PREFACE

My association with Bundelkhand began twenty years ago when I joined the Department of Psychology, D.V. College, Orai in 1979. Keeping in mind the words of Goswami Tulsidas "Jahan basiy soi sundar desu" (lovely is the land where one lives), I began to adapt myself to the place of my work and its people. Close contact with and minute observation of students brought me to the conclusion that the Youth of Bundelkhand is lost---lacks aim and direction. Its vast energy, not being directed to constructive channels, is wasting itself in destructive activities. Realizing the need of turning it to constructive work, we started cultural programmes, seminars, General knowledge competitions, Awareness camps and Psychological tests. The response was encouraging and the result was positive.

Longer and more intimate association with Bundelkhand focussed attention on a startling fact. Bundelkhand has a glorious history in heroism as well as in literature, art and culture. It produced great warriors who were also great patrons of art and literature; it produced inspired poets whose compositions made its warriors legendary heroes. But today Bundelkhand is known for its notorious criminals.

Reflecting over this fact, I came to understand that the backwardness of Bundelkhand is the main reason behind its crime-proneness—that illiteracy, unemployment and feudalism have added fuel to the fire. Discussion with knowledgeable persons drew attention to a special feature of
crime in Bundelkhand. To say nothing of men, even women play a leading role in holding the banner of crime high here. If a woman's husband is murdered, she takes a solemn vow to take no cereals in her food unless the son avenges the father's murder. This vindictiveness leads to an unending chain of murders between families at feud.

I felt the need of a full fledged study of crime in Bundelkhand and selected the topic for my research study. In course of this study, I had many a thrilling and horripilating experiences. In order to interview the criminals and crime-prone persons, I had to visit jails, remote rural areas, even unsafe, inaccessible hideouts of criminals in desolate forests and ravines. It brought me in contact with persons who have been and are engaged in crimes under the cover of politics. It also brought me in touch with some who after coming in politics are making a sincere Herculean effort to improve their image and maintain it. May Almighty help them in their noble efforts by endowing them with the moral strength to resist various allurements and pressures to relapse into crime.

The first chapter of the thesis presents the Introduction of Crime, Criminal, Crime Proneness in Bundelkhand and certain Psycho-social factors involved in it along with objectives and Hypotheses.

The Second Chapter deals with the related studies done in India and abroad.
In third Chapter, Research methodology and Procedural phenomenon have been discussed. The selection of sample, tools and Process of data collection are the main points.

Fourth Chapter of Data, Its analysis has presented the results and conclusion of research.

Last Chapter deals with summary of research.

I bow in reverence to the guardian Angel of Bundelkhand Kunwar Hardaul whose noble self-sacrifice gave me the courage to visit unsafe, inaccessible hide-outs to interview notorious criminals.

I pay my homage to my teachers whose blessings enabled me to undertake and accomplish this study.

I deem it my duty to acknowledge my gratitude to all the learned writers and research scholars, whose work. I consulted and all the colleagues and teachers, journalists, lawyers, leaders and officers who helped me in various ways in course of this study.

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