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## SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN DARJEELING

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**Abstract:** An attempt has been made to analyse crime against women that occurred during 2004 to 2014 in Darjeeling district. Data pertaining to study was collected from the office of Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling and Commissionerate of Police, Siliguri. Analysis is done at both regional and block level. At regional level maximum crime against women occurred in terai than the hills and at block it was found in Matigara, Naxalbari and Phansidewa. In terai percentage of crime against women is more than the hills. Population, density of population, urbanisation, temperature, etc. are high in terai and it has a true bearing on the rate of crime against women.

**Keywords:** *Crime, Crime against women, Region, Growth rate, Spatial variation*

### I INTRODUCTION

Crime, explained by renowned philosopher M.K.Gandhiji, “it is a disease like any other malady which is a product of prevalent social system”. It is the interplay of various demographic, social and economic factors. According to National Crime Record Bureau, any crime faced by women is termed as crime against women, and since independence it has been increasing due to growth in population, rural urban migration on large scale, rise of subsequent social problems like congestion, unemployment, etc. Singh (2010), rising cruelty against women is a common phenomenon which is found everywhere in the country.

### II OBJECTIVES

- To study spatial pattern of crime against women.
- To examine total incidences and rate of crime against women.

### III DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

This paper is based on secondary data. All the data's pertaining to crime against women was collected from the offices of Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling and Siliguri Police Commissionerate, Siliguri for the period of 2004 to 2014. Data related to population and socio-economic was taken from

District Census Handbook of Darjeeling 2011 and lastly, some of the data's was also obtained from literature related to crimes.

The data obtained was computed and tabulated meaningfully. Bar graph, pie chart, line graph and tables were prepared with an assistance of Microsoft excel to show the differences in incidences occurred against women in hill and terai region of study area. Arc GIS tool was employed to prepare a map showing spatial variation of crime against women in the blocks of Darjeeling district. Crime rate per lakh female population and rural urban population percentages was calculated to identify the changes occurred during 2004 and 2014.

### IV STUDY AREA

Darjeeling is situated in extreme north sprawling across the Himalayan and Terai region of West Bengal state. It is located between 26°31' to 27°13' north latitude and 87°50' to 85°53' east longitude. The district is divided into four major sub-divisions which covers a total area of 3,149 square kilometres. It is bounded by Sikkim in North, Bhutan in North East, Jalpaiguri district in East, Bangladesh in South East, District Uttar Dinajpur and Bihar in South and Nepal in West. Temperature during summer remains between 19°C to 37°C and in winter between -2°C to 24°C (Gazetters, 2001). Darjeeling under four sub-divisions has twelve Community Development blocks. The Sadar Sub Division has three development blocks

named Darjeeling Pulbazar, Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari, and Rangli Ranglot. Kalimpong Sub Division has three development blocks- Kampong I, Kalimpong II and Gorubathan. Kurseong Sub Division consists of Kurseong and Mirik blocks and they all are situated in hills. Siliguri Sub Division which is the largest among four has four development blocks - Matigara, Khoribari, Naxalbari and Phansidewa and they all lie in terai region (<http://darjeeling.gov.in>).

According to District Census Handbook, Darjeeling 2011, the total population of District is 1,842,034 out of which male is 934,796 and female 907,238. Density of population is 585 person per square kilometre. The growth rate of population during 2001-2011 was 14.47 per cent. Sex-ratio is 971 females per every 1000 males and the literacy rate is 79.92 per cent.

