The state of criminal law continues to be as it should- a decisive reflection of the social consciousness of a society. What kind of conduct an organised community considers at a given time sufficiently condemnable to impose official sanctions, impairing the life, liberty or property of the offender, is a barometer of the moral and social thinking of a community. Hence, the criminal law is particularly sensitive to change in social structure and social thinking.

--Wolfgang Friedman
2. **CRIME:**

The primary responsibility of Police force is to control crime. Nature and magnitude of crime differs with space, time and society. Bayley has rightly said that "Crime is socially defined, its content shifts among societies and within a single society over time" *

Crime may be defined as violation of rules and regulations framed by the state or the society. It has its origin in the conflict of the self seeking habits of the individual with the common customs of any social group. During Vedic period, the anti-social behaviour of the members of society was recorded. Manu described theft, falsehood and fraud. Narad, Brahspati, Mamandaka and other law givers prescribed regulations and despised the criminal tendencies. Theft, robbery, kidnapping, forgery, adulteration, counterfeiting, gambling, adultery, murder, bribery and corruption were the main offences in the early period in Indian society. Crime pattern was almost similar in the medieval India.

In India crime is found in variety. Baylay has beautifully described the diversity in following words: "While people are vicious to one another in India in much the same ways that they are in the West. What distinguishes the Indian scene in the enormous variety of circumstances within which crime becomes manifest, is the richness of social and geographical conditions that gives to Indian crime its incredible and fascinating heterogeneity only in a country which is advancing in uneven stages from first to twentieth centuries could one have cattle thievery.

* Bayley David H, The Police and Political in India, 1969, P-9;
and insurance fraud, dacoity and stock swindling, murder for witchcraft and vehicular homicide”.

Situated at a long distance from the seat of administration and in the absence of any effective means of transport and communication the Chhattisgarh region was very little influenced by the Mogul administrative system. Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code were enacted in 1860 and 1862. Thereby crime was defined and regular crime investigation and prosecution started with the police acting as the agency to control crime. In the broad sense, crime was identified as offence against the state, offence relating to the Army, Navy and Air-force, offence against public tranquility, offence by or relating to public servants, offence relating to elections, offence of contempt of lawful authority of public servants, offence relating to false evidence and public justice, offence relating to coin and Government stamps, offence relating to weights and measures, offence effecting the public health, safety, convenience, defence and morals, offence effecting the human body, offence relating to kidnapping and abduction, offence against property, offence relating to documents, offence of the criminal breach of contract of service, offence relating to marriage, offence relating to defamation etc.

The land locked Chhattisgarh region has been free from outside influence for a very long period of history. The region has been peaceful. People are simple and God fearing. Hurt and theft were common offences. Violence was seldom noticed in society. The first onslaught was from the Marathas invading the Haihai Banshi Kingdom.

* IBID, Beyley P-106.
The author has based his study on the data of crime for the years 1961, 1971 and average for 1981 to 1983. Statistics on Indian Crime originate in police stations. They are collected into district reports at the office of the Superintendent of Police. Whatever the region the basic problem is that the crime is not self authenticating. It must be found out and that requires human agency. Either the police must discover it or the public must report it. The police report is affected greatly by police procedure and public concern. It may also be affected by referral practices, circumstances, social class, time and place. Police officers often have a vested interest in minimizing the crime on record. Therefore the data available with us is not always the exact number of crime happening in the society. But since any other source is not available the author has based his study on the data available in police records.

Offences are of two categories (1) cognizable and (2) Non-cognizable. The present study is limited to the cognizable offences registered in police stations. Again we have offences registered under Indian Penal Code and offences registered under different Minor Acts. Most of the analysis is based on the Indian Penal Code offences.

PROGRESSIVE GROWTH OF CRIME AND POPULATION:

Crime is a social evil. It increased with the growth of society. Among the factors responsible for the growth of crime, the increase in population factor is most important. The following table shown comparative growth of crime and growth of population in Chhattisgarh region:
### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage of growth</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Percentage of growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>69,50,259</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,925</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>88,02,325</td>
<td>26.64</td>
<td>13,946</td>
<td>16.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1,05,31,571</td>
<td>19.64</td>
<td>27,207</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between the year 1961 and year 1981, population increased by 51%. In the same period, crime increased by 107%. The growth of crime was faster in the last 20 years in comparison to population. For every 1000 population, there were 17 offences in year 1961, 15 offences in year 1971, and 25 offences in 1981.

![Graph showing growth of population and crime in Chhattisgarh](image-url)
Analysis of decadewise growth in population and crime is more striking. Between the year 1961 and 1971 population increased by 26.64% while crime growth was only 16.13%. Between the year 1971 and 1981 the population grew by 19.64% while the crime increased by 95%.

Growth rate of crime was not identical in all the districts of Chhattisgarh. District Raipur registered almost zero percent of growth of crime between 1961 and 1971 while population increased by 30% in the same period. Crime growth was 92% between 1971 and 1981 while population growth was only 17% in the same period.

Durg/Rajnandgaon district (a new district of Rajnandgaon was carved out of Durg in 1973) registered 9.8% increase in crime between the year 1961 and the year 1971 while population increased by 30% in the same period. Districts registered 100% increase in the crime between 1971 and 1981 while population increased only by 23% in the same period.

