A STUDY ON ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CRIMES IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY

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ABSTRACT

The global crime rate is increasing on account of factors like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, population explosion etc. Crimes like murder, murder for gain, dacoity, burglary, rapes, corruption etc. are rampant all around the world. India is one such country where the crime rate is accelerating day by day. The present study an attempt has been analyzing major crimes in Tiruchirappalli city for the year 2012 to 2017. Robbery had been recorded as the highest crime in the city with 71.8%. Murder for gain and dacoity recorded as the lowest crimes in the city with 1.1%. Srirangam range had the highest crimes, which is 60% among all other ranges. This study will help the police in preventing crimes in the city thereby helping in the decline of the crime rate.

Keywords: Crimes - Murder - Robbery – Burglary – Theft - Dacoity - Police Stations & Ranges

1.1. INTRODUCTION

Crime can be defined as 'an action or omission which constitutes an offence punishable by law'. Crimes have been eating away at the roots of society and development since time immemorial. Every country of the world struggles to control the crimes prevalent in their society through a system of policing and criminal law, yet crimes exist. In the words of Emile Durkheim 1938, 'crime is a natural phenomenon, which is constantly changing with social change.'

As countries march ahead on the road to progress, it seems that criminals too are marching ahead with new ways of perpetrating the most heinous of crimes. The alarming number of crimes that occur today- be it- murder, murder for gain, burglary, theft, robbery, dacoity, sexual offences etc. have left citizens of every country feeling vulnerable and helpless. One must question whether crimes have become an integral and inseparable part of society. With the modern

concept of 'black tie' crime, one has to wonder whether we live in a day and age where well-dressed and organized criminals walk among us without a hint of detection. With crimes being organized on a global scale with criminal gangs connected to each other through the most advanced technology, it has become even more difficult for lawmakers to control the crime rate. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that, crime prevention is taken up as a major responsibility of every society. Crime prevention can be defined as 'a set of ideas for combating incident and includes the activities taken by individuals and groups, both public and private.' To prevent crime the geography of crime has to be understood, as there is a direct relation between crimes and geography. 'When a crime occurs, it happens at a place with a geographical location'- by Chainey and Ratcliffe, 2005. Chockalingam, (2003) in his study on crime victimization established the relationship between victimization of the crime of burglary and residential area status. Raghavan (1999) stated that crimes in the urban areas are quantitatively in contrast to that of semi-urban and rural areas.

All societies are plagued by numerous problems and the ever-changing type and quantity of crimes is perhaps one of the most challenging. "Social problems are regarded to have side effects" is the opinion of Burgess and Borgue (1964).

In the book "Social Problems in India" by Ram Ahuja (1999) factors like poverty, unemployment, population explosion, communalism, secularism, regionalization, backward castes, tribes classes, youth unrest, agitations, child abuse, child labor, violence against women, illiteracy, urbanization, crime and criminals, juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, drug abuse, drug addiction, AIDS, terrorism, corruption, bonded labor and black money are cited as the major reasons for the perpetration of crimes.

Shivamurthy (1981) has expounded the causes of crime and its patterns at various geographic scales in rural and urban areas.

Though it is true that crime has definitely geographical manifestations (Harries, 1988), the studies by many other geographers of the phenomenon reveal that an acute paucity is seen through both space and time.

Howard Jones in his paper "Crime and Penal Systems" (1956) stated that 'crime is costly and has reached such dimensions as to constitute a real threat to our way of life.'

David Lawrence Sjoquist "(1973) has proposed a model to analyze property crimes. The work begins with the hypothesis that economic theory also explains crime.

1.2. Study Area

The Tiruchirappalli city base map had been drawn from Survey of India Toposheets Nos. 58 J/9, 10, 13 and 14 is lies between the latitudes 10° 43' 40" – 10° 53' 00" North and the longitudes 78° 38' 14 - 78° 48' 50" East. The city is situated in central southeastern India, almost at the geographic centre of the state of Tamil Nadu. The topology of Tiruchirappalli is almost flat, with an average elevation of 88 meters (289 ft). A few isolated hillocks rise above the surface, the highest of which is the Rock fort. It is one of the oldest rocks in the world and its estimated age of 3,800 million years. Other hillocks include the Golden Rock, Khajamalai and one each at Uyyakondan, Thirumalai and Thiruverumbur are prominent. It Covers 167.23 square kilometers. The municipal corporation comprises sixty-five wards and four administrative zones; they are Srirangam, Ariyamangalam, Golden Rock and Abhishekapuram.

