CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The problem of crimes and criminals exists right from the beginning of civilization. As the crimes and criminals are equally ancient as the human societies, the societies of all countries of the world have been facing the problem of the occurrence of crimes. Crime is a social incident which affects the well fare of the society, its organization and progress. Hence, crimes are seriously looked upon by the society. Every society has framed a particular behavior pattern to have a firm foundation and management. As a result, there are norms and rules of behavior in a society. But is does not mean that all individuals abide by the rules. Breach of rules brings in crime problems. The society doesn’t forbear the break of civil rules as the society itself is endangered in its welfare. Due to crimes the free business of give and take in society comes into trouble.

Regarding the various types of crimes, the code of conduct in different castes and religions explain criminal behavior. e.g. any activity which is against any religion or which has no religious face is defined as imperious activity. In all sports of codes of conduct, any behavior against the accepted values of life in a society is branded as bad conduct. Therefore the meaning and the type of crime happens to be different in different societies, while considering the crime, one has to consider also the punishment and penalty for the crime. If there is provision of these two verdicts in a society, then only any activity coming under these will be treated as crime. E.g. theft and murder are such activities. However, the journalistic propagation of criminal activities and the punishment there off gives a sort of reading entertainment to while away the public lies are hours.

In fact criminality is a grave problem of every society because it affects adversely the organization in its welfare and progress. Every member of the society may not abide by the set down rules of conduct of the society. Hence the social problems arise. From such break of code of conduct the criminality springs up. Till now this criminality of the society members has been looked upon with different viewpoints. Only because the majority is in favor of a particular behavior, it is not proper to stamp some today as a criminal because he does not obey the
accepted code of conduct. Different societies have different views about the criminal behavior. Therefore crime cannot be defined in a standardized, all acceptable explanation. The nature of crime is complex as it has no unique definition. Crime correlates with the individual and society as well. So crime is essentially a social happening. The criminal doesn’t differentiate between the urban and rural societies. Criminals do exist in urban as well as rural areas. The problems which give rise to criminality have correlation with rural as well as urban societies. It is inevitable to consider both possibilities. Normally, the urban society is extensive and hence its pressure and control over the criminal is feeble. The criminal gets more opportunities for his criminal activities. Along with the developing and expanding civilization in urban areas, we read the increasing proportion of crimes and criminals. Thus, crime or criminality is a foremost problem of the groups of civilization. Study of crimes is included in many social sciences.

E.g. Legal science includes the study of crimes. Besides a separate science called criminology has developed. This science studies crime, criminal and society and their inter-relations. We call him a criminal who commits crime. We have to study intensively and extensively from the social level about the problem of crimes and criminals. Why do crimes happen? The occurrence of a crime is due to individuals, under certain circumstances in any particular society. Studying analytically these factors is important. Which types of crime occur most in India? Instead of considering the rate of increase of particular crimes, it is important to note that the crimes are in increasing number in cities than villages. Also the rate of crimes is more in thickly populated areas. The nature and proportion of crime changes according to geographical conditions, seasons and structure of earth-surface. The famous criminologist postulates that crimes like murder and rape occur in increasing number in summer. And in winter crimes regarding looting happen more. According to the psychologist the heat in the atmosphere and the change in atmospheric pressure affect the nervous system of the individual who turns towards crimes. So, criminality and geographical conditions are directly related.
What is Crime?

The explanations given in different sciences regarding the nature and meaning of crime are different. Yet it is necessary to study the procedures of punishment and penalty. If persons accused of theft or murder are punished and if there is a particular procedure of punishment, then the behavior of persons related with the above accusations becomes crime. E.g. the Pendharis, the Ramoshis, the Thugs are well known from the historical times. The persons from the above mentioned bands did not look upon each other as criminals or did not call themselves criminals. From this consideration it is clear that the concept of crime is quite different from bad conduct. Penalty and the method of payment are two important aspects related with the meaning of crime. And any behavior which breaks the established laws is branded as crime. Crime means breach of law. Those who behave against the law by breaking it are penalized with a definite procedure of punishment and penalty. To understand the legal interpretation of crime, it is necessary to know that the definition of crime is a relative concept. The freedom fighters of India were criminals in the viewpoints of the British rulers. Hence, persons like Lokmanya Tilak, V.D. Sawarkar, Mahatma Gandhi were punished as criminals. Also, those persons who were in imprisonment before freedom are now felicitated as freedom fighters. From the above consideration, it is quite clear that crime is relative to the existing government. Sharada act, prohibition act of sati are laws like other laws of the government, and from the day of enforcement of these laws, the underage matrimony of girls, sati sacrificing on her husband’s pyre are crimes. Hence crime is relative to the time factor of existing laws. In order to decide whether an act is a crime, one has to take into consideration of surrounding circumstances. Thus, it becomes very clear the legal interpretation of crime is relative to the circumstances and the government. Study of crime according to the laws is different from social studies.