District Bilaspur registered 5.34% crime growth between the years 1961 and 1971 and 20.73% of population increase. But the growth of crime between the years 1971 and 1981 was unprecedented 107% while growth of population was only 20.90%.

District Raigarh registered comparatively balanced increase in crime and population between the year 1961 and 1971. While crime increased by 17% the population growth was 22%. But like other districts, crime grew much faster than population between the
year 1971 and 1981 where crime growth rate was 63% in comparison to 12.77% of population growth.

From the above analysis author has reached on the conclusion that crime growth was almost marginal between 1961 and 1971. Industrialisation was already started in this decade. But its impact was not felt on the crime front. Stable governments, sincere administration and old traditions continued. Population growth in this decade was faster than national average, due to migration of labour from the other regions of the country.

**COMPARISION OF CRIME GROWTH OF CHHATISGARH WITH MADHYA PRADESH.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>3,32,72,408</td>
<td>70,075</td>
<td>M.P Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>M.P Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>5,21,31,717</td>
<td>1,69,119</td>
<td>+25.15</td>
<td>+19.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The growth of population and incidence of crime in temporal context in the region is identical with the State of Madhya Pradesh.

The increase in crime and population is not with same speed. While growth of population was slowed
down in the year 1971 to 1981 due to strict family planning measures in this decade crime increased unabated. The rapid growth of crime in this decade was due to many factors. Most important among them are industrialisation in Chhattisgarh region, more political interference in day to day police administration, thereby effecting the capacity and morale of the police force to act speedy in the event of commission of offence, better crime registration, unemployment among youth, increase of sophisticated offence due to influence of cinema, slow disposal of cases in the courts, decreasing respect for law by citizens and more engagement of police in security duties, law and order preventive measures. The main centres of crime growth were Bhilai, Rajhara, Nandini, Raipur, Bilaspur, Korba.

Industrialisation in the region is rapid due to rich natural resources. Bhilai Steel Plant was established due to iron ore of Rajhara belt, dolomite of Nandini, Coal of Chhota Nagpur Plateau, and easy mode of rail transport. This industry created an infrastructure for number of subsidiary industries. Durg which was purely a rural district, become semi-urban district within a decade. Process of industrialisation started in early sixties. But subsidiary industries were started in seventies only. Korba belt of coal was not fully exploited. M.P. Electricity Board had a small Thermal Power BALCO was established due to availability of power, water and Boxite in the vicinity of Korba. In seventies exploitation of coal was started for commercial as well as for industrial use. National Thermal Power Corporation come in a bigway to generate power from the raw and inferior type of coal in the area. M.P.
Electricity Board also put up new Thermal Power Plants. Hasdeo Irrigation and Power Project made available plenty of water around. New Coal fields were opened in Kusmunda, Banki-Mogra and surrounding areas. Coal India shifted its office of Western Coalfields from Nagpur to Bilaspur. Easy availability of power attracted subsidiary industries in and around Korba and Bilaspur.

Limestone is available in plenty in Bilaspur and Raipur districts. With sufficient availability of power, and limestone, number of Cement Plants were opened in Private Sector, mostly by Raymond, A.C.C. and Cement Corporation of India. This industrial climate also attracted entrepreneurs from other states to establish variety of consumer goods industry. Raipur was benefited by new ventures. Migration from villages to new growth centre was very high. Migrated people settled around place of work without proper planning, slums developed. All the vices of slums like drinking, gambling and prostitution becomes common offences Displaced from their traditional social bondage, migrants lost their inhabitions. Crime such culture grew in these slums. The high frequency of crime rate in Chhawani, Korha, Darzi, Rajhara Police Stations are due to slums.

Districtwise variations indicate that Bilaspur registered the highest percentage of increase of crime while Raigarh registered the lowest. The increase in the district is mostly due to industrialisation, increasing social tension in rural area, more political interference in police administration and lack of resources with police in the district. In Bilaspur district, the average size of land holdings is the
smallest and disparity is the highest in the state. The land is mostly concentrated in a few hands, which is an important cause of social tension. Raigarh is unfortunate to have least industrialisation. People have progressed in the different way. Impact of Christianity is evident. But it has little impact on the crime. On the other hand progress has controlled the criminal tendencies of tribal people. Durg and Raipur districts have also their share of industrialisation. The growth of crime is high in these districts.

The variation at police station is also striking. Following is the table of some selected police stations showing variation and increase in crime:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1962</th>
<th>1981</th>
<th>Percentage of growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Korba-Darri Balco</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>409%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Old Bilai</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>331%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chhawani</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>154%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Durg</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Raipur Kotwali)1250 Purani Basti) Civil Lines)</td>
<td>2205</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bhatapara</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Jangjeer</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Nawagarh</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Marwahi</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Gurur</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Lailunga</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>-35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Police stations having industrial units in their jurisdiction have registered very high rate of
growth of crime. Korba, Old Bhilai, Chhawani are some of the examples. City Police Station are the next after the industrial police where crime increased substantially. Durg, Raipur are examples of city police stations. Tehsil headquarte and town police station of rural area have registered moderate growth of crime. Bhatapara, Jangjeet are examples. But the rural police station have registered negligible crime growth. Marwahi and Gurur are the examples, while Lailuge registered minus rate of growth between the year 1961 and 1981.

