PROBLEM OF CRIME IN BIG CITIES: A CASE STUDY OF DELHI

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ABSTRACT

Crime is punishable act and it is existing from the existence of mankind. India's crime rate is highly variable. In India, the frequency of crime is steadily rising. The crime in megacities are always high and particularly crime against women and children is very high. Indian women are frequently and strangely the victims of violence. Delhi is infamous for their crimes against women. Delhi's crime rate against women increased steadily between 2010 and 2021 from 59.3 to 162.3. National Crime Records Bureau crime data at the state level for the years 2011–2021 has been used to analyses the crime situation. The correlation between population and crime rate have been calculated. The proportion of crime in Delhi is highest in four districts: North East, West, East, and South. In contrast, New Delhi District, along with North and Central Districts, has reported low crime, with only 2% of all crimes registered in the past 10 years. The south and south east Delhi have shown that there two district having highest reported crimper police station. There is no visible correlation between crime and population in India, despite certain research supporting this association.
Keywords: Crime, Women, Population, Delhi, Police

Introduction

Crime is an illegal act that has existed for all of human history; only the form, scope, and appellation vary based on the location. Crime comes from the Latin word "crimen," which meaning "accusation." According to criminology, crime and violence against women are the most common yet least acknowledged crimes worldwide (Tayal et al., 2015). Fear of crime and worries about safety are the main concerns for women living in cities (Narayanan, 2012). According to study, the rapid modernization of urban areas has created an undercurrent of increased vulnerability and risk of safety among vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and those with physical disabilities. This vulnerability has prevented these groups from taking advantage of the opportunities that the cities offer and has negatively impacted their quality of life (Sahajpal et al., 2009). Author found that a variety of environmental factors, including people's perceptions of their neighborhood (Ditton et al., 2017), an environmental disorder within the neighborhood (Loukaitou-Sideris& Eck, 2007), anxiety about changing societal moral values (Farrall et al., 2000), and concern about social relations are all associated with women's feelings of being unsafe.India's crime rate is highly variable. In India, the frequency of crime is steadily rising. The rate of increase is steady yet moderate. A brief analysis of the number of crime incidents indicates that, despite continuous rise, crime rates are variable. According to reports, 2022 had the highest crime rate for the whole 2010–21 decade. The overall average of crime should be comparable to the incidents of crime in 2010 if the current trend keeps up. It's interesting to note that there are a lot of crimes overall, and they seem to be trending upward. In comparison to the previous year, Delhi's overall crime rate increased by 43 percent in 2021 (NCRB, 2022). Delhi is one of the most criminalized metropolitan areas in India,according to the National Crime Records Bureau's 2022 report "Crime in India."

The number of criminal cases will be higher in a state with a higher population, but it is not possible to compare two states just on the basis of their respective populations. Thus, crime rate serves as a common benchmark for comparing crime across different States and UTs in order to undertake an accurate estimation of crime cases (Nolan III, 2004). That being said, it is important to note that an examination of the statistics on crime rates revealed that there is no correlation between an area's population and crime rate. Comparing areas with larger populations to those with smaller populations, it is possible that the former has a lower crime rate. In terms of national level crime rate or percentage share of overall crime in India, the top five most populous cities are Mumbai (184.1 lakh), Delhi (163.1 lakh), Kolkata (141.1 lakh), Chennai (87 lakh), and Bengaluru (85 lakh). However, these cities do not follow a similar pattern.

The most sensitive developmental indicator of any community is crime against women (CAW) (Yadav and Tiwari, 2022).Indian women are frequently and disproportionately the victims of violence (Satija, 2016). According to Narayanan (2012), women in cities face significant concerns related to safety and crime fears. A wide range of offences, including stalking, verbal abuse, flashing, sexual assault, physical attack, visual assault, and more, are included in the broad term "harassment against women," which is being used consistently. According to Day (2001), women in metropolitan environments are more fearful of victimization than men because of physical disabilities, inequity, sexual orientation, and personal traits. The crime is becoming more serious. For instance, there has been a recent surge in violent rape cases involving infant girls as young as six months old, which has been widely reported in the media.

This has contributed to Delhi's reputation as India's "Crime Capital" and "Rape Capital" (Satija, 2016). Delhi's crime rate against women increased steadily between 2010 and 2021, going from 57.3 to 151.3, and other large cities like Bangalore and Kolkata followed suit. Social pressure had previously prevented women from filing a formal complaint or going to the police, therefore it's vital to note that the number of CAW cases reported has gone up in recent years. India's capital, Delhi, has become the epicenter of the country's annual rise in crime against women (Mathur, 2023; Murmu, 2023).

