"Crime Against Women:

A Case Study of Darjeeling District."

Ph.D. Thesis

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CHAPTER - 5

CONCLUSION

In the present study crime against women and its spatial temporal patterns in the district of Darjeeling are analysed. The study attempted to examine the determinants of spatial variations. The three levels at which the geography of crime against women were undertaken are (i) where the offences occurred and its determinants (ii) from where the offenders are and (iii) from where the victims are.

Consequent upon the literature review and from the analytical framework of the study, the conclusion drawn was that crime is an outcome of complex interplay of various demographic, socio-economic, environmental and infrastructural facilities and has to be viewed in that light.

The available literature on crime in the Indian context essentially deals with the spatial patterns of offences. It also deals with strength of police which has bearing on crime. A virtually absent component in the extant of literature is the study of the residences of the criminals and victims and the type of socio-economic conditions prevailing there which might have triggered criminal behaviour.

The present study assumes significance since it not only analyses the spatial patterns of crime and the role of police strength, but also identifies the villages of the criminals and victims with associated characteristics of population and infrastructural amenities.

The present study was based on secondary sources. Data of crime against women was collected from the office of Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling and Siliguri Commissionerate of Police, Siliguri.

In this study quantitative method has been used. Various statistical methods such as coefficient of correlation and residuals from regression were used in the analysis of the data. Location quotient was calculated in order to see the concentration of victims and offenders at village level.

This study is organised into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction, conceptual and analytical framework, objectives, hypothesis, research methodology and literature review.

The second chapter deals with temporal perspective of crime against women in districts of West Bengal (1981-2011) and further highlighted Darjeeling district by discussing in detail crime against women from 2004 to 2014.

The third chapter deals with crime and its correlates. An attempt has been made to analyse seasonal pattern of crime, time of occurrence of crime and age of victims. The existing pattern of crime against women has been explained with the help of a set of socio-economic parameters. In this chapter crime against women in twelve blocks of Darjeeling district for the year 2004 to 2014 is studied in detail to identify the correlates of crime in an Indian situation.

The fourth chapter deals with village level analysis of concentration of victims and offenders and further explained the same by means of socio-economic conditions and infrastructure facilities available within them.

Following are the major conclusions of this study:

Total cognizable crime in Darjeeling among all the districts of West Bengal in 1981 and 2011 was 2.64 per cent each and in 1991 it was 2.92 per cent and in 2001 it was 3.12 per cent.

Darjeeling's share of crime against women to total cognizable crime in West Bengal during 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 was 2.16, 1.49, 6.56 and 14.26 per cent. Thus the share of crime against women of Darjeeling district in West Bengal has increased over time.

Darjeeling recorded 3.32, 2.65, 1.93 and 1.87 per cent of crime against women, to its total crimes, during 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 at the growth rate of -0.30 in 1991, 3.20 in 2001 and 3.29 in 2011.

On the whole it was found that rate of crime against women in Darjeeling district increased steadily from 2004 to 2011 as a result of rapid urbanization.

The crime that occurred mostly with women were torture (49 per cent), followed by molestation (20 per cent), rape (14 per cent), kidnapping and abduction (13 per cent), eve-teasing (2 per cent), homicide/ dowry death and ITP (SLL-Special Local Laws) 1 per cent each.

Crime against women increased with increasing population. Maximum growth rate of crime against women was 50.26 per cent in 2011 and the minimum was 5.23 in 2014.

From the year wise analysis (2004-2014) of crimes against women in Darjeeling, it was found that in 2013, torture and eve-teasing were highest (20.23 per cent and 39.53 per cent respectively). Torture occurred maximum as it was mostly related to dowry. Molestation, kidnapping and abduction and rape occurred maximum in 2014 (32.87, 19.96 and 17.74 per cent respectively) and homicide for dowry/dowry death against women occurred maximum in 2007 (16.67 per cent) and ITP Act in 2010 (31.82 per cent).

On analysing the temporal trend of crime (2004-2014), it was found that maximum growth rate of torture was in 2011(93.65 per cent), molestation in 2012 (292.31), kidnapping and abduction in 2006 (153.33), and rape in 2005 (66.67 per cent).

On analysing the temporal trend of crime (2004-2014), it was found that maximum growth rate of molestation was in 2012 (292.31), kidnapping and abduction in 2006 (153.33), torture in 2011(93.65 per cent) and rape in 2005 (66.67 per cent).

On analysing the total incidences of crime against women at block level (2004-2014) it was found that terai blocks namely Matigara registered the highest (55.48 per cent) followed by Naxalbari (12.28) and Phansidewa (8.70 per cent) and Rangli Rangliot the lowest (0.86 per cent). Thus, crime against women occurred maximum in the terai belt than in the hilly tracts of the district.

After analysing crime against women in different seasons it was found that crime occurred maximum in summer followed by spring, winter and autumn. Regionally, it was high in terai blocks than hill. Among the various crimes, torture, rape, molestation and kidnapping were maximum in summer both in hills as well as in terai. The maximum occurrence of crime was between 08 am – 8 pm. Peak hours of rape were between 12 noon to 4 pm in spring and summer and 4 to 8 pm in autumn and winter whereas kidnapping and abduction and molestation were maximum between 4 to 8 pm in all seasons. On an analysis of age group of victims it was found that the most vulnerable were those below 19 years.

From the Pearson's coefficient correlation analysis of crime, it was found that there exists a very strong positive correlation of total crime against women (2004-2014), firstly with density of population (r=.92) and secondly with SC population (r=.68). Further on analysing the relationship for individual crime it was found that

there is a very strong positive correlation of torture, molestation, rape and kidnapping and abduction with population density and police strength. Beside rape was also positively correlated with non-workers and ill-literates.