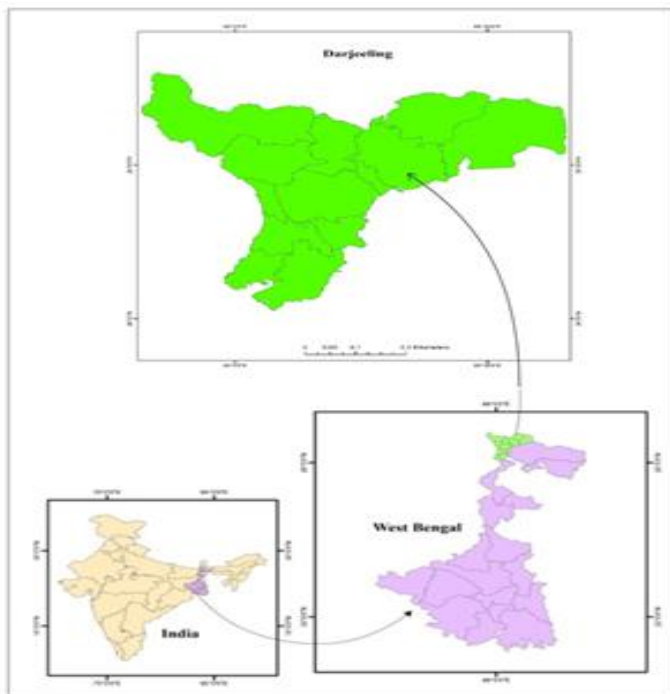


Figure 1: Location map of study area

**V LITERATURE REVIEW**

Crime in general reflects socio-economic characteristics and demographic details of an area which assist in analysing the causes of crime (Kalaikumaran, 2012) and crime against women is the crime against society (Rajalakshmi et al 2005). Number of scholars has found that women are victimized, traumatised and discriminated and even deprived of their rights whether at their homes or be it their office, industries and public places (Shankarjha et al. 1998). Similarly, Ahuja (1987) found that 24 per cent rape cases took place in the house of victims, 17 per cent in offender’s house, 12 per cent in house of offender’s relatives and remaining 47 per cent at different distant places. The spatial occurrence of crime that been marked by Rao (1981), is the result of cultural factors and levels of economic development. He established a strong positive correlation that exists between traditional crime and

unemployment. Robinson (2008), change in urban structure has a bearing on spatial and temporal pattern of crime. Murphy and Patrick (1985), an ecological factor also determines the kind of opportunity for crime in physical environment. Cohen (1941), crime against person is more in summer and against property in winter. He clearly gave his clue that geography of a region plays an important role in crime against women.

**VI DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS**

In this paper an attempt has been made to explain the crime against women that occurred during the time periods of 2004 to 2014 in the district Darjeeling of West Bengal. The district sprawls across two type of regions comprising of hilly tracts and terai plain. The larger extent of district lies in the hilly tracts having eight Community Development Blocks and the remaining in the terai plains with four Community Development Blocks.

Maximum percentage of crime against women occurred in the terai than the hills (fig 2). Explained by Cohen (1941), that Geography of a region plays a significant role on crime against women. Both the region varies in several aspects like demography, socio-economic, climatic conditions etc. In the terai percentage of crime against women is more than the hills. Population, density of population, urbanisation, temperature, etc. are high in terai and it has a true bearing on the rate of crime against women. In a study by Mukhopadhyay (1999) and Tahir (1996), they found densely populated and highly urbanising area have high rate of crime against women. In another study by Cohen 1941), crime against person is more in summer than in winter and Mishra (2014), rise in temperature increased crime.

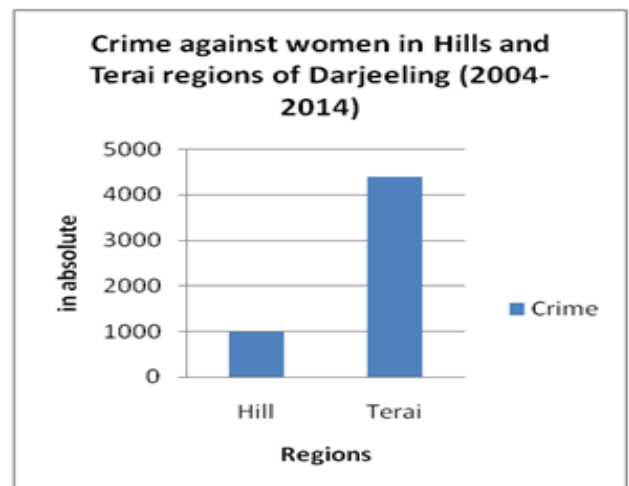


Figure 2: Crime Against Women

Figure 3, represents total number of incidences that occurred against women in Darjeeling during 2004 to 2014. It is noted that among the types of crime against women, torture was at the top (49 per cent). As per FIR reports registered in police

stations of Darjeeling the major reasons for torture was demand of dowry by husbands and in-laws, objection against extra marital affairs of husbands, giving birth to girl child, polygamy, infertility, etc.

About 20 per cent molestation cases was reported and they took place mostly at houses of victims', locality, street, way to work place, at work place, in public transport, farm, field, etc. The victims were many times molested due to dispute of land, drunken offenders entered house in the absence of male members, when they went out to attend natures call, while fetching drinking water, by fake agent's fraudulence and while landlord extorting money from borrowers etc.

Rape accounted for 14 per cent and it is the most heinous crime against women. Victims of rape were mostly victimised by the known and they victimised them in the following manner – by giving false hope of marrying, allured them with gifts, laced food/drinks with drugs, to take revenge, ill intention, etc. The offenders mostly approached to teenagers in a polite manner and trap them easily either in their houses or in the designated lonely places, bushes etc. and committed the crime.