Efforts have been made to find out the reasons for the crimes from the very ancient days. In those days it was assumed that crimes against god were due to the spell of some divine or devilish power. The diagnosis of the reasons for crimes in different social sciences is available, but it cannot be accepted that there is only one doctrine of criminality. Every doctrine about crime expostulates only one particulars reason for a crime. Generally, one reason is not enough for the happening of a crime. There are many reasons or factors leading to crime. Such a scientific study about crime is important in the study of criminality in social sciences. There has
been an effort to explain the reasons for crime by criminologist along with the social thinkers of the present changing society.

In the 19th century, Batham and Bacarie have put forth a doctrine that in order to get more material happiness, man turned to criminality. Another thinker Mr. Guleri explains that the geographical atmosphere like climate, seasons and regions are closely related with the acts of criminality. William Hilee and Brawner, psychologist, have put forth that emotional disturbance and despair are main reasons for criminal acts. Those, who acquire from birth the mental disorders, become criminals.

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

This study belongs to the field of Geography of crime. Geography of crime in spite of its importance was not an area of study for a very long time. This has resulted in the field of geography of crime lagging in the area of geography. Concentrated and systematic and serious efforts are necessary to study this branch of criminology. The study of the various geographic phenomena related to crime and the various characteristics of crimes is necessary for understanding the various dimensions of the subject. Social life becomes uneasy therefore we come to know the way of better life is maintained by others and new things are learnt and old are polished but this is possible only if you have better approaches to boost the nature and geographical factors. Thus the present study is undertaken to understand impact of the physical factors on crimes the study restricts its area of the Maharashtra state. Study also suggests strategies for future development.

1.3 Significance of the Study:

Any crime is a topic of sustaining interest to most Indians. In recent decades, most of the popular attention to criminality and crime control has centered upon the nature of crime. Crime is the natural product of sociological conditions and is equally due to some conformity and lawbreaking. The study of the geographical incidence of crime and adequacy is generally thought to have begun a century and a half ago as under. With the work of cartographic school: This school has proved that criminality is space specific and later becoming ecological. Approach for the study of criminology was introduced where the impact of geographical environment on crime causation.
Geographical location of crimes: Crime is necessarily a compression of social conditions. The geographic phenomena are considered to influence the criminal behavior. The phenomena include climate, topography, natural resources and geographic location besides the demographic and socio-cultural location of crime; it has location in space also. It means the geographic location.

Security of life and property has been a matter of deep concern for every man in the present context. And it has become a major concern, especially for the urban people. Increasing crime rates are due anti-social problems. The study of crime has been a subject of sociologist, psychologist, criminologists, advocates and crime geographers. But, till now nothing much is done by any scholars with their studies.

One of the most striking features of social change is the growth of crime. Scientific study of law-breaking and serious attempts to uncover the causes of criminality has usually taken place within an area of the study. Early in the scientific study of crime and the criminality was noticed that crimes varied with geography. The climate, the season and the weather. Lombroso belied that he had discovered the minimum number of crimes against persons in a level country and a slightly greater portion in the areas that were hilly, and the maximum numbers of crimes in the mountainous districts. It is now generally agreed that the effects of these physical factors are directly the causes of crime more recently some attention has been given to the relationship of the changes in weather and criminality. Dexter’s studies indicate that the number of arrests varied quite regularly with the temperature of any given place. He found that, as the barometer fell the number of arrests rose and suggested that this air pressure may affect the nervous condition of people. He found that assaults were very inversely proportional with the degree of humidity and explained this was due the basis of the depressing effect of a high degree of moisture in the atmosphere. Similarly, he discovered that, on the days when the winds are mild, there was high pugnacity-rate. While during the days of calm and days of high winds, the number of arrest was less. He found that cloudy days showed the fewest number of personal encounters such as to attract the attention of the police.

The industrial revolution began in the 15th Century due to the progress of modern science. This caused a great change in the life style of the people everywhere. In the modern advanced world, there was a great development in the industrial activity. As a result, very many new
industrial cities came into existence rapidly. So the everyday life of citizens in the industrial cities became busy. But, as a recent outcome of the industrial life, many problems cropped up in the human societies. Among these problems criminality of some people within the societies was of concern. Criminality causes restlessness among the people in the society. The concept of pleasure life and trends of enjoying life with minimum of efforts made the everyday lives of human beings different with a leap. Enormous increase in the population in such a condition caused criminality also to increase and yet it is increasing.

The Police department work to establish safety and peace in the city and it is the representative of government administration. But, the criminality has increased so much that it is creating a tension on the police department. The problem is “Why there is unrest in the society?” and “why does man turn to criminality?” The search is going on. Geographical financial and social positions are abruptly changing and these changes along with the mental conflicts can be studied to find out proper solutions for criminality. So, this research attempt has great importance because there is going to be a total study, with depth and with a scientific approach. The hereditary criminality, affecting climatic consideration, geographical surroundings financial and social compulsions leading to criminality and to study the trend of criminality with a reference to region are the main concerns of this research study which make it very important.