As per the Census of 2011, the total population of the Tiruchirappalli city corporation is 9,16,857. The number of male population accounts 4,52,835 and female is 4,63,998. The Sex Ratio of Tiruchirappalli is 1,025. Thus per every 1,000 men there were 1,025 females in Tiruchirappalli city, also as per census, the Child Sex Ratio was 960, which is less than Average Sex Ratio (1,025) of Tiruchirappalli city.

In Tamil Nadu, Tiruchirappalli is the fourth largest city. It is urbanized with high density of population resulting in a greater crime rate. Due to high mobility of people and development of new residential area with well connected thorough – fares, the crime graph of the city has been rapidly rising over the past decades. Hence, Tiruchirappalli city has been selected for the present study to describe the various major crimes of the study area.

1.3. Database and Methodology

The IPC crime incidents data is collected from the commissioner's Office of Tiruchirappalli city from the year 2012 to 2017. Major crimes data of murder, murder for gain, dacoity, robbery, burglary and theft are given in table 1. Range wise major crimes data are given in table 2. These secondary data have been analysed in support of major crime wise and range wise by using statistical software.

1.4. Analysis of Major Crimes in Tiruchirappalli City

1.4.1. Murder

The legal definition of murder is, 'The unlawful killing of another human being without justification or excuse'. Thus, it can be said that murder is the single most serious criminal offense. After analyzing the crime murder in Tiruchirappalli city for the period of 2012 to 2017, it showed that 19.9% of total murders had been committed, compare to all other crimes (Table 1

& Fig. 1). Maximum murders recorded in 2014, which is 35.4% and 14.2 % in 2017, which, had been recorded as minimum.

1.4.2. Murder for Gain

A murder done for gain (in furtherance of robbery or burglary, done for payment or done in the expectation of gain because of the death) is a murder intended to obstruct or interfere with the course of justice. After studying the murder for gain in Tiruchirappalli city from 2012 to 2017, total murders for gain were 1.1% out of other major crimes in the study area. The highest number of murders for gain recorded in 2015, which is 3.4%. It seems that the city was not plagued by murder for gain in 2016 and 2017.

Table 1: Statistics of major crimes in Tiruchirappalli city

Crime Types	YEAR						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
MURDER	25 (21%)	20 (20.2%)	23 (35.4%)	14 (15.9%)	15 (17.6%)	15 (14.2%)	112 (19.9%)
MURDER FOR GAIN	1 (0.8%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.5%)	3 (3.4%)	- (0.0%)	- (0.0%)	6 (1.1%)
DACOITY	- (0.0%)	1 (1.0%)	- (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.2%)	3 (2.8%)	6 (1.1%)
ROBBERY	56 (47.1%)	44 (44.4%)	24 (36.9%)	59 (67.0%)	61 (71.8%)	77 (72.6%)	321 (57.1%)
BURGLARY	22 (18.5%)	20 (20.2%)	4 (6.2%)	6 (6.8%)	4 (4.7%)	6 (5.7%)	62 (11.0%)
THEFT	15 (12.6%)	13 (13.1%)	13 (20.0%)	5 (5.7%)	4 (4.7%)	5 (4.7%)	55 (9.8%)
TOTAL	119	99	65	88	85	106	562

Sources: Tiruchirappalli City Commissioner of Police

1.4.3. Dacoity

Dacoity can be defined as 'an act of violent robbery committed by an armed gang'. Only the numbers of offenders differ between robbery and dacoity. Robbery is dacoity, which means persons committing robbery are five or more in number. The offence of dacoity is the cooperation of five or more persons to commit or attempt to commit robbery.

