



A STUDY ON IMPACT OF LOCK DOWN ON CRIME RATES IN BANGALORE

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Abstract

Crime is considered as the inseparable part of the society, as population increases the crime rate also increases across the globe. In 2020 India experienced a critical situation due to the outbreak of an epidemic (Corona virus), the country was affected economically and the people suffered economically and also psychologically. The government of India imposed phase wise lockdown in the country. The lockdown situation definitely helped in the control of virus in the country. The purpose of the study was to understand the role of lockdown on the crimes rates in Bangalore. The study was descriptive in nature. The data has been collected from secondary sources such as, the statistics published by Bangalore police station, published articles and other internet sources. From the study it can be inferred that the lockdown situation has both positive and negative impact on the people in Bangalore. The lockdown imposed in Bangalore resulted in decrease of some of the types of crimes in Bangalore such as murder, murder for gain, theft, chain snatching, robbery and so on decreased to maximum level. The main reason identified as there was 24/7 police patrolling in the streets and people stayed at home so this made the offenders difficult to indulge in crime activities. But the statistics released by the new Indian express shows that the crimes against women increased in Karnataka such as domestic violence, dowry death and cyber-crimes against women reported during lockdown period in the state.

Keywords: Lockdown, Crime Rates, Bangalore, Pandemic, Corona Virus.

Introduction

Crime is defined as legally and morally wrong activity. An illegal act conducted by the individual which is called as offense and it is an act harmful and dangerous for the growth of the society. Ever since human civilization started crime is considered as the part of the society. There is no society without crime in the world. Historically the concept of crime changed from time to time, along with the time even the pattern of crime has changed. Sir William Blackstone in his book, Commentaries on the Laws of England, defines crimes in two ways, in his work, at the first stage he defines crime as, "An Act committed or omitted in violation of a 'Public Law' forbidding or commanding it", at a second stage a crime is a violation of the public rights and duties due to the whole community, considered as a community. Cross & Jones define crime as a legal wrong the remedy for which is punishment of the offender at the instance of the State. In the words Halsbury, 'Crime as an unlawful act which is an offence against the public and the perpetrator of that act is liable to legal punishment. Tappan has defined crime as, 'an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law, committed without any defence or justification and penalized by the law as felony or misdemeanour.

In our society we will find different variety of crimes such as violent personal crimes, Occasional property crimes, Occupational crimes, Political crimes, Public order crimes, Conventional crimes, Organised crimes, Professional crimes, White collar crimes, Sexual crimes and so on. According to criminal justice system of India the criminal activities are dealt under three important criminal laws in our country they are, Criminal procedure code (1973), Indian penal code (1860) and Indian evidence act (1872). The Indian penal code is one of the very important criminal law in our country which plays major role in the functioning of criminal justice system. Under IPC crimes are divided into following categories. They are as follows,

- Offences against Person
- Offences against property
- Offences relating to documents
- Offences affecting mental order
- Offences against public tranquillity
- Offences against State
- Offences relating to public servants.

A pandemic is called as a widespread infectious disease which will affect the entire society. In January 2020 the first case of covid-19 was reported in India. The world health organisation announced it as public emergency and issued some guidelines. To prevent the widespread of the disease, India declared lockdown in the country. Even though it was affecting our economy and public life, there was no other measure to protect the public health from the dangerous virus. To avoid the community spread March onwards phase wise lockdown rules were imposed in the country. On 22nd March Janata curfew was imposed and on 24th March 2020 the first phase of lockdown was announced and it was imposed on the basis of quarantine law under epidemic diseases act of 1897.



We could notice a negative and positive impact of lockdown situation in our country. Lockdown definitely played important role in reducing the spread of virus in the country. The negative side was it majorly impacted on the economy of the country. The migrant workers suffered and underwent with problem of unemployment, food, shelter and so on. There were migrated workers from Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh Delhi and so on. These workers moved to their native places because of lack of employment and in the absence of transportation these population suffered a lot. But in terms of crime rate Bangalore shows decreased rate. The Bangalore police records shows that there was decrease in the crime rates in Bangalore during lockdown situation.

Need for the Study

Bangalore is called as one of the most populated places in India and we will find people from different parts of the world. Along with population the crime rates are also increasing. The pandemic situation in the country forced the government to impose lockdown in the country. During lockdown there was complete shutdown of individual business. People stayed at home and everywhere we could find police patrolling also in the city and other places of Bangalore. The situation led to many people struggle to fulfil their basic minimum needs. So, the researcher aims to study the impact of lockdown on crime rates in Bangalore. The study focuses on the effect of lockdown on crime rates in Bangalore.

