

NON-COGNIZABLE CRIMES AND THEIR CHANGING SPATIAL PATTERN IN DISTRICT MEERUT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract: *Crime is a complex and culturally a relative concept. It is an act of human behaviour, which is punishable by law. Such behaviour is not acceptable to the standard of society. Crime is that phenomenon of human conduct which is not in conformity of customs, conventions and usage of the society at any given time Geography is concerned to identify the crime and its occurrence. It is revealed that if a factor provides the opportunity to commit the crime in an area, it may be possible on other hand, that it may help in the opportunity to reduce the crime in the area. For example, the introduction of canal may increase the probability of crime in its nearby areas, but at the same time, the provision of canal water may reduce the unemployment, and thus may engage the rural persons in agricultural activities. Their economic enhancement will prohibit them to involve themselves in any anti-social activity. The analysis of social, physical and economic factors may be helpful in the determination of some clues about the relationship between the crime and its type. Geography plays a fundamental role in ever-increasing crime against life and property.*

Key words: Crime, Cognizable-Unorganized Crimes, Non-Cognizable-Organized Crimes.

Introduction

The growth after independence has been stupendous. The steady natural growth of population in rural and urban areas both, has resulted into the shortage of housing, accommodation, over-crowded localities, slums, resettlement and unauthorized colonies, increasing gap between rich and poor, heavy congestion in old settled areas, heavy uncontrolled traffic on roads, pollution of environment. All these problems have become a matter of great concern as the crimes of various natures have increased in Meerut city and in its district, with the enormous increase in their population. This district is the nerve centre for trade, commercial, industrial cultural, political, religions, defense and administrative activities. How, all these factors influence the criminal activities and create problem for Police Administration. It is an important aspect which needs exploration and investigation in addition to high increase in population, over-crowded slums, and localities witness group conflicts, sex-crimes, violence, kidnapping and murders. Floating population and frequent visitors also add full fire in the unlawful activities. It all needs to analyse the occurrence of crimes in the area with their types.

Methodology

The writ observation and analysis in this study is Police Station. There are 28 police stations in the district. Among these 14 are situated in the surroundings of Meerut city and 14 (including

one Mahila Police thana) are situated in Meerut city. The data have been collected from all these police thanas for the year, 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010. This data has been categorized into cognizable and non-cognizable crimes. The study has been carried out with the help of historical, statistical and empirical methodology. The temporal analysis of crime types has been visualized by the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative methods are used to prepare the choropleth maps, which help in the analysis of various crimes.

Meerut District lies between 28°40'N and 29°18' N latitudes and 77°5'E and 78°7'E longitudes. It is situated in the central part of upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab. It is bounded by district Muzaffarnagar in north, by district Ghaziabad in south, by district Baghpat in west. On its east, River Ganga forms its natural boundary, which separates it from Bijnor and J.P. Nagar (Amroha) districts. River Hindan separates it from District Baghpat on its west. The total area of the district is 2597 sq. km. It has twelve Development Blocks and fourteen rural Police thanas. Meerut city is its district headquarters. In 2011, the population of the district was recorded 34,43,689 with a density of 1346 persons per sq. km. Meerut city is a metropolitan city with 14,24,908 population and has a road and rail distance of 70 km. from Delhi, 45 km. from Ghaziabad. Meerut city is divided into 13 police thanas, with one Mahila police thana.

Types of Crimes

A crime is an act or omission, sinful or non-sinful, which a society or state has thought fit to punish under its laws for the time being in force. Crime is a curse to mankind. It is an offence against the public. It is a violation of moral idea, a custom or a law. A criminal act is an act forbidden by society. It draws human life to deadline darkening this beautiful and enlightened world of Almighty. The development taking place in the field of science, technology, industry and communication etc, during the twentieth century has brought many changes in the social and economic conditions of Meerut District. Meerut has witnessed vast activity in the field of industrialization and urbanisation for the economic upbringing of the district. But along with the development, these new dimensions have created manifold social and economic problems resulting in the emergence of a variety of new socio-economic crimes.

Crime is the illegal activity such as theft, robbery, murder, kidnapping, riots etc. committed in lieu of satisfying oneself with luxuries of life. These crimes are common in the lower strata or in the lower class category, which is striving for the sustenance of life. Thus, to satisfy themselves and their family, they are compelled to such deadly activities which corrupt the environment, and result in ranking. Meerut has the second position in crimes after district Muzaffarnagar in the western Uttar Pradesh. Crime is also exactly proportional to the population. The crimes in the city and district are increasing. In comparison to the population, the natural endowments are limited and thus are not distributed evenly in all the strata or classes. With the increase in population in Meerut, the per capita income is declined and there is an alarming increase in the demand of goods. Therefore, to fulfill one's wants and needs, people are diverted to commit such activities which are known as crimes. It is necessary here to be acquainted with the type of crimes. There are mainly two categories: Cognizable and non-cognizable. The definition of cognizable crime, its causes and modus operandi adopted by the criminals, who enable the police to lodge First Information Report (FIR) in proper section, while causes and modus operandi help in tracing the offenders. These crimes include dacoity, robbery, house breaking, thefts, burglary, pick-pocketing, snatching, cheating, immoral traffic,

molestation murder, murder dowry, encounter, kidnapping, hurt, rape, riot etc.