2. Study Area

Delhi is situated on the banks of the river Yamuna, the National Capital Territory of Delhi spreads over 1,483 sq. km. between the latitudes of 28o 25' North to 28o 53' North and the longitudes of 76o 50' East to 77o 22' East. Delhi is located on the banks of the Yamuna river. The Union Territory of Delhi had two tehsils, Delhi and Mehrauli, and was still a single district as of the 1991 census (Figure 1.1).
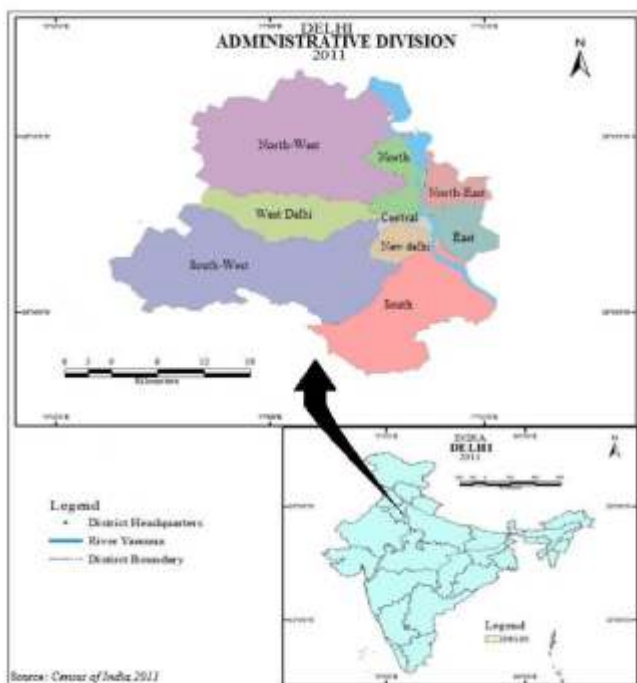

Figure 1.1: Study area Delhi

Officially, Delhi is referred to as the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT Delhi). According to the 2011 Census of India, Delhi is the nation's most populous and largest city in terms of both area and population. In the list of the world's ten megacities (cities with a population of 10 million or more), Delhi comes in second place with 28.51 million people, barely behind Tokyo's 37.46 million. People with many ethnicities, histories, cultures, languages, and other characteristics can find a place in Delhi due to its cosmopolitan nature. Individuals from all throughout the nation travel to Delhi in quest of greater chances to lead dignified lives. Delhi is a popular destination since it offers both locals and tourists a variety of experiences and chances.

3. Research Methodology

Research methodology is the backbone of every research. The research method provided the means to achieve the study's aims, while the conceptual framework covered in the preceding chapter has offered guidance. The distribution pattern of crime, the concentration of particular types of crime in particular places, and the locations of Delhi's crime hotspots all necessitated the use of quantitative methodologies for analysis.

3.1 Data Source:

The study uses both primary and secondary data using a mixed method of study which includes both quantitative and qualitative methods. For the purpose of achieving the objectives of the research, primary and secondary data sources were combined. Police crime reports are the main basis of this study. Thus, secondary sources of data cover a large amount of the study, whereas primary sources of data complement and validate the conclusions drawn from secondary sources of data. National Crime Records Bureau (2011–21) crime data at the state level for the years 2011–2021 has been gathered. A decadal data set was used to understand the state-level crime trend. According to the Delhi police handbook from 2021, district-specific crime data for the years 2011 to 2021 was also gathered from 11 districts in Delhi.

3.2 Data Analysis:

The measures of correlation have the characteristics of being dimensionless andscaled to lie in the range -1 < r < 1.Ifthedatalieexactlyalongastraightlinewithpositiveslope,then r=1.If X and Y are two variables, then the correlation 'r' between the variable X and Y is given by:

$$ r = \frac{n(\Sigma xy) - (\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[n\Sigma x^2 - (\Sigma x)^2][n\Sigma y^2 - (\Sigma y)^2]}} $$

Eq
Where, x and y are the sample means. If the value of correlation coefficient 'r'between two variables X and Y is fairly large, it implies that these two variables arehighly correlated.
Result and Discussion

