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Title: "Crime Against Women: A Case Study of Darjeeling District."

Abstract

This study was done on crime against women that occurred during 2004 to 2014 in the district of Darjeeling. Further in this study, an analysis of crime that occurred against women in the districts of West Bengal was done for the year 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. While analysing crime data it was found that the rate of crime against women increased from 1981 to 2011 in all the districts of West Bengal.

Block wise detail of crime against women was done to know its spatial pattern. While analysing it was found that the blocks of terai region had maximum percentage of crime against women than the blocks of hilly region. In seasonal pattern of crime analysis maximum crime occurred in the summer and minimum in winter season. Correlation of crime with temperature was calculated and it showed a positive relationship between the two. It was found that the rate of crime increased with increasing temperature as it was evidenced while analysing a diurnal occurrence of crime. While analysing age wise victims of crime, the most victims' fallen prey to offenders were from the age group of less than nineteen years.

Further to acquire more information on offences against women, several demographic variables like population density, SC population, workers, non-workers, literates and ill-literates were taken to find their impact/relationship upon the crime against women. They all had strong positive relationship with crime against women. The residuals from regression were plotted on maps to identify the impacts of explained and unexplained factors.

After correlation of crime against women with several variables, location quotient method was applied to detect the villages having high concentration of victims and offenders. Based on high location quotient values, the villages of victims and offenders were analysed in details to trace out the reasons of their concentration.

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 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. 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.

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.