The analysis shows that crime is basically an urban phenomena. Villages have developed a system of self governance. Only heinous offences are reported to the police. Other minor offence are mostly settled by panchayat. Distance plays important role in reporting the offence. Police stations are some times 30 to 40 KmA away from a village. It is seen that people settled in the nearly villages of the police station tend to contact police more for help. In villages every person is known to each other. Lack of unanimity plays very important role in keeping the society free from crime.

**VOLUME OF CRIME IN CONTEXT OF AREA OF POLICE STATION:**

Fig No.7 shows volume of crime for one square kilometer of area. The variations are noticed in the city and rural police stations. In urban centre with high density of population are bound to have high volume of crime in limited area. Police stations Rajnandgaon, Durg, Chhawani, Bhilai, Bhatti, Newai, Dhamtari, Civil Lines, Purani Basti, Azad Chowk, City Kotwali, RPR Ganj, Torba, Kotwali Bilaspur, Civil Lines Bilaspur, Tar Bahar, have registered more than 5 IPC
offences per Sq.Km. The density in these police station is high. Medium volume of crime in respect of area is found in Rajhara, Gurur, Mohan Nagar, Bilai Nagar, Nandini, Gourella, Darri, Shakti, Dabra, Raigarh, Police Station. Some of these police station are urban in nature with sufficient number of villages attached to them. Others are purely rural with small area and high density of population.

Low and very low volume of crime per Sq.Km. is registered in rural areas. The forest area and mountainous land have sparse settlements. Density of population is low sometimes headquarter of police stations are 40 Km. away from interior villages.

**VOLUME OF CRIME IN POLICE STATIONS IN CONTEXT TO POPULATION.**

Population in any area is the most important factor to influence the volume of crime. Police stations are mostly opened in keeping the need of population in relation to crime. Fig No 8 shows the volume of crime for every 1,000 population in city police stations is very high. Police stations Rajnandgaon, Korba, Civil Lines Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Amanaka registered more than 8 IPC offences for every 1,000 population. The medium volume of crime per 1,000 population was registered in Kawardha, Rangakhar, Chhawani, Gourella, Durg, Mohan Nagar, Newai, Raigarh, Purani Basti, Civil Lines Raipur, Khamtarai and Kotwali Bilaspur and Kotwali Raipur, Ganj have registered 5 to 8 offences per 1,000 population. These are either city police stations or rural police station with small population.
Low volume of crime per 1,000 population was registered in Semi-urban and rural police stations. Dongargarh Gariabad, Kotghora, Sarseewa represent the police stations of this category. Very low volume of crime in respect of population was registered in police station with very large area. Sihawa, Pasan, Pandaria, Kasdol, Mainpur etc., are the interior police stations. People are mostly aboriginals. Distance is very important factor for law volume of crime.

CRIME REGISTERED UNDER INDIAN PENAL CODE MAY BE CATEGORISED UNDER FOLLOWING HEADS:

MURDER:

1. The Greatest Crime and the greatest punishment:

Murder is by far the most shocking crime against human body and naturally ranks as the greatest offence under the penal law. It has the severest possible punishment. A deterrent punishment produces a feeling of fear on the general public and thus serves as effective check on the prospective wrong-doer.

2. CAUSES OF MURDER

Murder is the most heinous offence in Chhattisgarh region. Although violence is the one thing which people detest most; Enemity, property disputes, sex scandal and sudden provocation are the main causes of murder. In the year 1983, 344 offences of murder were registered in different police station in the region. Motive of the murders are numerous. Author has tried to categorise murders according to their motive. Following is the number of the murders and its percentage according to motive:
Murder due to Enemity:  Enemity is perhaps the motive in quite a few cases under this head. The spirit of revenge born out of grudge, is rather a common motive for murders in India. Such murders are well-planned. This cause of enemity may arise from a variety of reasons e.g. Civil suit, Land-dispute, Family Feud, Party faction, Religious Bigotry, Fanaticism, Racial Hatred and the like.

Old enemity is the most important factor contributing to 22.67% of the murders in this region. In the homogeneous society of the region, the enemity continues from generation to generation. One murder is the cause of the other and chain continues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Murder due to</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Total Murder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enemity</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden Provocation</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property disputes</td>
<td>11.04%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For gain</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With craft</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Murder</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowery</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madness</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human sacrifice</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reasons</td>
<td>22.09%</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Total Murder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>344</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Murder due to Sexual Jealousy:

Sexual jealousy is one of the strongest emotions of the human heart. Sex is another important factor contributing to 16.8% of the murder. People of the region are pleasure loving. Sex promiscuity is not a very big social stigma. Extra-marital sex relations are not uncommon. However, sometimes it causes tension. Murder is the result of such tension.

Murder due to Sudden Rage:

A large number of murders are committed due to sudden range of heat of passion. Such murders are unpredictable and mostly take place in the wake of a sudden quarrel. Sudden provocation is the third important factor contributing to 15.1% of murders. Since climate is hot and unhealthy, food habits are not favourable, the resistance power is minimum in the people of this area. Even small hurt causes death.

Murder for Gain:

This is rather the most important type from police point of view and is always treated as a special report case. Here the dominating object of the murderer is to cause some gain and this type of murder is usually associated with the offence of robbery. It is all the more shocking to human conscience as the criminal commits this crime in cold blood simply for the sake of gain.
Property dispute come very low as cause of murder. People are not attached to properly. As such disputes are settled in village panchayats. Unlike other regions, people are satisfied and less material in attitude. Number of murders for gain, dowery etc. are uncommon in this region.

