



A Geographical Analysis on the Pattern of Growth of Crime in Bhojpur District

Richa Priya

Department of Geography, V.K.S.U. ARA

I. INTRODUCTION

Although crime is universal phenomenon all over the world, its magnitude and trends of growth have always been changing with the change of time and space. The criminal activity has been very much associated with the extent of environmental degradation of the society. There has been an absolute change in the quantum of offences from time to time. It may be true that there were a few cases of crime during the historical past, while with the growth of population decade after decade, the volume of various forms of crime has so much increased that it has become one of baffling problems for the society. Thus, crime like other attributes of population is a dynamic aspect of the society. Goswami¹ Also observed "the reason of this dynamism is that as man changes his relationship with environment and as he keeps conquering the natural environment, he adjusts in his social relationship. This Readjustment brings about a change in his attitude, philosophy and belief. This necessarily means that his attitude towards the concept of crime must also change because, this is also included as a part of social relationship". Keeping in mind, it is desirable to trace out the major trends of growth of selected crimes in relation to the growth of population in Bhojpur (Bihar) District.

It is also a point to mention that incidence of crime is flexible and fluctuating phenomenon. Unlike the trends of most general population, the growth of crime has never been constantly increasing or decreasing in the Bhojpur district region. Sometimes the offence of a particular type was rampant and was recorded in large number, but subsequently it declined and again after a lapse of only few years, it showed increasing trends. Despite the variations in the adequacy of statistics and the criticism justly leveled at official crime reports, data concerning the extent and serious nature of crime problem substantiate the generalisation that criminality is rapidly increasing in developing countries.²

TABLE 1: Volume of Selected Crimes in Bhojpur District

YEAR	ESTIMATED POPULATION IN PER 1000	VOLUME OF SELECTED CRIMES	RATES OF CRIMES PER 100000 POPULATION
2005	2398.2	2424	101.08
2006	2450.3	2408	98.28
2007	2503.5	2040	81.50
2008	2557.9	2179	85.21
2009	2613.5	2371	90.73
2010	2670.5	2727	102.13
2011	2728.4	2640	96.77
2012	2786.4	2370	85.06
2013	2845.7	2419	85.02

Source: PCA Bihar and Crime Branch S.P. Office, Ara (Bhojpur)

The trends of annual growth of crimes and crime rate per lakh population in the district of Bhojpur district shows that there has been the sharp inflection and remarkable changes in the Bhojpur district region. The district registered a total of 2424 reported cases of crime in 2005 which later started declining continuously for three years (2005-2007). The crime rate as computed per

¹Goswami, P. 1964 Criminology, p. 21.

²Marshall B. Clinard, & David J. Abbott, 1973 Crime in Developing Countries: A Comparative Perspective. John Wiley & Sons, New York. p. 11.



lakh population exhibited similar falling trend. The magnitude of offences and the rate of crime declined by 3.83% & 6.61% respectively during 2005-2013. The estimated total population of the district, however, may have steady progress in this period. The volume of crime in 2009 rose to 2008 i.e., 8.7% increase as compared to 2008, but again fell to 2012. Thereafter, it registered almost a regular increase until 2010. The crime rate per lakh population also followed the same pattern. Both the dimensions and rate of crime further fluctuated downward in 2013. It is discerned that the general growth of population of the district does not correspond to the growth of crime and crime rates simply by the reason that population of the region as elsewhere in India has always been shown an increasing trend whereas the reported magnitude of crime varied frequently and fluctuated at time interval.

In Bihar, the process of unhealthy and uneconomic development, high population pressure and diverse socio-economic conditions have contributed to the growth of crimes. The total crime rates as computed for all important types taken together exhibited frequent changes from 1982 to 1989. The year 1982 was marked with crime rate 149.0 per 100,000 populations which subsequently declined to 135.20. It further rose to 139.0 in 1988 and fell down to 137.0 per lakh population in 1989.³ Apparently, crime rates have been frequently changing year after year. The performance of individual crime did also present the same pattern.⁴

The growth of annual estimated population and crime rate do not bear close conformance. In other words the population of Bhojpur District has always been making constant increase while there has not been the uniform growth of crime. The Bhojpur district area after having a notable downward trend of incidence of crime (From a total 2424 in 2005 to 2371 in 2009) experienced a significant rise of absolute number 2727 in the 2010. But a remarkable fall in the volume of reported areas of crime was recorded in 2011 which was followed a continuous upward trend till 2012. The year 2010 recorded 25.20% growth of offences over 2007. Similarly there had been a constant rise of crime at the rate of 8.10%, 13.6% and 4.20% in the successive years 2009-2010 and 2011 respectively. During the last three years the volume of crime & the crime rate exhibited positive trend of growth. (See the table)

The above analysis of growth of crime gives somewhat misleading picture since the trends of only a few selected major offences have been taken into account. In order to elucidate the salient features of growth pattern of crime four years average data and its percentage variation have been computed.

Analysis of data reveals some outstanding features of temporal variation of crime in the District of Bhojpur for the period 2005-2013. The average total crimes in 2005-07 was 2587 which went up to 2488 in 2008-10 to 2416 in 2011-13. The estimated population during these periods grew by 3.83% and 2.98% respectively. This obviously depicts that fluctuating trends in the incidence of crime as observed earlier has been minimized and it was found that there has always been rising tempo of the volume of offences with the growth of population in the District of Bhojpur. In the event of any disequilibrium between population growth and development of resources, the outcome of social maladies including the incidence of serious crimes is natural.

II. CONCLUSION

Concluding the foregoing discussion on the growth and pattern of crimes in Bhojpur District, the following findings have been derived:

1. Crime like other components of population is a dynamic aspect and universal phenomenon.
2. The growth of incidence of crimes bears resemblance with the growth of general population, but the trend appears to be erratic, i.e., the tempo of growth does not follow in close conformance with the growth of population. In other words, there is wide variation in temporal changes of crime, i.e., sometime positive and sometime negative.
3. The selected major offences do not reflect uniform south pattern. Murder, the greatest problem in Bihar in general, has been increasing at a fast rate.
4. The criminality has been showing the fastest trend.
5. The incidence of riot has become very common phenomenon during the past few years. The volume of this offence is still the largest of all.
6. The volume of crime and crime rates generally correspond with each other and also with the rise of population.

³ CBI published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi

⁴ Paswan, B. 1991: The study of Levels of Crime in Bihar, Paper Presented at 13th Geog. Congress (Nag), Patna, 1991.



REFERENCES:

1. Singh, V.P. 1973: Personality of Criminals, Sriram Mehta &Co., Agra, pp. 13-14.
2. Reckless, Walter c., 1940: Criminal Behavior, McGraw Hill Book Co., New York, p. 174.
3. Tappan, P. W. 1960: Crime, Justice and Corrections, Me.
4. Graw Hill Book Company, Inc, New York, p. 45. 10. Paswan, Balram 1991: The Study of Levels of Crime in Bihar, Paper Presented of 13th Geog. Congress (NAGI), Patna.