The present society in a large number suffers from those crimes which are committed in an organized manner. The aim of these crimes is to gather fabulous riches and thus live in luxury. Here, the non-cognizable crimes are rather such organized crimes, which affect the society in total. These crimes, if are reported, the Police Officer cannot make the investigation without the order of the Magistrate. These are such offences, for which police officer can arrest the suspect with the warrant order. In these cases, the imprisonment is simply from one year to seven years depending upon the nature of crime. Such crimes include false claiming of property, unauthorized possession of land; a public servant engaged in bribery, false statement, disobeying, the rules and regulations, furnishing false information are, threatening any person.

An act of swindling is also a crime. These days, the method of cheating has become quite popular. Swindling means any fraudulent method by which a person is made to part with his money or valuables. Mischief, assault on a person by harmful weapons, causing miscarriage, intercourse by a man with a woman without her will, forgery, false preparation of accounts in a public enterprise, marriage again in the presence of his present wife, adulterous, criminal conspiracy, real estate and liquor manufacture in a illegal manner, gambling, receiving stolen goods from the person in possession, political corruptions, smuggling. There are also such crimes which include misrepresentation in advertising, infringement of trademarks, copyright, patents, unfair labour practices, financial frauds and violation of trusts, tax-evasion, health law violations, malicious mischief, disorderly conduct, indecency, bribery, burglary and burglar tools, fraud, election frauds, conspiracy, extortion, larceny, illegal possession of fire arms, issue of illegal certificates etc.

All these above mentioned crimes may also be designated white-collar crimes. Today crime is committed in practically by every class of society. That, practically every individual has or is committing some form of anti-social activity. The district Meerut has reported the commencement of non-cognizable crimes less than the number of cognizable crimes. The main non-cognizable crimes are commenced here being a thug, causing miscarriage, occupation of other's land, disobey of public servant, bribery, to prevent the person from servicing the government, public or private establishments, not obey the rules and regulations, false claim of the property, making the atmosphere un-peaceful, sale of theft goods, making an intolerable sound, buying or disposing of any person, dishonest misappropriation, cheating, mischief, forgery, using a false property, making use of any such false marks, counterfeiting currency notes or banks, accusation of women by force, or unlawfully, marriage again in the presence of present wife. The distribution of these crimes is shown based on the data registered in various police thanas of the district in the years of 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and on this the annual average number of these crimes has been obtained to discuss their spatial set-up, and to correlate it with the present circumstances in which these are caused in the area concerned.

Distribution of Non-Cognizable Crimes

Police thanas of Meerut City- These crimes have shown very high registration in number for the year 2004. After this year, there is a fall in their number. Their distribution among police thanas has a great variation. It is also to be noted that Mahila thana has registered 66 cases in

2004 and 102 in 2010, indicating an effective increase in their number. It is apparent that there is a very high concentration of non-cognizable crimes in high and very high crime categories especially in the year of 2004. Otherwise, the category of medium crimes has included highest number of police thanas in the remaining years, as mentioned here.

Table 1 Distribution of non-cognizable crimes among city police thanas.

#	Category	No. of crimes	Year 2001			Year 2004		
			No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total
i	Low	< 20	2	26	5.46	-	-	-
ii	Medium	21-40	6	214	44.96	1	28	2.80
iii	High	41-60	4	171	35.92	3	166	16.62
iv	V. High	61 >	1	65	13.66	9	805	80.58
	Total		13	476	100.00	13	999	100.00

#	Category	No. of crimes	Year 2007			Year 2010		
			No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total
i	Low	< 20	1	06	1.34	1	14	2.50
ii	Medium	21-40	8	250	55.80	5	163	29.11
iii	High	41-60	4	192	42.86	6	310	55.36
iv	V. High	61 >	-	-	-	1	73	13.04
	Total		13	448	100.00	13	560	100.00