Murder due to Superstitions:

Superstition has some times been the cause of many a gruesome murder. "Killing of so-called witches who are supposed to practice black magic on others, making a human sacrifice to propitiate an evil spirit or taming a turbulent river, of giving a blood-bath with blood of a slain child for curing barrenness in a woman are still some of the common instances of murders due to superstition in tribal and other outlying areas of the country."

Murder of tonhi is the most gruesome murder in this region. People believe that some persons, mainly women, possess supernatural qualities to harm their enemies. Sometimes alleged persons perform tantric puja. In the event of some misfortune to some one or disease, or death, they suspect that tonhi is responsible for all evils. In retaliation people who have suffered due to any other reason torture and sometime kill the tonhi. In these cases sometimes entire village is to punish the tonhi more than to kill her.

Murder due to Dowery:

Murders under this head are not common in this region. But even one offence due to dowery will create hue and cry in public.

Murder due to Madness:

Only one offence was registered under this head.

Murder due to Human Sacrifice (Narbali):

Murder of Narbali are uncommon now-a-days.

Murder due to other reasons:

Murder due to other reasons constitute 20.09% of the total murder. It may include murder to poverty and many other motives. The offences of murder are mostly registered in rural police stations.

CHHATTISGARH REGION
DISTRIBUTION OF MURDER

INDEX
- - DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - THANOA BOUNDARY

LEVEL OF CONCENTRATION
HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
VERY LOW

INDEX
0 20 40 60 80 KM

NO. OF MURDER PER 1 LAKH POPULATION
≥ 20
10-19
5-9
< 5

Fig. 9
Volume of murder for every one lack population was 12.5 in P.S. Abhanpur, 13.9 in P.S. Kunkuri, 28-2 in P.S. Bagicha, 18.5 in P.S. Jashpur Nagar, 18.9 in P.S. Kapoo, 17.2 in P.S. Pharass Behar, 19.4 in P.S. Ghophoda, 21.8 in P.S. Bag Bahar, 13.9 in P.S. Tummar, 22.6 in P.S. Kasdol, 12.1 in PS Darri, 15.3 in PS Lormi, 21.1 in PS Pusan, 12.5 in PS Pandaria, 16.5 in PS Jecejonpur, 17.3 in PS Takhatpur, 15.5 in PS Korba, 17.3 in PS Pamgarh, 16.5 in PS Kunda, 14.3 in PS Mungeli, 14.7 in PS Khatghore, 11.8 in PS Chakrabhatta, 16.3 in Gourela, 18.9 in PS Masturi, 14.5 in PS Balco, 14.6 in PS Berla, while 3.3 in PS Kotwali, 1.5 in PS Saraipalli, 2.1 in PS Magarload, 2.5 in PS Gariaband, 2.2. in PS Bilaigarh, 1.4 in PS Ghumka, 2.0 in PS Kharsia, 1.4 in PS Baramkela, 2.6 in PS Champa, 2.6 in PS Janjgeer, 1.2 in PS Arujunda zero in Dondi in the year 1983.

From these variations we find that murders are more in number in rural police stations of Raigarh district. This is tribal belt. People drink freely. Most of the murders are due to sudden provocation. Even small issues are contested and murder is the result. People commit murders in the villages which have a long history of social tensions. The village population is divided in caste lines. Election, Caste, religion have some times played important role to bring tension in society.

Caste conflict in pockets of Mungeli, Bemetara, Bilaspur, Baloda Bazar Tehsil a have a historical background. The satnami cult was propounded by Guru Gha shi Das as a reaction to the untouchability Practised by followers of Hindu Religion. Since the very inception of the panth Satnamis claimed equality
with reaction from other savarns. Some reaction still continue in some places. A small issue may inflame the feelings and a caste conflict is the result. Some major caste conflicts were seen in past. In Mungeli Tehsil Satnami-non-Satnami caste conflict was witnessed in the year 1967 in Guruwain Dabri village where five satnamis were killed.

Another major incident took place in year 1981 in village Kestara of Police station Nandghat where 14 satnamies were killed and burnt alive by villagers as a represal of some small incident. Again three satnamis were killed in village in Bhaismudi of Police Station Khaöora in the year 1984.

The caste still plays very important role in our society. Following is the chart showing caste of culprits arrested for murder in the year 1983:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satnami</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adivasi</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahu</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawat</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurmi</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marar</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewat</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahmin</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>505</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Criminality can not be added to any caste. The number of culprits except Adivasi coming from particular caste is in proportion to their number of this region.
RIOTS:

Rioting is defined as an offence wherever force or violence is used by an unlawful assembly. People of Chhattisgarh Region are mostly peaceful. Except in certain pockets, rural area is almost free from riots. As shown on the map city Police stations Rajnandaon, Chhawni, bhilai, Bhatti, Bhatapara, Mahassmund registered high concentration of riots. High concentration was also noticed in PS Kunkuri, PS Bag-Bahar and Bagiccha. Police stations of Raigarh district are otherwise less prone for riots. In 1981-82 and 1983 agitation launched by Adivasis and supported by Christian Missions against the police of State Government in regard to forest was main reason for increase in number of riots. Urban police stations have registered high concentration of riots. Conglomeration of people with divergent social and ethnic groups, with little common in caste, religion and behaviour results in social tensions which lead to riots.