From the block wise study it was found that the lowest crime rate is in Rangli Rangliot followed by Kalimpong I & II and Kurseong. All three blocks are located in hills and have low police strength, low population density, high sex-ratio (above 1000 females) and low temperature (below 22˚C) and high literacy (above 73 per cent).

Finally highest crime rate in Kharibari, Matigara, Naxalbari, Mirik and Garubathan is because of high density of population, high temperature, high SC population, high ill-literacy and in certain cases high non-workers.

From the distribution of victims and offenders of crime at police station/blocks/region level, it was found that maximum number of victims and offenders were reported from Siliguri, Matigara and Pradhannagar police stations and among blocks it was reported from Matigara and from terai at regional level. In spite of eight blocks and eleven police stations in hills, terai (four blocks and seven police stations) reported high rate and high percentage of crime.

From the spatial distribution of victims and offenders at village level it was found that victims and offenders of torture were concentrated in northern part of the hilly region and rape victims in the north eastern, western, and southern and offenders in southern part of the district. Victims of molestation were mostly from the villages of north west and south east whereas their offenders were from north, west, east and south western part of the district. Victims of kidnapping and abduction were concentrated in the region extending from north west, west to southern part and offenders were from south central, south east, west and from few pockets of north.

From the correlation analysis it was found that victims and offenders had a positive significant relationship with demographic indicators. The number of victims and offenders as well as rate of crime is high where there is high density of population, high percentage of SC population, ill-literates, and non-workers and greater police strength. Hence it has been proved that there exists a positive correlation between population density and crime rate against women. It has also been proved that higher is the level of unemployment higher is the rate of crime against women. Lastly, educational backwardness is positively correlated with crime against women. It was also ascertained that where temperatures are high victims and offenders of rape are also high.

It is also noted, that, beside population characteristics, infrastructural amenities and economic conditions of villages also determines the rate of crime. There were only 40 Agricultural Credit Societes in Darjeeling district and Matigara and Naxalbari blocks had none and Jorebunglow Sukiapokhri and Kharibari had only 1 each. Even Phansidewa which is the largest block had only 3 Agricultural Credit Societies. Thus the remaining seven hill blocks had 35 agricultural credit societies.

Only 64 per cent of villages had pucca road and on the whole only 30 per cent of villages had transport services in the form of bus and rail service.

Only a handful of villages (seventeen) had any form of handicraft (such as broomstick making, bamboo, dry flowers, image maker, and wooden sculpture). Most of the villages in twelve blocks hardly had any manufacturing unit except for sixty seven with tea, four each with rice mill and bakery, three with iron and steel works, two each with brick making and dairy and one each of squash making, compost, flour, medicine, cement and one with furniture.

From the location quotient analysis, the maximum victim and offender prone villages were delineated and their population characteristics, infrastructural amenities and economy were analysed.

It was noticed that the same villages prone to high victims and offenders of torture had high percentages of literates and non-workers. It also had high density of population in all the villages except for Suntalay Khasmahal and Latpanechar Forest.

There were six villages from terai region (having high temperature) prone to maximum victims and offenders of rape. These villages had high percentage of scheduled caste population, population density, literates and non-workers.

Ten villages were prone to victims and offenders of molestation and were equally distributed in the hill and terai region. These villages had high population density, high percentage of literates and non-workers.

Unlike the other crimes (torture, rape, and molestation), victims and offenders of kidnapping and abduction were not from the same villages. The offenders of kidnapping and abduction targeted victims from outside of their villages falling under different police stations. High literacy and high percentage of non-workers was observed in the villages prone to maximum offenders of kidnapping and abduction. These areas become the breeding ground for offenders who commit such crimes for the sake of monetary benefit.

While analysing the villages of high location quotient of victims and offenders, it was found that out of 41 villages, 35 villages had kucha road, 33 of them did not have bus services and 36 were not connected by district roads. 15 villages were connected to the nearest town by more than 25 km., 16 villages were connected

to town between 10-20 km. and only 10 villages were connected to town with less than 10 km. Only 6 villages had Agricultural Credit Society. Secondly, the areas with high location quotient were all from rural areas and they need more of agricultural credit society which is very less. None of the villages had any handicraft and cinema/video halls for entertainment.

On the whole villages with high density of population and high percentage of SC population, non-workers, and literates had high concentration of victims and offenders. These villages have poor transport facility, poor road network, rugged terrains, handful of manufacturing units etc. Thus from the study it has been found that poor infrastructural amenities and weak economic conditions leads to high concentration of victims and offenders.

Suggestions

Although there are ample laws pertaining to crime against women which are executed too, but since the rate of crime is escalating the government should ensure that there is active participation of the society and various organisations (working on women) with government bodies and enforcement agencies to help control the same.

The number of women police stations should be increased with adequate strength which will enable the victims to approach comfortably and register FIR too. The villages, which have become the hub of maximum victims and offenders, should be patrolled regularly and new check posts established.

From the seasonal analysis of crime, it was found that crime occurred more in summer and from the diurnal analysis, more in afternoon. Hence, law and order maintaining agencies should take more precautionary measures especially in summer season and in afternoon in areas of high incidence.

The government should ensure the provision of washroom and drinking water facility within the premises of every house in the village particularly in the region where the incidences of crime against women are high, for many times females are molested when they go out to attend nature's call or while fetching drinking water.

Panchayat members of villages should play an important role in curbing crime against women in the villages, by organising timely meetings with villagers to collect information pertaining to anti-social activities and plan for further action.

Moral education should be an important segment of the school curriculum wherein welfare of human being and respect of women should be imparted which in due course of time will reduce discrimination and subjugation of women leading to low rate of crime against women. Parents should be encouraged to interact more with children since it will not only educate them, but also provide guidance regarding different issues related to the security of female child