13 per cent cases of kidnapping and abduction was registered and they mostly occurred due to ill intention of offenders, gave false hope of providing jobs, for prostitution, for ransom money, etc. and for all these, teenage girls were victimised. In such cases of kidnapping and abduction mostly friends, neighbours, relatives etc. were involved for due to some property issue, anger, jealousy, for quick money, for illegal marriage, etc.

Eve-teasing has been persisting since time immemorial, but due to the reasons like-social prestige, fear and threat of offenders, etc. led to non-reporting of crime. This crime accounted for 2 per cent and in which mostly the strangers were involved. Such cases took place in morning hours when the working women and school going girls were out doors, in evening when they are out for shopping, in public transport, at bus stop, at public places etc. Murder/Dowry Death and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act was one per cent each Growth rate of crime against women in Darjeeling during 2005 to 2014 kept fluctuating which is evident from the fig 4. During the period highest growth rate of crime was in 2011 (50.26 per cent) and then in 2013 (45.48 per cent), in 2005 (42.86per cent), in 2008 (37.84 per cent), in 2012 (34.33 per cent). The other remaining years recorded crime rate below 30 per cent. The least growth rate was seen in 2014 (5.23 per cent). From the analysis it observed that the growth rate of crime followed a wave like pattern falling up and down. From figure 5, it is evident that the high percentage of crime against women was found in the blocks situated in terai part of the district. The blocks namely Matigara, Naxalbari and Phansidewa recorded crimes above 5.4 per cent and they all lie in the terai. Darjeeling Pulbazar, Kalimpong I & II from hill and Kharibari block from

terai registered crime against women between 2.8 – 5.4 per cent. Crimes below 2.6 per cent were registered in the blocks (Jorebunglow Sukiapokhri, Rangli Rangliot, Mirik, Kurseong and Garubathan) all lying in the hills.

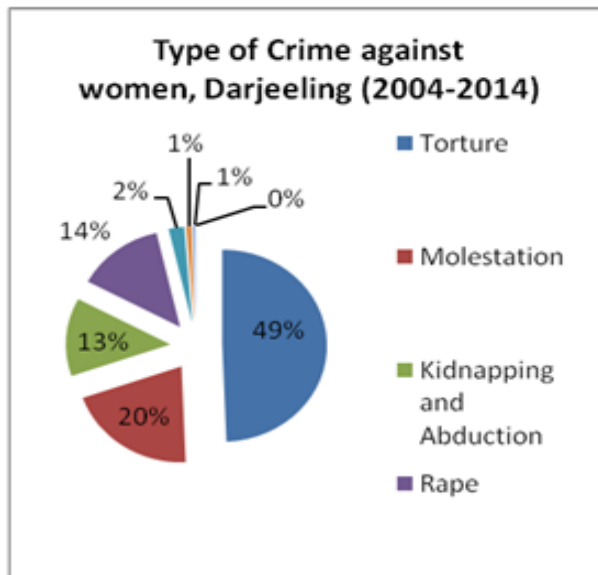


Figure 3: Type of Crime

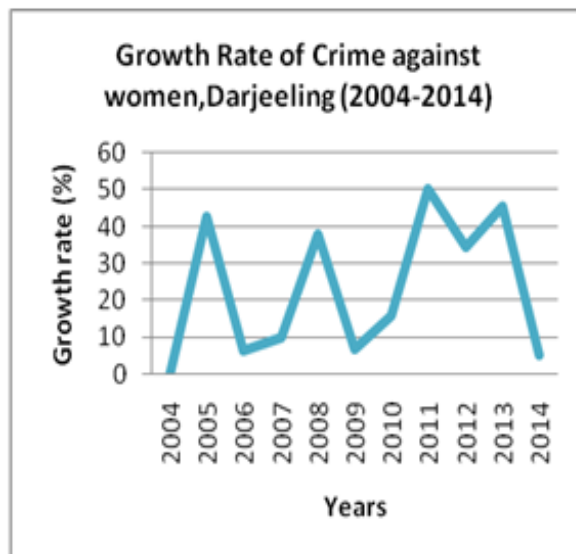


Figure 4: Growth Rate of Crime

Change in rural urban population statistics since 2004 to 2011 resulted change in population, population density and crime rate. Crime rate per lakh female population was high in 2011 than in 2004 (table 1). Rural urban population composition changed from 2001 to 2011 in some of the blocks. Like in hill blocks, in Darjeeling Pulbazar percentage of urban population was 17.16 in 2011 which was just 1.41 per cent in 2001. Similarly, Jorebunglow Sukiapokhri in 2001 had no urban population and the same in 2011 recorded 23.68 per cent.