Next comes the areas with medium concentration of riots having semi-urban character on rural areas with fertile land and dense population. Police stations Dongergarh, Khairgarh, Newai, Akalrata, Dorri, Balco, Bemetara, Gourella, Kawardha, Dhamtari, Kestara are the semi-urban police station with medium concentration, Khairagarh, Gandai, Dongeragarh, Piparia, Nawagarh, Mungeli, Takhatpur, Jaijaipur, Behra, Sarsiva, Sarangarh are rich tracts. Population is dense. Social tention in some of the villages have historical background. Castes riots are common in this tract. Riots of Guruwani Dabri of Mungeli Tehsil, Kestara of Bemetara Tehsil and Bhainsmudi...
CHHATTISGARH REGION

DISTRIBUTION OF RIOTS

LEVEL OF CONCENTRATION

INDEX

NO. OF RIOTS PER 1 LAKH POPULATION

HIGH

MEDIAN

LOW

VERY LOW

≥ 20

10 - 19

5 - 9

< 5
Baloda Bazar Tehsil are examples of caste riots.

Police stations having low concentration of riots are mostly rural in character. Ranchiri, Balod, Gurur, Naghat, Patharia, Palari, Kharora are some of the examples. Although police station Raigarh also falls under this category, the low concentration is mostly due to people of trading community.

Inter state and rural police stations like Kurud, Chhura, Lohara, Arjunda, Punsan, Dharamjaigarh, Sanna have very low concentration of riots.

The cause of riots are many. Prominent among them are, land dispute causing 18.9%, political conflicts causing 5.7%, communal trouble causing 2%, labour trouble causing 4.2%, agricultural movement causing 6% and student movements causing 1.9% of the total riots registered in the year 1983 in Chhattisgarh Region. Other causes of riots are land lord-tenant dispute, disputes regarding water during scarcity period, disputes regarding family affairs, and dispute in marriages.

Study of riots will not be complete without mention of satnami-Savaran class conflict in rural areas. As stated earlier followers of Guru Ghasidas have claimed equal social status in comparison to savarans. Savarans, are not prepared to accept this status. Social tension starts. On slight pretext both communities gang up against each other. Bilaspur district is notorious for caste riots. Mungeli, Bilaspur, Jangjeer tehsils are prone to caste riots. Caste riots were registered in the year
1961 in police station. Hirri when satnamis and yawats clashed. The traditional rivalry still continues. Another episode happened in the year 1967 in Guruwani dabri. During religious discourses unwarranted remarks were passed against satnamis quoting scriptures. Satnamis retaliated. Rumour spread in all the surrounding villages and full scale caste war started. In the year 1983 Kestara village of PS Nandghat witnessed another holocaust of caste conflict when Savarna retaliating against the social behaviour of Kedar Satnami and his relations and killed and injured 14 people. In the year 1984 Bhaiadi village of PS Kharora was the another place of caste conflict where minor tension of Panchayat developed into full scale clash. This belt of Chhattisgarh region is highly sensitive.

RAPE AND KIDNAPPING:

Rape is defined as an offence where a man has sexual intercourse with a woman against her will without her consent or with or without her consent when she is under sixteen years of age. The people of Chhattisgarh are pleasure loving. The female outnumber males. It is in consonance with the general demographic pattern of the region. Feminine preponderance over the males is more in rural areas. The sex ratio in the category of cultivators (1059) and agricultural labourer (1049) showed feminine preponderance which established the fact that woman in the district associates more with men in the pursuit of economic activities. Woman move freely in society, work in field and factory and sometimes manages the entire household. Social restriction for their free movement is not noticed. It
CHHATTISGARH REGION

DISTRIBUTION OF RAPE

0 20 40 60 80 KM

INDEX

- - DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - THANNA BOUNDARY

LEVEL OF CONCENTRATION

INDEX

HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
VERY LOW

NO. OF RAPE PER 1 LAKH POPULATION

≥ 20
10-19
5-9
< 5

Fig. 11
is easy to get a victim of rape in isolated place, at the place of work. Poverty is also an important motivation for this type of crime where young girls are allured for gain.

High concentration of rape is noticed in urban police stations like Rajnandgaon, Mohan Nagar, Bhilai Bhatti, Newai, Korba, Kawardha, Mahasamund, Bilaspur, Civil Lines, Raipur Civil Lines, Amanaka. It is interesting to note that in large cities centrally located police stations registered in Mohala, Manpur tribal area, Chhuikhadan, Kunda, Rajhara, Ranchiri, Guru, Ratanpur, Marwahi, Pussor, Parsabshar, Police stations. No specific reason can be attributed for the incidence.

Other rural police stations report low and very low incidence of rape. In homogeneous society rape is very heinous offence.

Kidnapping is defined as an offence when someone takes or entitles any minor from his/her lawful guardianship. Chhattisgarh region has shown some pattern of Kidnapping which is evident in other parts of M.P. In the year 1983, District Bilaspur registered 32 offence, Raipur 16, Rajnandgaon 8, Durg, 23 and Raigarh 25. Incidence of kidnapping is more in Bilaspur and Raigarh districts in comparison to Raipur and Rajnandgaon districts.