1.4 Choice of the Study Region and Topic

The study has been confined to the state of Maharashtra. The state of Maharashtra was the result of reorganization of states in India on linguistic basis. The state was formed on 1st May 1960, which has a large population of Marathi speaking and has a homogenous culture and social structure. The state occupies central and coastal area of western India. The state of Maharashtra has long coastline on the west due to the Arabian Sea. In the northwest is the state of Gujarat to northeast is Madhya Pradesh to southeast is Andhra Pradesh and in the south bounded by parts of Karnataka and Goa.

The north-south extension of the state is about 70 km and east-west extension is about 800km. The state lies between 15°45' to 21°06' N latitude and 72°36' to 80°45' East longitude. The area of the state is 3,07,762 sq.km. And it is 9.36% of total area of the country. The physical and culture details of the region are given in Chapter No II.
The choice of the area and the topic under investigation has been influenced by several considerations.

Firstly Maharashtra state comprising 32 districts of India has a significant location on central part of country. Most part of the state is where’d by rough topography and remaining part is flat surface. Particularly Khandesh, Marathwada and Vidarbhaa is having flat surface. And other Part of the Konkan and Western Ghat as well as Satpura hilly area tahasils are hilly regions and rough topography.

The region under study has a major portion under flat topography and Maharashtra is divided in six divisions i.e., Konkan, Western Ghat, Deccan platue, Marathwada, Khandesh, Vidarbhaa. Hence it support to high concentration of development as well as crimes. As a result these characteristics make this region a distinct physical entity and homogenous unit of Geographical investigations.

Secondly there are 9 district in western Maharashtra and out of these 1 is included in very high developed category, three are in high developed category, four are in medium developed category and one is include in low developed category as well as concentration of crime is also high in particular area.

Third Dhule Bhandara, Buldhana, Yawatmal, Latur, Nanded Beed, Osmanabad and Parabhani. These are low developed districts. There are two districts namely Jalna and Gadchirola are included very low developed districts.

Fourth there are 7 districts in Marathwada region except Aurangabad district (which is included in medium category), five districts are included in low and one district in included in high category.

Fifth in Vidarbha region there are 12 districts, out of these 4 districts is included in very high developed category and four districts are in medium, three districts are in low category and one district is included in very low category.

Sixth in Maharashtra Pune, Thane and Nagpur these districts are observed that very high level development as well as Kolhapur Nasik, Rayagad and Sangali districts are falling in high level developed category.
Seventh the low level of development is confined to the Marathwada region, eastern Vidarbha and to northern most districts namely Dhulia.

These developments are depending upon the physical factors. The crime rate is also depending on according to climate, nature of rainfall, topography and natural vegetation.

It is failed that study of the criminology offers a helpful approach to obtaining a more complete understanding of the problem of crimes in a region. Moreover the composite circumstances that contribute to the existing problems facing criminal activities today have a time and space perspective that may be appreciated.

All these considerations motivated the author to turn his attention to this region and its criminal activities and criminal rate.

1.5 Objectives of the Research Study:

Following are the objectives of my study:

1. To study the spatial variations in types of crime and rate of crime in the Maharashtra State.
2. To study the trends of growth of crimes in Maharashtra.
3. To examine the spatial pattern of crimes in Maharashtra.
4. To identify the reasons for the spatial variations in crime.
5. To analyze the relationship between crimes and social-economical and geographical elements.
6. To study the dynamics of crime rates in Maharashtra.
7. To identify the crime prone-areas of the Maharashtra state and give some mitigate measures to create proper environments for more safe and harmonious situations.
8. Ultimately, to provide the citizens a safe and urban or rural environments through appropriate planning efforts.

1.6 Geography and Crime:

For every crime, the existing social situation is responsible according to the findings of geographical reasoning. It is plain that the geographical considerations go to prove that any
crime is closely connected with the social circumstances. Mr. Taft a geography scholar expostulates that, water, wind, the nature resources or geographical enclosures and other such components of nature affect the human social living. Those who back this geographical theory of crime are of the solid opinion that when a crime has to be committed it is only due to the social circumstances and they give this as a very important reason for crime. Quwetlet Gueri and Montague are all supposed to be sponsors of geographical reasoning of crimes. This school of thought about crime developed during the 1830 to 1880 period. An effort has been made to ascertain whether there is any relationship between the general physical confirmation of the country and criminality. Soil has great influence on the health and intelligence of the inhabitants, have less than the average number of homicides thefts and with the exception of a few regions sexual offense it is probable that these factors are indirect rather than direct, they affect the natural resources and the aggregation of population.