While comparing the dacoity with other major crimes of the study area from 2012 to 2017, it was found that no dacoity had been recorded in 2012 and 2014. Total Dacoities were 1.1% of all other major crimes of the city. The highest number of dacoity had been recorded in 2017, which is 2.8 %. It seems that the city was almost free from the crime of dacoity.
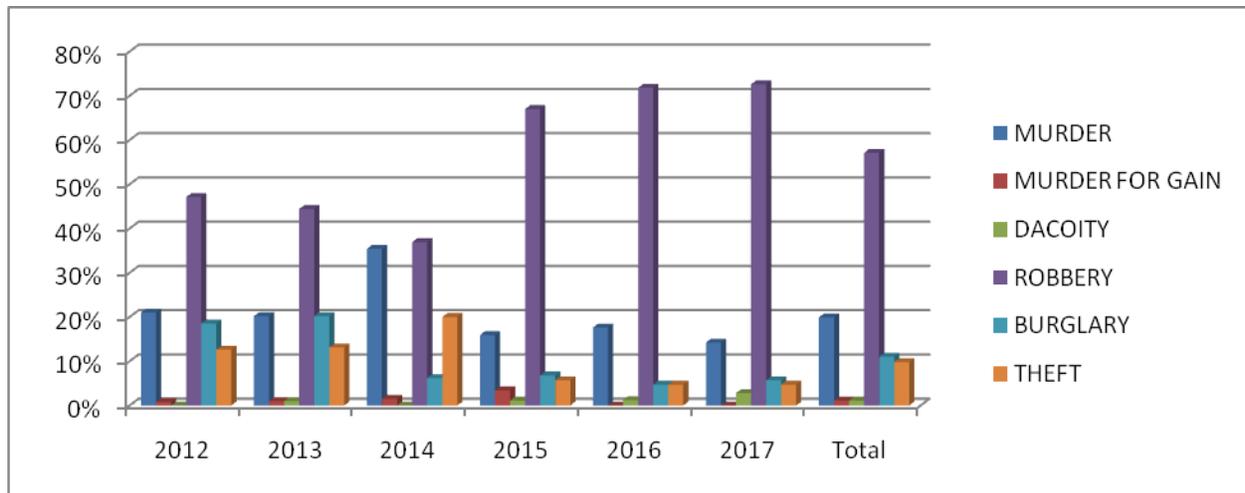

Fig. 1: Major Crimes in Tiruchirappalli City

1.4.4. Robbery

Robbery is the crime of attempting to take anything of value by force, threat of force, or by putting the victim in fear. According to common law, robbery is defined as taking the property of another, with the intent to permanently deprive the person of that property, by means of force or fear; that is, it is a larceny or theft accomplished by an assault. Robbery is differentiated from other forms of theft (such as burglary, shoplifting, or car theft) by its inherently violent nature making it a violent crime.

When analyzing the major crimes of the study area from 2012 to 2017, it was found that 72.6 % of robbery was recorded in 2017, which is maximum, and 36.9% recorded as minimum in the year 2014. Total robberies were 57.1% of all other major crimes. It seems that the city was not at all free from the crime of robbery.

1.4.5. Burglary

Burglary is 'an unlawful entry into a building or other location for the purposes of committing an offence'. Usually that offence is theft, but most jurisdictions include other intentions within the ambit of burglary.

After evaluating the major crimes of the study area for the period of 2012 to 2017, it was found that total burglaries were 11.0% of all other major crimes. The highest number of burglaries recorded in 2013, which is 20.2% and lowest is 4.7% in the year 2016. It seems that the city experienced maximum crime of burglaries in the year 2012 and 2013.

1.4.6. Theft

It is the act of dishonest assumption of the rights of the true owner of a tangible or intangible property by treating it as one's own, whether or not taking it away with the intent of depriving the owner.

From the year 2012 to 2017, the major crimes of the study area was found that the highest number of theft had been recorded in 2014, which is 20.0 % and lowest in 2016 and 2017 with 4.7 % respectively. Total theft was 9.8% recorded as compared to all other major crimes.