PROPERTY OFFENCES:

Property offences engages the attention of the police most. Main offences effect the property of the citizen are Dacoity, Robbery, House breaking and theft
of different kind. Professional and habitual criminals are mostly the property offenders. Author will deal the property offences under two heads:

(i) Dacoity and Robbery.
(ii) House breaking & Thefts.

Dacoity and Robbery:

In all robbery there is either theft or extortion. When the offender use force or shows fear of force then extortion and theft becomes robbery. Dacoity is defined as robbery committed by five or more persons. Offences of dacoity are not common in this region. In the year 1983 following was the number of dacoities committed in the districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Dacoities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raipur</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durg</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajnandgaon</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raigarh</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The dacoities registered in the year 1983 may be identified to have been committed by 5 different ganges.

1. Dacoities committed by - Kanjars, Paradhi and Babaria Gangs:

Paradhis of Parbhani (Manarashtra, Bewaries of Panch Mahal of (Gujrat) and Kanjars of Jhansi operate in the Chhattisgarh region. Full details about criminals may be discussed in the chapter on criminals. Here author will limit his discussion only to the pattern of dacoity. Outside criminals visit
this region occasionally. Targets are selected some times by visiting the area in garb of Sadhu, or seller of medicine etc. Outstrits of cities and towns are easy targets. They enter the house by opening the doors by force, beat up anyone comes near, and use sticks, rods, stones and sometimes firearms. Generally they loot cash ornaments and valuable articles. In the year 1983 Paradhis committed offences in Police Station Abhanpur, State Bank colony of PS Amanaka and in Police Station Lal Bag. Bawaria committed offences in PS Khamtarai in the outskirts of Raipur city. Second category of dacoities of tehcnical nature. Students, workers, and political parties sometimes indulge in violence and violate the provisions of law. Sometimes local bullies enter in Hotel and ransack the shop due to enenity. Technical dacoities are not of serious nature.

Third category of dacoities registered in the year 1983 were committed by local ganges. Although criminal of this region are timid, sometimes they try to farm gangs with the help of residents of other provinces like U.P. Bihar, Dacoities were committed in police station Kurud, Arang, Kharora and Saja by local gangs.

The fourth category of offences of dacoities were committed by invited ganges from outside of province. People coming from other provinces are settling in this region in a
large number. People engaged in trade working in factories, employed in Government departments find it hospitable place to settle. However many of the criminals have also come to Industrial belt. When they spot the easy target they invite criminals from their place of origin. Dacoities of PS Sitawa and Nandini come under this category.

Fifth category of offences of dacoities are of Bank money. Banks are the easy targets. Dacoiets, small in number approach the bank during lunch hour, threaten the employees, collect them in strong room and decamp with cash and valuables. Banks located in interior area or in lonely places are easy targets. Bank Dacoity of Fingeshwar come under this category, with a slightly different modus operandi, the Sunil Bhadoria and his associates from U.P. committed highway dacoity by looting about 13 lack rupees, on point of pistol. The gang came in a car and after the commission of offence speeded to Bhopal and Vidisha,

Kanjara of Gwalior, Shivpuri, Narsingpur, Jhansi Jalaum have been operating quite frequently in this region. A spate of dacoities were committed in the year 1976 in police station Kota, Pandaria, Mastori, Civil lines Chakarbhata of district Bilaspur. Their modus operandi was different from the paradhis of Maharashtra. Kanjara used fireaarms and beat up people violently.

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF DACOITIES:

Offence of dacoity are mostly committed in the outskirts of cities and towns. In rural area offences are committed along the rail or road sides. In
Bilaspur, Raipur and Rajnandgaon towns dacoities by outside gangs were committed along the rail sides.

ROBBERY:

Robbery is an offence unknown in interior areas. As it is shown on the Fig. No.1, mostly city police stations like Durg, Khamtarai, Ganj, Azad Chouk, Civil lines Raipur, Purani Basti, Torba, Tar Bahar, Raigarh, Korba have registered more than 20 dacoity and robbery for one lac population. Police station Katghora, Abhanpur and Jashpur Nagar with rural areas also denote high volume of crime per one lakh population. But the reasons are different. In town and city police stations robberies are due to unemployment, pressure of population, easy escape, availability of victim, animity of criminals and easy hideouts.

In Police station Katghora, high concentration of robbery is due to outside influence due to concentration of mix population at Bango Project. This is a temporary phenomena and it will disappear with the completion of project. Abhanpur is close to Raipur and highway robbery on the outskirts of Raipur town come under this police Station. Jashpur is again a peaceful area. High volume of dacoity was noticed due to one chain of dacoities committed by dacoit gang of Bihar in one night.

Medium level of concentration of robbery was registered in some urban police stations like Kotwali, Bilaspur, Sarkanda, Khamtarai and in some semi-urban police stations like Kawardha Bemetara, Pulgaons, Raipur Balco, Sarsiwa, Khairagarh and
Dongargarh police station. Low level of concentration was registered in areas nearest to urban centres like Lormi and Mungeli. Some interior police stations like pusan, Sanna, Kotri etc. have registered low level of concentration.

Other areas, mostly interior like Manpur, Mohla, Deobhog have registered very low volume of robberies.