Review of Literature

The pandemic situation created fear among the people in the world. The author says that during this pandemic situation cybercrimes increased in the society, number of fake websites, number of fake applications and so on increased. The coronavirus virus led to increase in the number of cybercrimes in the society because of too much usage of internet by the people.(Priya Adlakha & Kiratraj Sadana,2020)The lockdown imposed in the country led to decrease in criminal activity in the state of Bihar. Author says that because of the lockdown people and especially the elderly population forced to stay at home and there was complete patrolling by the police so it created fear among the offenders so to commit any kind of crime in the society. Before lockdown the Bihar police stations used to get an average 0.7 criminal cases per day. But after lockdown it was decreased to 0.5. The deceased percentage of crime shows that the offenders found difficulty in finding victims because of huge police gathering in the roads and everywhere in the state. (Rubén Poblete-Cazenave,2020) Even in the state of Delhi the crime rates were decreased during lockdown. In Delhi and Karnataka, we could find large decrease in crime rates. The crimes such as murder, theft, molestations have reduced in great number. But experts says that the crimes such as cybercrimes and the cases of domestic violence may have been increased during lockdown and most of the cases have not been reported.(Pretika Khanna&Shaswati Das,2020)

Methodology

The objective of the study was to examine the impact of lockdown on crime rates in Bangalore. The present study is aimed to understand the effect of lockdown on crime rates and how this lockdown situation impacted on crime rates in Bangalore. The data was collected through secondary sources. It comprises of records published by Bangalore police station, the various research articles and internet sources. The qualitative analysis has been conducted to analyze the data.

Interpretation and Analysis

Table 1: Crime Rates in Bangalore from 2019-2020

Table with 3 columns: Crime, 2019, Up toto march 26,2020. Rows include Murder, Murder for gain, Robbery, Chain snatching, House break theft(day), House break theft(night), Motor vehicle theft, Other theft, Kidnap.

Source: Bangalore police records.

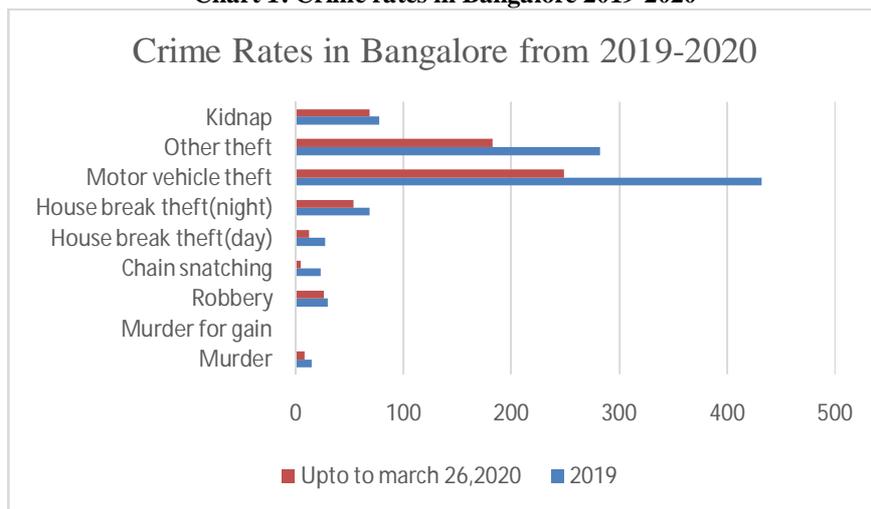
The Bangalore police records shows that there was decline in the above-mentioned crime rates during lock down period. The above table indicates that chain snatching, murder, vehicle theft and robbery were declined in 2020 comparing to the previous year. In the year 2019 the number of murder cases registered was 15 and by 2020 it was 09, the murder for gain was 01 and till march 26th 2020 there was no cases registered in Bangalore police station limits. Robbery was 30 in 2019 and it was reduced to 27, chain snatching was 24 and it decreased to 05, house breaking theft (day) was 28 and it reduced to 13, house breaking theft (night) was 69 it was reduced to 54, there was maximum decrease in motor vehicle theft cases it was decreased to 432 to 249, the other theft cases were



also reduced from 283 to 183 and even the kidnap cases also decreased to maximum level. The above data indicates that the lockdown in Bangalore greatly impacted in the decrease of above-mentioned crime rates. In the area of murder for gain not even a single case registered during lockdown, the factors might be, the people remained at home it made the offenders difficult to involve in criminal activities. Bangalore is called as a vast place and highly populated place; we could find people from different places. Along with population the transportation facilities also increasing in Bangalore. The motor vehicle theft cases are one of the major crimes faced in the city and others areas of Bangalore. In the year 2019, 432 cases have been registered in the district but by March 26th 2020 we could identify a huge decrease in the cases it reduced to 249. During lockdown there was continuous police patrolling in the city and even the public were stayed at home this was identified as one of the main reasons for decrease of motor vehicle theft in Bangalore.