- (i) **Distributional Pattern in 2001-** Police thanas extended on the fringe areas of the city have more crime in number than the police thanas, situated in the heart of Meerut city. Kotwali (20) and Railway Road (16), have occupied the low category. These areas are decorated either with commercial activities or have medium density of residential houses. The south and south-west parts of the city have noted the crime of medium category, with the inclusion of Delhi Gate (35), Lisari Gate (38), Partapur (38), Transport Nagar (37), Brahmpuri (26) and Medical College (40). They have their extension along Garh Road, Baghpat Road and Delhi Road. Except Nauchandi (41), the remaining police thanas of high category- Kankar Khera (43), Lal Kurti (46) and Sada Bazar (41) have occupied the northern areas of the city. Civil line police thana has registered 65 crimes, being as the administrative and educational area of the city.
- (ii) **Distributional Pattern in 2004-** This year has registered highest number of non-cognizable crimes in the city. Kotwali has registered 28 such crimes, the medium number. The high category is formed by Railway Road (54), Lisari Gate (60), and Delhi gate (52). All of the above thanas have occupied the central part of the city. Border areas thanas have very high frequency of these crimes. These are known as Partapur (83), Transport Nagar (72), Brahmpuri (61), Sadar Bazar (90), Lal Kurti (76), Kankar Khera (131), civil lines (129), Nauchandi (79) and Medical (84). Among them Kankarkehra and Civil lines have very high incidence of the crimes.
- (iii) **Distributional Pattern in 2007-** This year has reported the less number of total non-cognizable crimes in the city. This number is just half of the number of 2004, and also this year very high category has not registered any police thana of the city. The low category thana is one in number Railway Road (06). This is extended along Baghpat

Road. The medium category thanas, which are eight in number have occupied, most of the central areas of the city. These are Kotwali (25), Delhi Gate (39), Lisari Gate (21), Transport Nagar (33), Lal Kurti (26), Nauchandi (39) and Medical (40). High incidence of the crime is the result of thanas, having their border areas with the rural surroundings. Partapur (60), Sadar Bazar (44), Kankar Khera (43) and Civil Lines (45). These areas are either highly populated, where the new colonies have sprung up, or have their extension along the outer areas.

- (iv) **Distributional Pattern in 2010-** This year has shown increasing trend. It has registered 112 more number as compared to 2007. The incidence of these crimes is more in those police thanas, which have their jurisdiction on the outskirts of the city. Railway Road thana has noted 14 crimes, whereas five thanas have occupied the medium category. These are also extended on the south and west parts of the city- Kotwali (34), Delhi gate (27), Partapur (40), Lal Kurti (25) and Medical (37). The high category of these crimes is composed by Lisari gate (60), Transport Nagar (53), Brahmpuri (47), Sadar Bazar (53), civil lines (47) and Nauchandi (50). These are extended on the central, north-west and north-east areas of the city. They have the commencement of 55.36 percent of total such crimes. Kankarkhera thana has reported 73 crimes, the highest number, because of its northern most location. Here, most of the population belongs to medium and poor class persons.
- (v) **Distributional Pattern (on the basis of annual average during 2001-2010) -** Table explains the overall distributional pattern of the crime in all thirteen thanas of the city. The number of these crimes is registered 621 and is mainly commenced in those thanas, which have their boundaries along the fringe villages of the city. Railway Road has registered 20 crimes of this type. It has always been in the category of low number of crimes. The medium category is incorporated by Brahmpuri (40), Kotwali (27), and Delhi gate (38). All of these are located in the heart of the city, and belong to most congested part of the city. The thanas of south part have reported high number of these crimes. They also occupy the west and east parts of the city. These are known as Lisari Gate (45), Partapur (55) Transport Nagar (49), Medical (50), Sadar Bazar (57), Lal Kurti (43), and Nauchandi (52). The very high number of crime is observed in Kankar Khera (73) and civil line (72).

Table 2 Distributional Pattern of non-cognizable crimes in Police thanas of the district.

Category	Among Rural Police Thanas				Meerut City Police Thanas			
	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total
Low	< 20	2	32	6.23	< 20	1	20	3.22
Medium	21-40	7	206	40.08	21-40	3	105	16.91
High	41-60	4	213	41.44	41-60	7	351	56.52
V. High	61 >	1	63	12.25	61 >	2	145	23.35
Total		14	514	100.0		13	621	100.00

Distributional Pattern of Non-cognizable crimes among other thanas (Rural)

All these 14 police thanas have registered 514 non-cognizable crimes with an annual average. These crimes are more prevalent in north-central part of the district. Daurala thana has recorded highest number of 63, whereas Bahsuma has the least number of 16 crimes. Both

the north-east Police thanas have the low number of non-cognizable crimes. The medium Police thanas are seven in number. These cover the south-east parts of the district. Sarurpur thana is the only one, situated in central-west part. It has noted 33 such crimes. The number of crimes in other thanas of the category is Hastinapur (24), Kithore (33), Parikshitgarh (33), Bhawanpur (22), Mundawali (27), and Kharkhauda (34). It is noted that these thanas have the domination of burglary, cheating, swindling, and crimes against women. The high frequency of the crimes is recorded by four police thanas namely Sardhana (58), Jani Khurd (48), Mawana (53) and Incholi (54). Such nature of crime is mainly observed in canal irrigated areas.