**HOUSE BREAKING AND THEFTS:**

Theft is defined as an offence where some one intending to take dishonestly any movable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent moves that property in order to such taking. Theft becomes house breaking when the offence is committed in any building tent or vessel.

Theft and house breaking are the most important offences which engage greater portion of the criminal work of police station at the present time. Habitual offenders are the one indulge in property offences. History sheets are opened of offenders or suspects who indulge in property offences. Most of the police stations routine in directed to prevent property offences. The various types of thefts prevalent in the region are mainly the following:-

(i) Pilfering (ii) Pocket picking (iii) Postal thefts (iv) Railway thefts (v) Burglery or theft committed by house breaking.

However in Indian Penal Code theft is divided on following lines:-
(1) Theft in any building, tent or vessel used for human dwelling or for custody of property (Sec. 380 IPC)

(2) Theft by a clerk or Servant (Sec. 381 IPC)

(3) Theft after preparation made for causing death, heart, or restraint in order to commit it (Sec. 382 IPC).

The modus operandi applied by thieves vary so much from one theft to another. Henery Smith, ex-commissioner of Police of city of London says: "Criminals show a strange want of originality. The streets of London have thousands of pick pockets, they like to pick-pockets and continue to pick-pockets. The stealer of milk bottles steals mild-bottles and nothing else.... In the higher world of the profession, the peculiarity is the still more striking. The hark robber and the forger are fascinated by their own style of business. They never have an idea in their heads beyond robbery, and forgery, the crime is always severely dealt with but who has seen him to take to a less dangerous persuit".

The volume of thefts per 1,00,000 population is highest in urban police stations having high density of population. Police stations Amanaka, Civil Lines, Ganj, Korba, Tarbahar, Civil Lines Bilaspur, Durg, Bhilai-Bhatti, Mahasamund, Rajnandgaon have registered as high as 800 offences for every 1,00,000 population. Apart from population slum dwellers and criminals staying in Jhuggis also are responsible for high incidence of theft.
The medium volume of incidence of theft was noticed in semi-urban police station like City Kotwali Raipur, Azad Chowk, Khantara, Dhamtari and Raigarh, Purani Basti. But some interior police stations like Khatghora, Lormi, Rengakhar, Chhuikhadan, Abhanpur, Gharghoda have registered 500 to 800 offences per 1 lakh population. These rural police stations have criminal history where petty offences of theft are reported in large number.

The belt covering Bemetara, Mungeli, Bhatapara and Kawardha tahsils is fertile. Density of rural population is comparatively high. Hence thefts are also reported in large number.

Low level of concentration was mainly reported in rural police stations. Pithora, Basana, Khairagarh, Bodla, Pathalgaon are some of the examples.

Very low volume of theft was reported from Police stations owing tribal population. Manpur, Mohla, Sihawa, Pali, Kapu, Sanna, Lailunga, Kasdol are some of the examples. The aboriginals in Chhattisgarh region are people who possess no property. They are honest and simple. Their belongings are not guarded. Theft is uncommon in primitive society. If the incidence occurs mostly it is decided by village panchayats and seldom reported to police.

OFFENCES UNDER THE MINOR ACTS:

The offences registered under the Acts other than Indian Penal Code are known as Minor Acts. In Police terminology these acts mostly concern under following heads, Arms Act, Opium Act, Excise Act, Gambling Act, Motor Vehicle Act, Police Act, Prevention of Debtors

Offences under minor Acts are mostly reported from city police station. Gambling act cases are mostly reported from Kotwali Raipur, Dhamtari, Ganj, Bhilai Bhatti, Chhawani, Old Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon, Dongargarh and Gandai. Gambling is a prevalent in rural areas of Chhattisgarh Region. But it is not fully reported. On information sometimes police raid in the villages. Local police sometimes turns Nelson's eye on offenders. High volume of excise offences are reported in city police stations like Kotwali, Raipur, Korba and Rajhara and in rural police stations like Bahara. Excise offences are reported in large number from industrial areas. Production and consumption of illicit liquor is common practice in this area. Government has allowed tribal people to prepare their own liquor. Contractor and smugglers take advantage of this benefit and bring the illicit liquor in towns. Excise offences are common in labour colonies and poorer localities. Police Act cases are mostly registered in town police stations. Highest volume is noticed in Kotwali Raipur, Kotwali Bilaspur, Old Bhilai and Raigarh police stations.

SUIICIDE.

Suicide is not an offence under Indian penal Code. But the attempt to commit suicide is a penal act. Suicide is very common remedy for those who have week minds.

Suicide tendencies are generally found in women and people living in interior areas. Sometimes small
matters like hot talks, abuse by husband and wife or quarrels among children are causes of suicide. Intensity of suicide is very high in this region. Following are the main causes of suicide with their ratio in Chhatisgarh region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Suicide</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to family feud</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>35.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to illness</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to madness</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>7.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to dis-respect</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to failure</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to poverty</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to social boycott</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to dowery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide due to other reasons</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>14.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>865</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family feud is the main cause of suicide in this region. About 35.26% committed suicide due to this reason. People are sensitive, firm and non-violent. They prefer to die than to fight. Illness is second most important factor contributing to 31.9% of suicides. Medical facilities are limited in entire area. Poor people cannot afford to go to town hospitals for treatment. They prefer death than tolerate the unbearable pain and suffering. Madness is another important cause to commit suicide. Sentimental people in fist of madness commit suicide. Suicide due to disrespect, failure, poverty and social boycott is also noticed in the region. Although dowry deaths are not common in this region, new stringent provisions of law have checked the suicide under this head.
CHHATTSIGARH REGION

DISTRIBUTION OF SUICIDE

INDEX

LEVEL OF CONCENTRATION

HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
VERY LOW

INDEX

NO OF SUICIDE PER 1 LAKH POPULATION

≥ 20
10-19
5-9
< 5

Fig. 14
Fig: No. 14 shows the spatial pattern of suicide.

