Legal Aspect of Crime :

- **According to Sethana :** “ A Crime may be defined as an act or omission, sinful or non-sinful which society or a state has thought fit to punish under its Law for the time being in force” .
- **A/C to Landis & Landis :** “ Crime is an act which the state has declared harmful to group welfare and which the state has power to punish”.

(2) Sociological Aspect of Crime :

- **According to Elliott and Merrill :** “Crime may be defined as anti social behaviour which the group rejects and to which it attaches penalties.
- **A/C to Haikerwal :** “ From the social point of view crime implies such behaviour of the individual as interferes with the order of human relationship which society regards as primary condition of its existence”.

The Sociological dimension of crime is stated by Durkheim (1952) as follows.

“Crime is a social fact and human act. Crime is both normal and functional . No society can be completely exempted from it. Crime is one of the prices we pay for freedom”.

- **Characteristics of Crime :**

- (1) It is legally forbidden
- (2) It is harmful to society
- (3) It has criminal intent
- (4) It is intentional
- (5) Some penalty is prescribed for it.

- **Classification of Crime :**

Several Classifications of criminals are available :

- **Lombroso Classification :** Lombroso has made the following classification of criminals, based on qualities and features of the criminals.

- (A) **Born Criminals :** There are certain persons who take to crime without any objective provocation or crime - inducing circumstances or conditions. Such persons are to be regarded as born criminals, that is, they seem to inherit a mental framework of constitution which predisposes them to crime.
- (B) **Causal Criminals :** Some persons are not criminally disposed and do not commit crime often, but under certain circumstances they feel the impulse to crime which is not always successfully resisted.
- (C) **Sex Criminals :** Such persons, under the overpowering sex impulse or the absence of self - control, commit crimes like - rape pedophilia, incest etc.
- (D) **Epileptic Criminals :** The epileptic Criminals are as a matter of fact mental patients . These persons commit crimes due to mental imbalance and consequent loss of self control over one's impulses.

- **Haye's Classification :**

- (A) **Novitiate or tyro Criminals :** A tyro is a person who does any thing for the first time. Accordingly a tyro criminal is a person who commits some offence or violates some law for the first time.
- (B) **Casual or Occasional Criminals :** This is a type of criminals who are basically non-criminal and are at heart averse to crime, but on account of certain temptations, Compulsions or associations they are drawn to crime.
- (C) **Habitual Criminals :** These are the persons who have developed habit of crime and though they are not totally devoted to crime, they commit crime whenever there is an opportunity for this.
- (D) **Professional criminals :** A habitual criminal usually becomes professional, because he finds that in order to satisfy his criminal habits, he must devote himself to the mastery of skill and perfect the techniques of crime.

- **Sutherland's Classification** : Sutherland's Classification of criminals is based on the economic status of the individual.
 - (A) **Economically Indigent / Low Class Criminals** : These persons usually commit crime under compulsion of extreme economic pressure. They are, so to say, people who are driven to criminality rather than choosing crime.
 - (B) **White - Collar Criminals** : White - Collar Crime may be defined approximately as a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation.
- **Garofelo Classification** : Garofelo has divided criminals into four categories on the basis of criminal tendencies. These are : –
 - (A) **Strange or Bizarre Criminals** : According to Garofelo some criminals are of very strange and eccentric nature. The main impulsion to crime is their bizarre moral make up. Two special features which characterize them are cruelty or hardness of heart and an over weaning sense of pride on self importance. Such people are indifferent to moral principles or even contemptuous of moral rules. They consider their own wishes and desires to be unrelenting law and command which must be carried out on pain of mutilation or death. They are so hard – hearted that they are capable of committing cold – blooded murders and not capable of being reformed.
 - (B) **Dangerous Criminals** : The dangerous criminals are those who are motivated to crime by a feeling of revenge, enmity or a desire to settle the score.
 - (C) **Cruel and Dishonest Criminals** : These criminals belong to families which are professionally criminal. Brought up in an atmosphere of hatred, mistrust and suspicion, as they are those criminals never know what trust is or what sympathy means.
 - (D) **Loafers** : These are the persons who are away from homes and take to vagabondage. They engage in strut brawls and usually make their both ends meet by extorting money from shopkeepers and vendors.