4.1 Distribution Pattern of crime In Delhi

Overall, India has a highly unequal distribution of crime. The number of crimes committed in India is steadily rising. Moderate but steady growth is being experienced. Although crime is growing continuously, it is fluctuating, as can be seen by a quick glance at the number of incidents. Every year that passes in India, the country's overall crime statistics rise. Together with other things, Delhi is notorious for its crime rate. News of crimes in Delhi is widely reported in the national media. Delhi surely has a high crime rate. Moreover, an in-depth examination of crime incidents at the district level in Delhi would clarify the crime distribution pattern in Delhi. The spatial distribution of crime in Delhi's various districts has been examined through the analysis of decadal data spanning from 2011 to 2021.
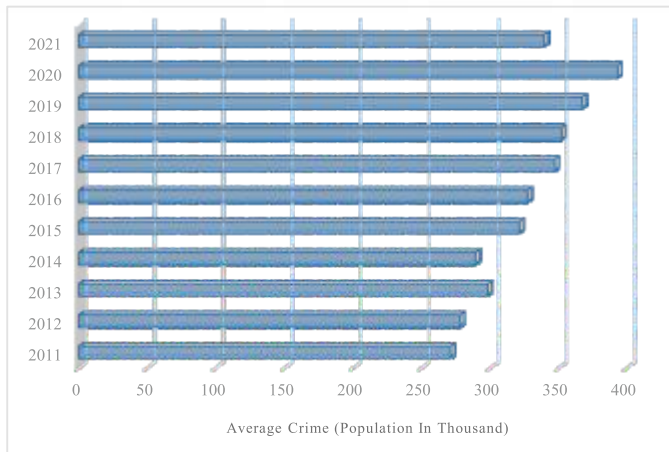
Figure 1.2 Average Crime per Population (2011-2021)

The Following figure 1.3 shows that the mean proportion of crime in Delhi is highest in four districts: North East, West, East, and South. These four districts have the highest number of reported crime incidents from 2011 to 2021. They are located in four different directions. The districts of Delhi with the highest crime rates are the North East, West, East, and South.
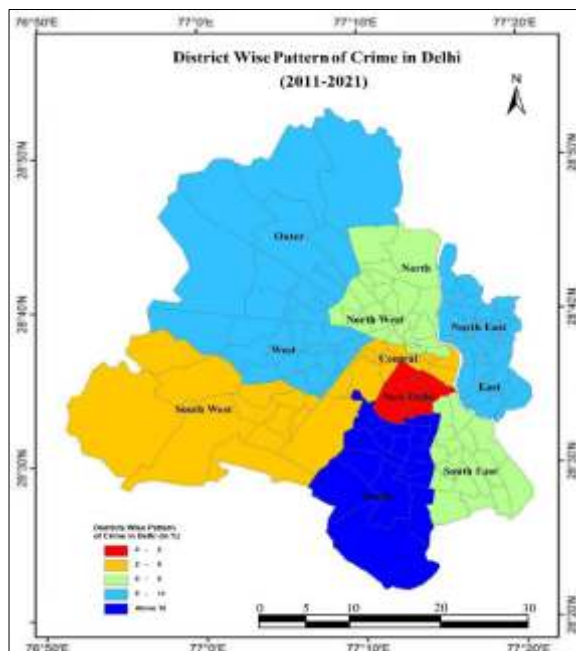

Figure 13 District wise pattern of crime in Delhi

In contrast, New Delhi District, along with North and Central Districts, has reported low crime, with only 2% of all crimes registered in the past 10 years (2011–2021). The South and South West district's abrupt decline in crime was caused by the establishment of a second South-East district. Police stations' jurisdiction is altered by new divisions, and the overall proportion of a district is altered by the transfer of some police stations that are more or less likely to commit crimes. 2021had the first and most notable spike in Delhi's overall crime rate in the South District.