High volume of suicide is reported from police stations like Durg, Bhilai, Bhatti, Chhurai, Rajhara, Gurua Kurud, Kharona, Tumgaon, Bag Bahara, Sheorinarayan, Shakti, Raigarh, Tamnar and Kasabels, Sarkanda, Amakara and Kotwali Bilaspur...

Medium level of concentration is found in rural police stations like Dongargaon, Arjunda, Raigarh, Marwahi and Parsabahar, 21 police stations come under this category.

Suicidal tendencies are noticed in the area which are either or which have mixed population of different community. The areas which are totally settled by aboriginals, the suicides are un-known. Suicide is also related to inhibitions. In areas settled by different communities the complexes develop and people suffer from it.

The spatial distribution of crime in Chhattisgarh Region is not uniform. New growing industrial centres, with slums, generate high frequency of crime in ratio to the population and area of the town. Bhilai, Durg, Korba, Raipur, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon towns are the centres, where total volume in crime is very high. These centres have concentrated population, high percentage of migrant labour, and large number of industrial units. These are centres of trade and commerce, and administration. Political and religion activities are concentrated in these towns. Educational centres are located here with three
universities located in Raipur and Bilaspur. These towns are well connected with Rail Road to other parts of the country. Interaction of different, people with number of sub-culters are very common. The volume of crime in these centres are almost on the same level which is noticed in other urban centres of M.P.

The medium level of criminality is noticed in semi-urban centres with Tehsil headquarters at Mungeli, Bematara, Dhamtari, Bhatapra, Jangjeer, Chappa and other similar towns. The rural area of Mungeli, Kawardha, and Bematara, Tehsils have also reported higher incidence of crime in comparision to other rural areas. The small urban centres have all the concentration like major towns in a limited way. Their problem is the same. Bematara, Kawardha, Mungeli track is what producing zone with rich soil and dense population. People are rich and volatile. Due to migration even rural area of the zone is settled by mixed population. All these factors combined produce a turbulent culture which generate more crime.

Low level of criminality is noticed in rural area of the region. In the sparsely settled interior areas, mostly aboriginals are residing. They have their own culture, with little interest in material gain. They are self-satisfied people. They are honest and tolerant. Crime is low in incidence and seldom reported to the police. In other rural areas, the crime density is sparse. Agriculture is main occupation of the people. There is only traditional interaction. Migration is only to outside for employment. People know each other through generations. Naturally total crime rate is much lower. Crime incidence reduces in
CHHATTISGARH REGION
AREAS WITH LOW INCIDENCE OF OFFENCES

VERY LOW RATE OF PROPERTY OFFENCES AND VERY LOW RATE OF VIOLENT OFFENCES.
number as one goes away from urban conglomeration and seat of police stations. Reluctance to report to police, due to distance is one of the reasons for low level of reporting.

Heinous offences like murder and attempt to murder are proportionately registered more in rural police stations. Personal enmity, land dispute, witchcraft and caste tensions are more common in rural area of the region, which are tradional motive for murder. Riots are reported mostly in urban centres. Due to organised political, educational and religious activity and dense population, collective action, generates this type of offences. Rural areas where people are traditional and organised the offences like riot are uncommon. Offences relating to rape and kidnapping are reported mostly in towns. Rural area, having traditional populations may have offences of this nature, but they are not reported in large number. Disproportionate male female ratio existing in urban centres also influences the commission of such offences. Dacoity which is most heinous offence, is committed by gangs of criminals who visit this region occasionally from outside. Kanjars of Jhansi, Pardhis of Gujrat and Maharastra and Irregular ganges of U.P. operate in this region. Dacoities are committed mostly in midnight by 7 to 8 criminals in outskirts of town. For outside criminals it is easy to vanish in crowded towns after commission of offences on the outskirts. They operate mostly in the vicinity of railway stations.

Bank Dacoity is committed by outside criminals in the banks which are located in remote corners of urban or semi-urban centres. With less risk, unidentifiable property, easy money, and large gain
educated criminals are attracted towards bank dacoities. The other property offences like theft and house breaking is more in volume in urban centres. Although in ratio to total offences, the property offences are higher in percentage in rural area, but total volume is comparatively low. In rural area, cattle theft, crop theft, house breaking by night are common property offences of the region. In urban centres cycle theft, auto theft, pickpocket and petty shoplifting offences are common. Professional house breaking by outside criminals are common offences in towns.

Offences under Gambling Act, Excise Act, Arms Act, and other minor acts are registered mostly in urban and semi-urban centres.

Geographic patterns of crime noticed in this decade will continue for a long period with the same diversity.