Among the blocks in terai, Naxalbari and Matigara had high percentage of urban population in 2011 than in 2001. Population densities in all blocks were high in 2011 than 2001 .

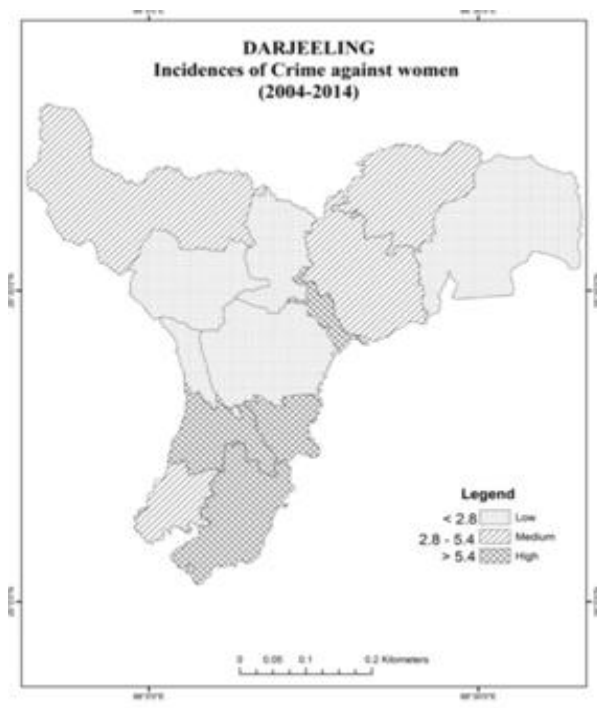
Thus it is pertinent to say that increasing in population and rapid urbanization has led in rise of crime rate.

**Table 1: Rural/Urban Population and crime rate in Darjeeling**

| Blocks                    | Crime Rate/1akh Female Population |                   | Population Percentage |       |        |       | Density |      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------|
|                           | 2004 <sup>a</sup>                 | 2011 <sup>b</sup> | 2001                  |       | 2011   |       | 2001    | 2011 |
|                           |                                   |                   | Rural                 | Urban | Rural  | Urban |         |      |
| Hill                      |                                   |                   |                       |       |        |       |         |      |
| Darjeeling Purbazar       | 12.19                             | 33.28             | 98.59                 | 1.41  | 82.84  | 17.16 | 302     | 391  |
| Rangli Rangliot           | 6.24                              | 11.40             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 100.00 | 0.00  | 236     | 257  |
| Kalimpong T               | 4.82                              | 14.43             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 95.20  | 4.80  | 254     | 281  |
| Gorubathan                | 18.72                             | 37.15             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 100.00 | 0.00  | 179     | 200  |
| Jorebunglow Sukia polkhri | 1.96                              | 22.69             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 76.32  | 23.68 | 496     | 559  |
| Mirik                     | 47.34                             | 39.16             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 100.00 | 0.00  | 354     | 389  |
| Kurseong                  | 4.70                              | 19.02             | 84.09                 | 15.91 | 84.69  | 15.31 | 272     | 299  |
| <b>Terai</b>              |                                   |                   |                       |       |        |       |         |      |
| Matigara                  | 24.46                             | 76.88             | 95.82                 | 4.18  | 68.73  | 31.27 | 1147    | 1750 |
| Naxalbari                 | 13.03                             | 48.47             | 89.11                 | 10.89 | 59.04  | 40.96 | 904     | 1035 |
| Phansidewa                | 21.54                             | 29.76             | 100.00                | 0.00  | 100.00 | 0.00  | 560     | 668  |
| Kharibari                 | 142.59                            | 649.50            | 100.00                | 0.00  | 89.15  | 10.85 | 627     | 776  |

<sup>a</sup> Crime data 2004 and Population is of 2001. <sup>b</sup> Crime data and Population data of 2011

Source: Compiled by Author from data collected from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling and Siliguri Police Commissioner's office, Siliguri, DCH Darjeeling 2011 and 2011



**Figure 5: DARJEELING Incidences of Crime Against Women (2004-2014)**

**VII CONCLUSION**

In this paper an attempt was made to find out year wise growth rate of crime against women and its occurrence at regional and block level. While analysing, it was found that

maximum crime against women occurred in terai than in the hill region. Among the types of crime against women, torture was highest recorded 49 per cent. Growth rate was high in 2011 (50.26 per cent) and low in 2014 (5.23 per cent). Wave like pattern of occurrence of crime was observed. Among all the blocks of Darjeeling, Matigara, Naxalbari and Kharibari of terai region recorded crime against women above 5.46 per cent. An increasing of population, density of population, urbanisation, temperature, etc. are high in terai which has its bearing on the rate of crime.

**VIII ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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