Even the police records shows that there was decrease in the cases of death in road accidents. According to traffic police records almost 82 people died in road accidents in March 2019 and it was reduced to 52 by March 2020 in Bangalore. According to the joint commissioner of police (traffic), the cause for the above was the vehicles in the road has reduced considerably so simultaneously the road accidents also reduced in maximum number. It indicates the negligent and careless driving is one of the reasons for road accidents. One more cause identified was there was lack of buyers for stolen vehicles due to the fear of corona virus, this led to decrease in vehicle theft cases. The lockdown situation made the people to work from home and because of this people stayed at home 24/7 and it made the criminals inactive to proceed with their activity. All the above reasons were responsible for drastic decrease in the crime rate in Bangalore such as murder, murder for gain, robbery, chain snatching, house breaking, kidnap and so on reduced to maximum extent. During lockdown the people suffered for food, shelter and for other basic needs and so on but the decrease of crime rate is considered as one of the positive results of lockdown.

Chart 1: Crime rates in Bangalore 2019-2020



The researcher has identified causes for decrease of the above-mentioned crime rates in Bangalore during lockdown period they are as follows,

Causes for Decrease of Crime Rates

- Escaping was difficult for the offenders because of more presence of police and less people in the streets. This reason made the offenders to stay at home. During lockdown everywhere police were deployed so the criminals were forced to stay at home. The large number of police in the streets played major role in reducing some of the crimes during lockdown.
- The cases of theft reduced to maximum level because people stayed at home. It created difficult situation to the criminals to enter into the house.
- The cases of accidents have come down to zero. This is largely because, with the lockdown in place, Bengaluru has just 2% of its actual vehicle population on the streets.
- Continuous patrolling of police was one of reason for reduction of crime rates. There was continuous patrolling by the police in the city and in the other areas of Bangalore, this prevented the offenders in conduction of crimes.
- Fear of being susceptible was also one more important reason for decrease of crime. During the initial period of lockdown people had the fear of being affected by the coronavirus. Even there was no treatment, vaccination and the death rate were also high, this fear of life made the people including the offenders to stay at home.



- Projection from the media about the pandemic situation across the globe played major role. The entire world was affected drastically by the virus, so the death rate in other countries created a fear among the people to step outside.
- Fear of life of themselves and their family members by the offenders.

We could notice both positive and negative impact of lockdown on crime rates. The conventional or the traditional crimes such as murder, robbery, motor vehicle theft, kidnap, burglary and so on drastically decreased during lockdown, but some of the study shows that other patterns of crime such as rape and other types of crimes against women has increased in Bangalore. The new Indian express statistics says that there was increase in crimes against women during lockdown. The data shows that around 1,500 cases of crimes against women were registered in the state between March 24 and May 30th in the state. More shocking was among the reported crimes 64 rapes cases against women and 38 dowry death cases.

Table 2: The Crimes against women in Karnataka during lockdown (March 24th to May 30th ,2020)

Crime	Total number of cases reported in various police stations
Molestation	716
Cruelty	176
Cyber-crimes against women	215
Attempt to murder against women	120
Rape	64
Dowry death	38

Source: The New Indian Express

The above data shows that there was increase in crimes against women during lockdown period. The causes might be people were suffering from the problem of unemployment so this led to domestic violence and dowry deaths. The above table shows that 64 rape cases also registered, it is evident from the data that the law enforcement agency the police were engaged in COVID-19 duty so it made the offenders to commit such kind of crime. Even during lockdown due to the problem of unemployment people lost their mental balance and self-control, this was also more identified as one more reason for increase of Rape against women in the state. The table shows that 716 molestation cases were reported in the state, 176 cruelty against women were registered, even cyber-crimes against women also increased around 215 cases were reported, attempt to murder against women were 120, Under the crime of Rape 64 cases registered and over 38 dowry death cases reported in the state. It was inferred from the table that number of crimes against women were also reported in the state during lockdown.

Major findings of the Study

- Lockdown situation provided both positive and negative results in Bangalore. The positive results where it helped in decrease of Corona virus and decrease in crime rate also. The negative side was people suffered a lot because of unavailability of medicine, lack of transportation facility and especially the migrated workers due to lack of employment.
- The lockdown situation led to decrease of crimes such as murder, theft, kidnap, chain snatching and so on in Bangalore.
- The cases of motor vehicle theft reduced to maximum extent in Bangalore.
- There were zero cases of murder for gain reported in the police stations.
- It was evident from the data that the police patrolling played major role in the reduction of crime rates in Bangalore.
- It was inferred from the data that people are adhere to the rules, regulations and guidelines given by the state government.
- The negative part was the data shows that crimes against women in the state was actually increased, especially rape and dowry death cases were registered in the police station.
- Due to lockdown people stayed at home and even the organizations, companies offered work from option so it led to increase in cyber-crime.

Conclusion

The purpose of the study was to identify the role of lockdown situation on crime rates in Bangalore. From the results it can be inferred that the lockdown imposed in Bangalore led to decrease of certain crimes such as murder, theft, robbery and so on but the other types of crimes such as the crimes against women such as domestic violence, dowry death and the cyber-crimes increased. Further it can be inferred that there was both negative and positive impact of lockdown in Bangalore. In the positive side it helped in controlling the virus and many types of crimes were also reduced, in the negative side the data shows that crimes against women increased in the state.



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 Number of Words: 2,817 (approx.)
 Number of Characters: 16,062 (approx.)