(a) Distributional Pattern in 2001- Rural thanas of the district have reported 428 such cases in this year. The north part has high commencement as compared to south and east parts. The central belt has registered crimes in low number. Here Bhawanpur (18), Mundawali (14), Kharkhauda (20), and Sarurpur (17) include 16.12 percent total of this crime of the year. The medium category of the crime is occupied by seven police thanas. Among them except Jani Khurd (39), all the remaining is extended on the eastern part of the district. Other thanas of the category are Phalavda (21), and Kithore (37). These thanas include 48.13 percent of the total. The high frequency of this crime is registered by Sardhana (54), Daurala (54) and Incholi (45). They cover most of the north-west part of the district, and include 34.75 percent of these crimes.

Table 3 Distributional Pattern of non-cognizable crimes among rural thanas 2001 and 2004

Category	2001				2004			
	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total
Low	< 20	4	69	16.12	< 20	1	18	2.20
Medium	21-40	7	206	48.13	21-40	2	53	6.46
High	41-60	3	153	34.75	41-60	5	261	31.83
V. High	61 >	-	-	-	61 >	6	488	59.51
Total		14	428	100.00		14	820	100.00

(b) Distributional pattern in 2004- This year has reported the highest number of the crime among the years in consideration. It reveals that the western part of the district is very familiar for these crimes than the eastern and south parts. Those areas which are very prosperous in agricultural and fruits economy have registered high number of these cases. Sardhana (109) and Daurala (107) thanas include 26.34% of total crime. Bahasuma thana has registered only 18 crimes. Near to this thana, Phalavda (25) and Hastinapur (28) thanas have recorded 6.46 percent non-cognizable crimes of the year. It is revealed that area with low percentage of cultivated land has less frequency of the crime. The south and east parts of the district have registered high commencement of the crime. Here Kithore (55), Parikshitgarh (57), Bhawanpur (47), Mundawali (43), and Kharkhauda (59) thanas are extended with 31.83 percent of the total crime. The very high category is composed by six police thanas, with the inclusion of 59.51 percent crimes. These are known as Sardhana (109), Sarurpur (63), Jani Khurd (77), Mawana (62), Daurala (107) and Incholi (70). These thanas are extended on the most fertile land. The division of the rural society in the farmers and laboureres has boosted the criminal mentality among the people of the area.

(c) Distributional Pattern in 2007- This year has noted less number of non-cognizable crimes, in comparison of 2004. Total commencement of the crime is 366 in number. Police

thanas, located in the north-west and central parts of the district have noted more number of these crimes. Mawana and Incholi thanas have reported 42 and 46 such crimes. Both are located in the central- east part. Janikhurd thana also has 42 crimes, located in the south-west part. Six Police thanas committed these crimes on a medium scale. These are known as Sardhana (37), Daurala (31), Mundawali (27), Parikshitgarh (31), Kithore (24), and Hastinapur (22). This category includes 46.99 percent of the total crimes. The low category is composed by Sarurpur (20), Bahsuma (06), Phalavda (15), Bhawanpur (17), and Kharkhauda (16). Their location indicates that the north and south borders have low number of such commencement.

Table 4 Distributional Pattern of non-cognizable crimes among rural thanas 2007 and 2010

Category	2007				2010			
	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total	No. of crimes	No. of thanas	Total crimes	% of total
Low	< 20	5	64	17.49	< 20	6	98	22.17
Medium	21-40	6	172	46.99	21-40	5	161	36.43
High	41-60	3	130	35.52	41-60	2	111	25.11
V. High	61 >	-	-	-	61 >	1	72	16.29
Total		14	366	100.00		14	442	100.00

(d) Distributional pattern in 2010- This year has noted an increase in the number of crimes in comparison of 2007. Their incidence has increased in Police thana of Mawana, which has registered 72 such crimes, 16.29% of the total. The least number is registered by Phalavda (13) indicates that the eastern part has less number of crimes in comparison of the western part. The low number is observed in six police thanas, namely Hastinapur (20), Bahsuma (14), Kithore (15), Parikshitgarh (20) and Bhawanpur (16). It is less committed in those areas which are economically deprived and have low accessibility. The medium incidence of the crime is registered by Sardhana (32), Sarurpur (31), Jani Khurd (35), Mundawali (23) and Kharkhauda (40). This category includes highest percentage. The high number of crime is observed by Daurala (58) and Incholi (53) police thanas, both are nearby located and occupying the north-central part of the district. As a whole, it is revealed that these crimes are most popular in economically developed and highly accessible areas. These areas are also highly crowded, and give an opportunity to the criminal to leave the place of crime, after its commencement, to the nearby districts.

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