Crimes in India 2018 (NCRB) Report

A total of 50,74,634 cognizable crimes comprising 31,32,954 Indian Penal Code (IPC) Crimes and 19,41,680 Special and Local Laws (SLL) Crimes were registered in 2018. Though it shows an increase of 1.3% in registration of cases over 2017 (50,07,044 cases), however, Crime rate per Lakh population has come down from 388.6 in 2017 to 383.5 in 2018.

During 2018, registration of cases under IPC have increased by 2.3% whereas SLL crimes have declined by 0.1% over 2017.

- **Violent Crimes** :
 - (1) **Murder** : A total of 29,017 cases of murder were registered during 2018 showing an increase of 1.3% over 2017 (28,653 cases).
 - (2) **Kidnapping and Abduction** : A total of 1,05,734 cases of kidnapping and abduction were registered during 2018, showing an increase of 103% over 2017.
 - (3) **Crime Against women** : Majority of cases under crimes against women out of total IPC crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives' (31.9%) followed by 'Assault on women with Intent to outrage her Modesty' (27.6%), 'Kidnapping and Abduction of women' (22.5%) and Rape (10.3%).

The crime rate per lakh women population is 58.8 in 2018 comparison with 57.9 in 2017.

- (4) **Crime against Children** : In percentage terms, major crime heads under ‘Crime against children’ during 2018 were kidnapping and Abduction (44.2%) and cases under the protection of children from sexual offences Act, 2012 (34.7%) including child rape.
- (5) **Cyber Crime** : During 2018 55.2% of Cyber – Crime cases registered were for the motive of fraud (15,051 out of 27, 248 cases) followed by sexual exploitation with 7.5% (2030 cases) and causing disrepute with 4.4% (1212 cases).

Status of Crime in the Indian Cities (2017, NCRB Report)

Now we look at the status of various crimes in the large Indian Cities.

Delhi recorded the highest number of cognizable crime with Kochi recording the highest rate .

Name of the Cities	No. of Crimes
Ahmedabad	39049
Bengaluru	53704
Chennai	41573
Delhi	224346
Jaipur	29826
Kochi	59612
Kolkata	21969
Mumbai	58456
Patna	20980
Pune	19172

Total Cognizable Crimes - Cities - 2017

- **Murder and Kidnapping & Abduction :**

Crime rates for “Murder” and “Kidnapping” & “Abduction” –

Name of the Cities	Murder (Per lakh Population)	Kidnapping & Abduction (Per lakh Population)
Delhi	2.5	31.9
Indore	3.0	30.9
Patna	8.9	26.5
Pune	2.2	19.1
Ghaziabad	2.2	22.6
Chennai	1.8	0.6
Kolkata	0.5	0.7
Mumbai	0.7	11.7
Lucknow	2.7	23.6
Bengaluru	2.8	12.4

Patna has the highest rate of crime for Murder with Delhi, Indore and Patna record the high rate for Kidnapping and Abduction.

- **Crime Against Women :**

Name of the Cities	Crime Rate (Per lakh women)
Lucknow	178.5
Delhi	152.4
Indore	129.9
Kanpur	117.9
Patna	90.7
Bengaluru	87.8
Mumbai	64.0
Kochi	49.8
Kolkata	29.1
Chennai	14.9
Coimbatore	7.1

Rate of Crime against women by cities -2017

Lucknow and Delhi have the highest rate of crimes against women. Coimbatore with 7.1 per lakh women have the least rate of crimes against women.

- **Conclusion :**

In the Indian context, a lot more work needs to be done to establish causality behind Urban Crime. Establishing the causality of Crime in relation to the nature of its settlements is a complex issue. India is still in the midst of urbanization, hence this is a subject worthy of deep and wide investigation. The results may light up the path of India's choices with regard to the pattern of growth for its cities and towns.