Their presentation about criminological happenings is as under:

Quwetlet had studied the conduct and character lives of people in France, Belgium and Holland. From his experience he concluded that society can breed crime. The accused of crime are in name-sake, because they commit crimes. Further Quwetlet says that people living in tropical countries commit crimes relating to human beings whereas people living in cold countries, the proportion of crimes regarding properties is more.

In the same way Gueri did study the geographical surroundings and he happened to be a postulator of geographical crime reasoning. He has tried to find out the geographical surroundings the level of punishment and the limitations of crime. Even Montague is supposed to be the pioneer of such geographical thinking. He says that geographical surroundings throw more pressure on the dealings of humanity. That is the behavior of human beings is affected by the existing geographical situation. While giving examples he says that people living in the vicinity of equator on both sides commit more crimes. As the distance from the equator increases towards the tropic of Cancer or the Tropic Capricorn the frequency of crime becomes less and less. He further says that the equatorial spatial crimes are of serious nature, whereas the crimes of tropic of cancer area and the tropic of Capricorn area are milder.

But the period of such thinking geographically was from 1830 to 1880. Briefly we can maintain such thinking took roots in the 19th century. Just as the ratio of crimes varies (less or more in
number) similarly that depth of crime or the seriousness of crime differs. Thus we can refuse the idea that criminal happenings are resultants of geographical surroundings.

**Important Steps:**

- Curiosity to expand knowledge.
- Knowledge about crime.
- Society operational treatment.
- The control of society.
- Analysis and considerations of crime.
- The study of the situations of committing crime.
- Study of the mental state of the criminal.
- Reformation (possible) in the criminal.
- Ways to control crime happenings.
- How to conduct reformation of criminals.
- Modern techniques (if there are) to be used.

**1.7 Hypothesis of the Study:**

Hypotheses help to explain facts; the following hypotheses will help and enable to locate and identify the patterns of crimes in the study.

1. Low crime regions are associated with socio-cultural stability.
2. Higher density of population is directly associated with higher incidence of the total IPC crime.
3. Literacy rate is inversely related with the incidents of total IPC crimes.
4. Higher proportion of urban population leads to higher incidents of the total IPC crimes.
5. Higher rate of crime is directly related to Climate and ecological factors.
1.8 **Data Base and Methodology:**

The present study is based on secondary data (1981 to 2004) which were collected from the State crime records Bureau, C.I.D. (Crime) of Maharashtra State, State Police Department and District Census. The information so received is subsequently compiled at the levels of district and State and are made available for the general public as a part of the annual Police administration Crime Directory. These crime directors gives the wide range of crime information as collected under the Indian Penal Code having local and special laws. These crime directory reports help us in mapping and analyzing the present crime scenario in the Maharashtra State.

The above mentioned data volume of crime directory furnished district-wise and range-wise figures on the following 11 crime heads only listed under the Indian penal code viz. murder, attempt to murder, dacoity and robbery, House Breaking Theft (day and night) theft, riot, hurting, rape, gambling, prohibition. The district census hand books and gazetteers have given the detailed information about the history and general economic tables social and cultural tables have given detailed occupation information.

**Methodology:**

In the present work various statistical and quantitative techniques have been adopted for analyzing various aspects of crimes. The statistical method such as the Index of concentration is used for the study of spatial pattern of crimes. To find out the relationship between the crimes and the socio-economic elements, the methods of cartographic techniques, choropleth and isopleth methods have been adopted to given spatial dimensions to data.

Thus the emphasis is on transformation of data through techniques; such data is presented in the form of the map to provide special aspect to the theme of the research. The processed data is amply presented through isopleth, graphs and diagrams to reveal the basic characteristics of the crimes in Maharashtra. These will be amply supported by various tables.

In the style of presentation the references are given at the end of each chapter of the person’s the co-relation coefficient method and regression analysis is employed.

It was not possible to give all the confidential data collected and processed, therefore only important and relevant information is included in form of tables.
1.9 Limitations of the Study:

- The research work undertaken has certain limitations these limitations are as under:

- Available data on crimes cannot be called reliable because it cannot be taken as a representative sample and therefore it is limited in nature and scope.

- It is a general tendency that some of the crimes are not reported and recovered the crimes are not reported and recorded because of authenticity legal procedure resulting from the report of crime.

- Victimization studies have shown that real crime rates are at least double in number of the reported rates and quite often they are more than that.

- The crimes of rape, petty crimes and white collar crimes are universally not reported legally.

- The rural and urban crimes with separate data on crimes are not available reliably.

- Lack of availability of data creates problem.

- Present research work is conceived in the frame work of criminal geography. The spatial pattern of crimes, their elements and their causes form the core of geography of criminals as the significant aspect of criminal geography.

- Major crimes have to be selected with the help of published and unpunished data.