4.2 Police Station Wise Crime Delhi

The following figure 1.4 shows that there are specific regions in Delhi, where police has documented more crime than in other areas. It also shows that there is police station with the highest crime rate. The south and south east Delhi have shown that there two district having highest reported crimper police station. The Shakarpur from East Delhi district has also shows highest crime as per police station wise reporting of crime. It is to comprehend the complexities surrounding their representation, it is necessary to also grasp the socio-economic features and context of these neighborhoods, which the police has identified as having a high crime rate. The police stations that have recorded the biggest crime incidences in their records are almost universally absent from media reporting, or they are all represented in different ways.
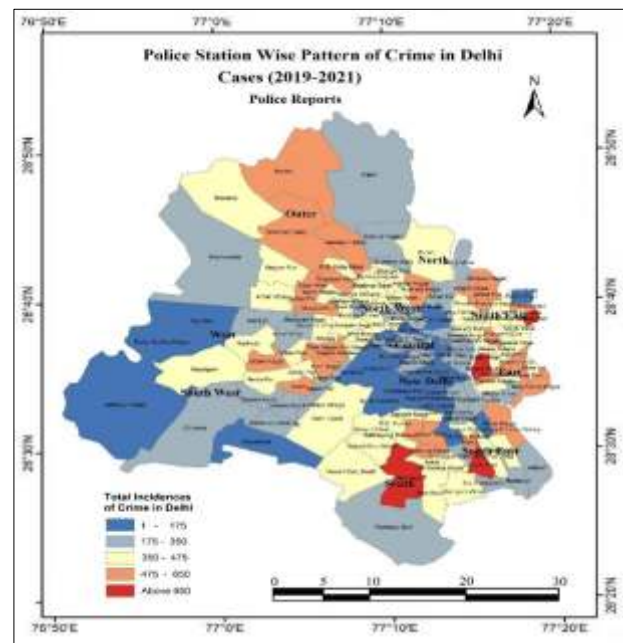

Figure 1.4 Police station wise pattern of crime in Delhi (2019-2021)

4.2 Police Station Wise Crime Delhi

Based on the 2011 Census, Delhi has a population of over seventeen million, making it one of the megacities and the capital of India. Delhi witnessed a crime rate of 90 per 100,000 women, compared to the national average of 53.9 per 100,000 women population (NCRB report 2022). Delhi accounted for 16.2% of all registered CAW cases in the country. Thus, Delhi has gained notoriety as the "Crime Capital of India" in recent times (Murmu, 2023). The district-by-district cases of child abuse that were reported to Delhi between 2017 and 2021. The following table 1.1 shows that, out of the eleven districts in the Delhi National Capital Territory, West (W) and South (S) had the most recorded cases of child abuse and neglect (CAW) between 2017 and 2021 respectively. North-East (NE), East (E), and South West (SW) districts followed, while Central, North (N), and New Delhi logged the fewest crimes.

Table 1.1 District wise Number of Registered Crime against Women (2017 - 2021)

Districts of NCT of Delhi	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Central	189	265	432	567	602
East	665	798	1023	1456	1756
New Delhi	78	99	109	113	131
North	239	301	398	498	526
North-East	849	871	1149	1542	1745
North-West	541	656	965	1060	1276
South	969	1223	1332	1425	1665
South-West	658	879	1264	1454	1586
West	821	1156	1235	1578	1897

Source: NCRB, 2022

5. Correlation between Population and Crime

The measures of correlation have the characteristics of being dimensionless and scaled to lie in the range -1 < r < 1. The most commonly used measure of correlation is Pearson's r. It is also called the linear correlation coefficient because 'r' measures the linear association between two variables (Hai and Oanh, 2013). There is no correlation between a city's population and crime, as seen in figure 1.5.
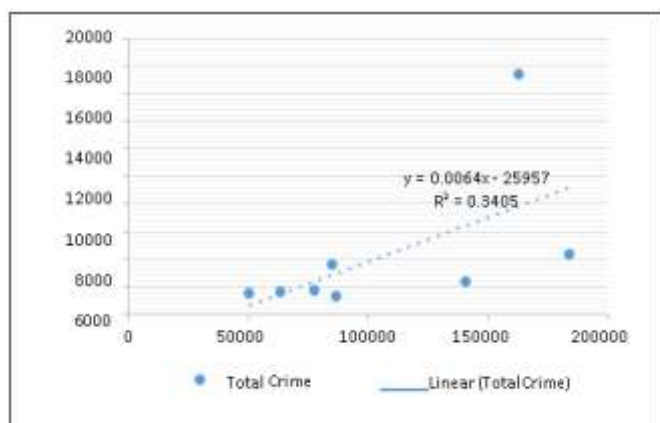

Figure 1.5 Correlation between Population and Crime in Delhi

The population and crime correlation variance R^2 of X cities is just 0.3405, which is negligible. There is no visible correlation between crime and population in India, despite certain research supporting this association.

6. Conclusion

The Delhi is one of the largest city in India, it is capital city of India as well. Therefore, any crime which happened in Delhi get very large scale coverage. Delhi has very large population and it also fulfill the aspiration of migrants from surrounding states. The crime rate in Delhi is high and the north district, south district and north east and east district of Delhi have shown high crime rate. Delhi is infamous as rape capital because high number of rape cases registered and reported from Delhi. Crime against women is serious concern in the city like Delhi which provides equal circumstances for girls in employment but not in safety. Delhi need to reevaluate their policy of reducing the crime against human, particularly crime against women.

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