1.5. Analysis of Major Crimes in Tiruchirappalli City – Year wise

1.5.1 Crimes in 2012: The total number of crimes recorded in 2012 was 119. Robbery had been recorded the peak crime in the city with 47.1% as compared to other major crimes, murder (21%), murder for gain (0.8%), burglary (18.5%) and theft (12.6%). In the year 2012, the city had no crime of dacoity. Murder for gain recorded as the lowest crime in the city.
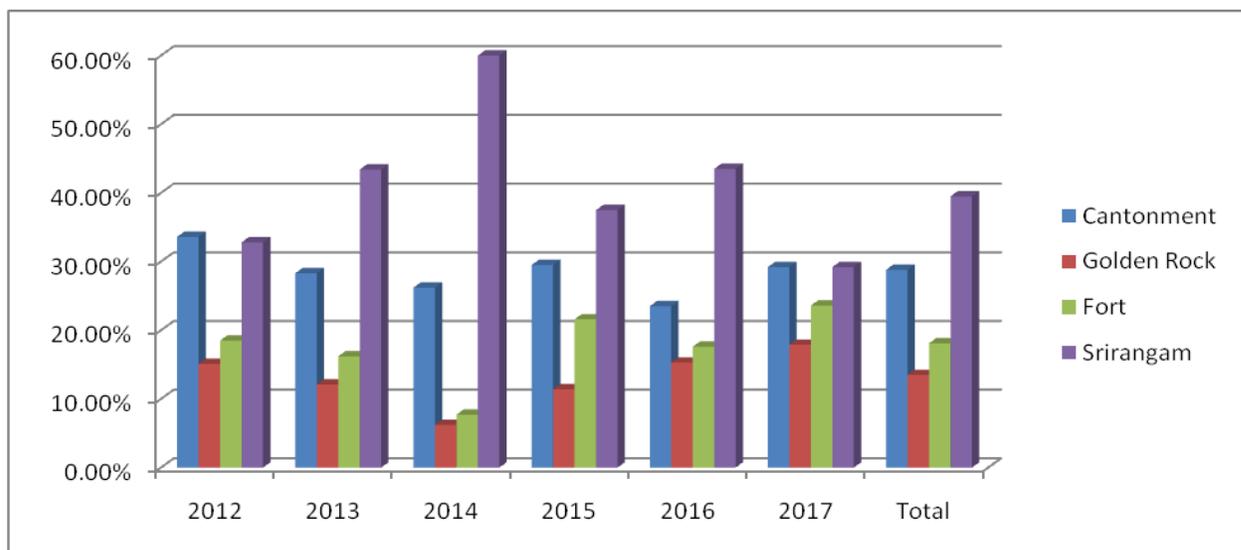
1.5.2 Crimes in 2013: The total number of crimes recorded in 2013 was 99. Robbery had been recorded the main crime in the city with 44.4% as compared to other major crimes. Murder and burglary had recorded 20.2%, theft 13.1% and murder for gain and dacoity had recorded as the lowest crimes in the city with 1.0%.

1.5.3. Crimes in 2014: The total number of crimes recorded in 2014 was 65. Robbery had been recorded as the highest crime in the city with 36.9% and murder (35.4%) which is almost next to robbery as compared to other major crimes, murder for gain (1.5%), burglary (6.2%) and theft (20.0%). In the year 2014 murder for gain recorded as the lowest crimes in the city and the city did not experience any crime of dacoity.

Table 2: Range wise crimes in Tiruchirappalli city

Ranges	YEAR						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Cantonment	40 (33.6%)	28 (28.3%)	17 (26.2%)	26 29.5%)	20 (23.5%)	31 (29.2%)	162 (28.8%)
Golden Rock	18 (15.1%)	12 (12.1%)	4 (6.2%)	10 11.4%)	13 (15.3%)	19 (17.9%)	76 (13.5%)
Fort	22 (18.5%)	16 (16.2%)	5 (7.7%)	19 21.6%)	15 (17.6%)	25 (23.6%)	102 (18.1%)
Srirangam	39 (32.8%)	43 (43.4%)	39 (60.0%)	33 37.5%)	37 (43.5%)	31 (29.2%)	222 (39.5%)
Total	119	99	65	88	85	106	562

Sources: Tiruchirappalli City Commissioner of Police

Fig. 2: Range and Year wise Crimes of Tiruchirappalli city

1.5.4 Crimes in 2015: The total number of crimes recorded in 2015 was 88. Robbery had been recorded the maximum crime in the city with 67.0 % as compared to other major crimes, murder (15.9%), murder for gain (3.4%), dacoity (1.1%), burglary (6.8%) and theft (5.7%). In the year 2015, dacoity was recorded as the lowest crimes in the city, which is next to murder for gain.

