

Correlation Between Crimes and Socio-Economic Factors in Nation Capital

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Abstract- The study reflects upon the crimes in the national capital and their relationship with Social and Economic factors such as unemployment, Inequality, cross border economics and the quality of work and life being provided in The National Capital. This study follows the time in between of 2020 to 2025 which includes the damage done by the greatest pandemic of the century The Covid 19

I. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between criminology and what drives it have been a topic of discussion in the fields of social science for a very long time. This paper provides mathematical correlation between them and some of the crimes that make logical sense.

This paper also include the time of covid 19 and its k shaped recovery which caused subsequent unemployment and drive for hunger and migration which led to several crimes in the Delhi.

Delhi functions as a massive labour market which provides a large number of job in day to day market, factories and much more, drawing its major source from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana.

Crime rates in Delhi and not merely caused by the local economic health but too of the migration of the north Indian labor market.

We used the data from Ministry of Statistics and program implementation (MoSPI) and the center of Monitoring India (CMIE) along side the crime data from Delhi police and poverty matrix from NITI Aayog aims to give a definitive answer to to how socio-economic factors manifested a criminal mindset in the last half decade.

Stain theory states that crime grows it root where it socially approved goals and the institution to reach there have dissimilarities. In the case of our national capital south Delhi extravagance lifestyle could cause a rift in north Delhi or it could be called a classic stain

environment.

Rational choice theory states that a criminal before committing a crime weighs risk to reward ratio, As unemployment rises or the current pay can not match the socially approved goals can make the reward seem much more ideal and reduces the risk in a criminal's mind.

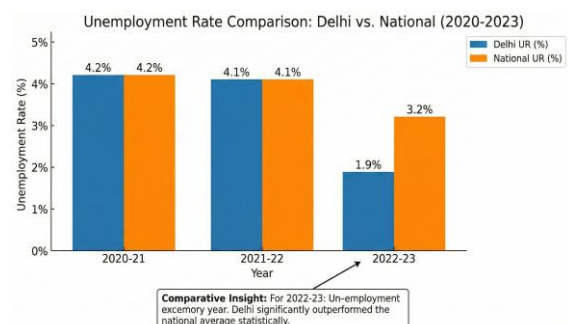
This study focuses specifically on property crimes, Burglary, Moto vehicle Theft and Snatching as these are logically the direct indicators of economic distress.

II. DELHI ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

Before even trying to understand a criminal one must try to understand the situation that lead them to commit that particular crime.

PLFS vs CMIE: periodic Labour Force Survey and centre for monitoring Indian employment are two major sources sources when referred for unemployment data but lately they have been on a rift. PLFS tends to capture border employment including family labor which is unpaid and CMIE tend to capture more market employment.

According to PLFS:



According to CMIE: During the pandemic of 2020 in strict lockdown April to may Delhi unemployment

rose to 40% . While around 2022 and 2023 PLFS reported 1.9% unemployment in Delhi CIME reported a huge spike of 20.8% percent this gap shows the transparency between available jobs and job that are aspirational.

The periodic labor force bulletin (jan 2025)states that while the overall unemployment rate remains low the youth unemployment rate is high.

In female youth unemployment stood at 20% as in a cultural where men have to provide for family this matter as the female unemployment rises the pressure for providing increases causing increased criminal activities for survival.

The per capita Income of Delhi was 3,31,112 in 2020-21 and it grew 4,61,910 in 2023-24 and this is where the Kuznets Hypothesis comes into play which states that rapid growth of the city wealth increases the “lootability” of the city as the density of potential targets increases like costly watches , iPhones , supercars. Etc.

During the period of 2020 and 2023 inflation spikes were around 5-6% but the food spikes were devastating and by 2024-25 it went moderate as it dropped to 6.02% while in march 2025 the consumer price index reached a all time high of 165.7 indicating that while the inflation might be slow the prices of good were at a all time high, which was putting pressure on low income households

III. TRENDS IN THEFT AND BUGLARY

During the lockdown period the stores shut for a very extended period of time which made these store the prime target for theft. As people were confined into there rooms and was present to guard their property the role of theft was reversed. Similarly snatching saw a sharp decline as outside personal decreases

During the December of 2022 the CIME data shows 20.8% unemployment this coincides with the spike in street crime during this period as the desperation was at peak the people were run out of their savings and the jobs was not quite there yet .

During the period of 2024 and 2025 the economy stabilized and the crime were down by a lot which are stated below.

Burglary was Down by 25.4% Snatching was Down

by 25.97%

Motor vehicle theft was down by 5.98%

IV. METHODOLOGY

Elasticity of crime is a factor that measures how sensitive the crime rates are to change with socio-economic factors

If elasticity is greater than one a small change change in factor can causes big changes

If elasticity is less than one then changes will occur but a little only

If elasticity is less than zero then its negative which means the order of change and the factor is opposite.

Lets take elasticity of crime = e

And the economical variable = v

Which is unemployment rate and per capita income

Therefore e = percent change in crime divided by percent change in the variable (V)

CORRELATION 1: BETWEEN BURGLARY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Burglary between January and June in 2025 when compared to 2024 was -25.4%

Unemployment : early 2024: ~6.7%

early 2025 ~5.1%

hence change in percentage = $(5.1-6.7)/6.7$
= -23.8%

Therefore e = $-25.4/-23.8=1.0672$

Which show a very elastic correlation between burglary and unemployment.

CORRELATION 2: BETWEEN SNATCHING AND PER CAPTA INCOME.

Snatching between January and June in 2025 when compared to 2024 was -25.97%

And per capita income was anticipated +7.39%
therefore e = $-25.97/7.39= -3.514$

Which shows a negative correlation

CORRELATION 3: MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Motor vehicle theft between January and June in 2025

when compared to 2024 was -5.98%
And change in unemployment calculated above was
= -23.8% therefore $e = -5.98 / -23.8 = 0.251$
Which shows somewhat of a correlation.

V. CONCLUSION

The saying poverty causes crime is too vague and as the data suggests three major factors contributing to crime

1. Stress
2. Opportunity
3. Policing

1. UNEMPLOYMENT IS A VERY STRONG FORCE FOR SURVIVAL CRIME

The mathematics of correlation shows a near unity value(1.07) suggests people tend to do burglary when jobs vanish.

As they did rise in 2020-2022 with the lowering go jobs and when the jobs came back in 2024-2025 burglary vanished

2. ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES ARE A MAJOR FACTOR FOR STREET CRIME

The negative elasticity in second correlation (-3.51) states that eventually the state's wealth changes into capability like increase in police density and installation on CCTV cameras increases the risk to reward ratio in the favor of risk

Which states that as the per capita income is increasing the street crimes are decreasing.

Which could also be concluded as Wealth buys Security.

3. THE QUALITY OF WORK

The very low correlation between motor vehicle theft and unemployment (0.251) Has lead to a single conclusion that youth are employed but they are underemployed which make an equilibrium but it is a very fragile equilibrium.

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