1.5.5 Crimes in 2016: The total number of crimes recorded in 2016 was 85. Robbery had been recorded the topmost crime in the city with 71.8% as compared to other major crimes, murder

(17.6%), dacoity (1.2%), burglary (4.7%) and theft (4.7%). In the year 2016, dacoity was recorded as the lowest crimes in the city and there was no record of murder for gain.

1.5.6 Crimes in 2017: The total number of crimes recorded in 2017 was 106. Robbery had been recorded the chief crime in the city with 72.6% as compared to other major crimes, murder (14.2%), dacoity (2.8%), burglary (5.7%) and theft (4.7%). In the year 2017, dacoity was recorded as the lowest crimes in the city and there was no record of murder for gain.

1.6. Analysis of Major Crimes in Tiruchirappalli City - Range wise

1.6.1. Cantonment Range

The Jurisdiction of the Cantonment Range covers four Law and Order Police Stations namely Cantonment, Session Court, Edamalaipattipudur, K.K.Nagar and All Women Police Station located within the Cantonment range.

After analyzing the major crime data of Cantonment Range from the year 2012-2017, it was found that over all crimes in the study area was 28.8% and the range experienced maximum of crimes in the year 2012 (33.6%) and was little peaceful in the year 2016 (23.5%). Compared to Golden rock, Fort, and Srirangam ranges, this range recorded as the highest crime prone region in 2012 with 33.6% and second place in 2013 to 2017 (Table 2 & Fig. 2).

1.6.2. Golden Rock Range

Golden Rock Range and its Jurisdiction of Law and Order covers, Golden Rock, Airport, Ariyamangalam and All Women Police Stations.

From the year, 2012-2017 major crime data of Golden Rock Range was found that 13.5 % out of all other crimes in the study area. The city had maximum crimes in the year 2017, which is 17.9% and had very few crimes in the year 2014, which is 6.2%. This range had been recorded as the lowest crime prone area from 2012 to 2017 compared to other three ranges

1.6.3. Fort Range

The Fort Range includes the jurisdiction of Fort, Palakkarai, Gandhi market and All Women Police Stations.

In the year, 2012 to 2017 crime data of Fort Range was found that over all crimes in the study was 18.1 % and the range had maximum crimes in 2017, which is 23.6% and had minimum

crimes in 2016, which is 7.7%. This range was also recorded as second lowest crime prone province from 2012 to 2017 compared to other three ranges

1.6.4. Srirangam Range

The Srirangam Range Law and Order of Tiruchirappalli city includes Srirangam, Woraiyur, Thillai Nagar, Government Hospital and All Women Police Stations.

After analyzing the major crime data of Srirangam Range, it showed that 39.5% out of all other crimes in the year 2012 to 2017. The range suffered maximum of crimes in 2014, which is 60.0% and lowest in 2017, which is 29.2% respectively. The highest crime prone recorded from 2013 to 2017 except 2012; in 2012, Cantonment range overtakes Srirangam range when compared to other ranges.

1.7. Conclusion

After studying the major crimes of Tiruchirappalli city range wise, year wise and crime wise, it was found that robbery ranks first among all other major crimes with 57.1 % and murder takes the second place with 19.9 %. Murder for gain and dacoity had been recorded as lowest crimes in the city.

In the year, 2017 robbery was recorded 72.6%, in 2014, murder had been recorded with 35.4% and murder for gain and dacoity were recorded as the lowest crimes in most of the years. Robbery had been the highest crime among all the major crimes from the period 2012-2017, particularly in the years 2016 and 2017, which is 71.8 % and 72.6 % and lowest had been recorded in the year 2014 with 36.9 % respectively.

Srirangam range had been experiencing maximum crimes with 39.5%, Cantonment with 28.8% and Golden rocks experienced the lowest crime rate with 13.5% of all other ranges. In the year 2014, Srirangam had the highest percentage of crime rate (60.6%) followed by Cantonment range with 36.6% in the year 2012 and Golden rock was recorded as a lowest crime prone range with 17.9 % in the year 2017.

After analyzing the result of major crimes in Tiruchirappalli city, we conclude that this study will be a great help for the police personal and the society of people to know which type of crimes are increasing and decreasing in which directions to reduce the major crime rate and to establish law and order in the city.

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